



# The Beacon

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

*Jesus said: "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."*

Luke 17:21

## Newsletter Dates

**Deadline**      **Tuesday, November 19**

**Church Pick-up/Email**      **Sunday, November 24**

**Postal**      **Monday, November 25**

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!

## Cookies for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry

The annual cookie delivery for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry will occur on **December 2**. Everyone at Trinity is asked to bring their cookie donations for this project to the church on **Sunday, December 1**, for bagging after morning activities.

**St. Paul's** bakers, please bring your cookies to St. Paul's by **Saturday, November 30, noon**.

Place 6 to 10 cookies in a plastic bag, and then into a paper lunch bag. You may add a personal message, Bible verse, etc.

All are encouraged to participate in this long-standing and greatly-appreciated tradition. If you have questions, call Rosie at 369-2169.

NOVEMBER 2013



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

Stamp

## Message from Your Pastor

***Jesus said: "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."***  
**Luke 17:21**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month, I was trying to encourage all of you to support the CROP Walk with your time and/or your money. Now I am happy to report that 16 people from Trinity and St. Paul's walked, adding to the over 80 participants. This from a note that the coordinator, Patty Hall, sent me:

I just completed the financial report and sent the last deposit to Church World Service for this year's Fulton County CROP Walk. We had 88 people register at the walk, and our donations totaled \$3798.29. This is our best attended and most successful CROP Walk in our county's history. Praise be to God!!

This would not have been possible without the work that each of you did to promote the CROP Walk, recruit walkers and collect donations. I wish I had the words to express my appreciation, but they fall short. Please know that I count each of you as a great blessing to this ministry, and I thank God for you!

In gratitude,

Patty Hall

"To those who have hunger, give bread. And to those who have bread, give hunger for justice." (Latin American prayer.)

Less than one week later, we had a whole room full of food and clothing to give out at Trinity, and 27 families came and were very appreciative of our church's generosity. Thank you to all of you who donated items and your time!

Yet another week later, we had the Fair Trade bazaar at St. Paul's, selling items from artisans around the world that get paid a fair wage for their work. No mass manufacturing, no middle man pocketing all the proceeds. The way to fight poverty is not only in giving money, but also in giving people a chance to make it on their own by paying them fairly for the work they do. This gives them a sense of dignity in addition to an income.

I truly believe this is what Jesus calls us to do: To reach out to those in need – right here in our communities, and around the world. And I believe that those who are blessed with our gifts get a taste of the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is among you." It is in everything we say and do. That may sound like a lot of pressure, but it is actually a privilege. We get to be part of the kingdom of God, and we get to further it in this world.

The holidays are ahead and you will be receiving a lot of letters from charities and organizations, asking for your donations. Your generosity is needed and appreciated for all the work they do. I hope and pray that the giving spirit may last longer than this holiday season, that every day, all year long we will do our share to further the kingdom of God.

May Jesus bless us and guide us in following him.

Yours in His Name,  
 Pastor Valeria.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY NOV. 24 DEADLINE REMINDER

Operation Christmas Child, is project of Samaritan's Purse of the Billy Graham Ministry. Deadline to return the filled boxes to St. Paul's is Sunday, November 24, 2013. A supply of wrapped empty boxes is still available for pickup at the church.

A donation of \$7 or more is requested for each shoe box to help cover shipping and project costs. If you are not able to shop to fill a shoebox, you can still participate by your donations that will be a great help to this special ministry. For more information, contact Mary at 987-3604 or [mhaubrick@embarqmail.com](mailto:mhaubrick@embarqmail.com).



**"The Green Thing."** Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to me the other day that I should bring my own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. I apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, **we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store.** The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized

and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. **So they really were recycled.** But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

**We walked up stairs,** because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. **We walked** to the grocery store, to school, to church, and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, **we washed the baby's diapers** because we didn't have the throw-away kind. **We dried clothes on a line,** not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. **Kids got hand-me-down clothes** from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

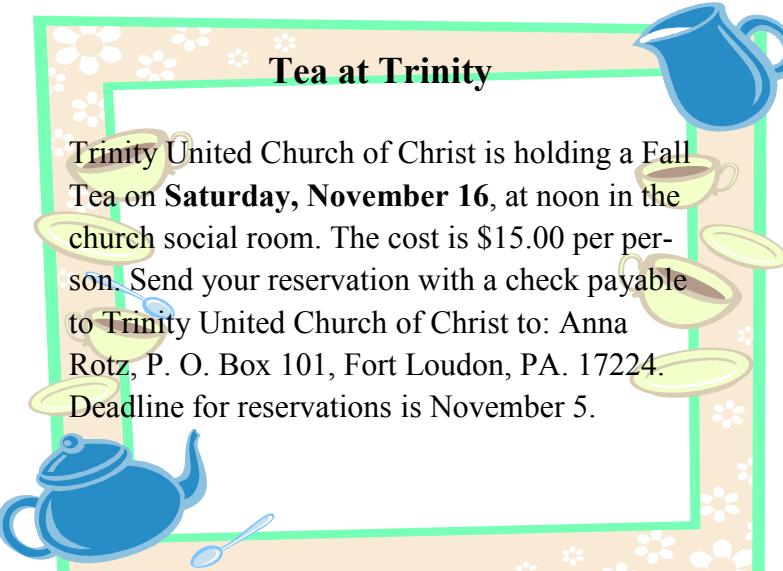
**We drank from a fountain** when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. **We refilled writing pens** with ink instead of buying a new pen, and **we replaced the razor blades in a razor** instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then...

Food for thought: Maybe the older generation can teach us something after all!

### Thank Offering

On the **Sunday** before Thanksgiving, **November 24**, we will be taking up a special collection at both churches to thank God for what he has blessed us with, and to share it with those who have less. At Trinity, the offering will go to the Women's Guild, and at St. Paul's, to the Fulton County Food Basket.

### Tea at Trinity



Trinity United Church of Christ is holding a Fall Tea on **Saturday, November 16**, at noon in the church social room. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Send your reservation with a check payable to Trinity United Church of Christ to: Anna Rotz, P. O. Box 101, Fort Loudon, PA. 17224. Deadline for reservations is November 5.



FULTON COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

and the  
Fulton County Environmental Action Group  
Present

**A Series of Free Public Programs  
at the Fulton County Library in McConnellsburg**

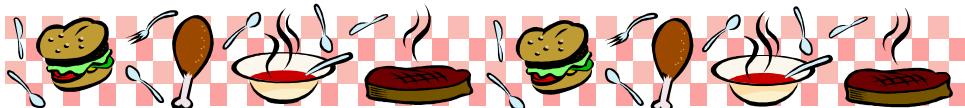
The Programs are funded in part by a mini-grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection submitted by the Fulton County Conservation District.

Wednesday, November 20, 7:00 PM: **FAITH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**, Panel Discussion

Moderated by **Pastor Valeria Schmidt**, United Church of Christ; **Dr. David True**, Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy and Religion Department Chair, Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA; and other representatives of faith organizations.

What do religious beliefs have to say about the best approach to the threats facing our environment?

Registration for these programs is appreciated, but not required. Please contact the Fulton County Conservation District with any questions and to register at 717-485-3457 ext. 4 or [fccd@pa.net](mailto:fcccd@pa.net).



**Lions Club Dinners**

This month, the Mt. Parnell Lions Club dinners will be served **Thursday, November 14**, at the Fort Loudon Community Center. **Help is always needed**. Please see Rosie Shives.



**Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Faith  
... But Were Afraid to Ask**

**Sunday, November 17** will be “Ask a Question”-Sunday. Anything you’ve ever wanted to know about Christianity, the Bible, the church, or faith in general: This is the opportunity to ask! Pastor Valeria will try to answer questions during worship at both churches. They may be emailed to [stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com](mailto:stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com), posted on the churches’ facebook pages, sent by mail to Pastor Valeria Schmidt, 203 E Walnut St, McConnellsburg, PA 17233, or placed in the red prayer bowls available at each church. Questions must be in by **Sunday, November 10**. All questions will be kept anonymous.

## Thanksgiving Worship Services

**Fort Loudon** will come together for its Community Thanksgiving Service on **Wednesday, November 27**, at Freedom Lighthouse Ministries. There will be a soup dinner at 6:00, and service at 7:00. Trinity's members are asked to provide desserts.

Because of lack of attendance in previous years, the **McConnellsburg** Ministerium has decided on a different approach for this year: **The Food Basket Blitz!**

A 3-week competition among Fulton County Churches to collect the most non-perishable food items for the Fulton County Food Basket: Deadline for delivery will be **Sunday, November 24**.

Deliver items at the Food Basket between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. on November 24. Items will be counted after 3:00 p.m. Tour the facility anytime between 2:00 and 4:00. Kids can participate in a Scavenger Hunt. Refreshments will be served. Pause for a brief celebration and time of worship at 3:00 p.m.

The Food Basket is located at 1 Woodside Drive, McConnellsburg, behind the Senior Center.  
You may bring your items to St. Paul's between Sunday, November 3, and November 24.

### Suggested Items to Bring:

#### **Food**

##### **Non-Perishable Items**

**Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables, Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Spaghettios, Raviolis, Peanut Butter, Chili, Manwich, Vienna Sausages, etc.), Canned Soup, Canned Juice, Spaghetti Sauce (Canned or Jar), Spaghetti, Boxed Mixes (Stuffing, Scalloped Potatoes, Hamburger Helper, Pizza Mixes, Pie Crusts, Macaroni & Cheese, Taco Dinner Kits, etc.), Cereal Bars, Cereal (Hot & Cold), Microwave Popcorn**

#### **Non-Food**

##### **Monetary Donations**

**One pound of food can be purchased for \$0.18 from Central PA Food Bank**

**Giant Gift cards in increments of \$10.00, Plastic Bags (T-shirt bags used in stores such as Giant or Walmart), Egg Cartons, Laundry Detergent, Personal Hygiene Products (Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Deodorant, etc.), Cleaning Products (Bathroom Cleaners, Dish liquid, Floor Cleaners, etc.)**

#### **Suggested Items for Thanksgiving**

Whole Turkey or Chicken, Canned Corn, Canned Green beans, Canned Fruit, Sweet Potatoes Dry, Bag Potatoes, Canned Pumpkin, Canned Pie Filling, Box Pie Crust, Box Stuffing, Gravy (Can or Jar), Canned Cranberry sauce, Canned milk

## **Franklin County Literacy Council**

Trinity has been approached by the Franklin County Literacy Council for use of their church facility to tutor local residents in reading and writing. The Consistory has given them permission to use the social room each **Tuesday from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

We feel it is important that our church building is used throughout the week, and we are happy to support this important ministry in our community. Church members are asked to avoid interrupting the work of our guests and enter the building at times when it is not being used by others. Please refer to the schedule posted in the social room next to the thermostats.



**Trinity United Church of Christ Fort Loudon  
Consistory Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2013**

A quotation to install a waterproofing system in the basement was presented by Scott Strong on behalf of Gladhill Services. The quote included mold removal on the walls and wiping down all surfaces in the basement. An application of Liquid Rubber would be applied on the walls and Liquid Granite on the floors. A French drain system would be placed around the perimeter inside the basement to redirect the water and the installation of (2) Humidex systems to provide ventilation and moisture control should keep the basement dry. The total cost after a church discount of \$10,000.00 is \$23,070.00. All work is guaranteed for one year and an additional yearly guarantee may be purchased after one year which covers all the work done for up to 25 years. They offer financing if necessary. He said they would give us information if we wished to do the cleaning ourselves to save money. He will get back to us with a price for a baseboard system like the one quoted by Stephen Jaymes.

**Old Business:**

Basement-Glenn spoke with Steven Jaymes and got some clarification on his system. The length quoted was not correct. It should have read 112' total. The price quoted is good for more than 30 days. The work is guaranteed for life and is transferrable to a new owner. Glen went to visit Mabel Shaffer to inspect her installation and she said she is very satisfied with the performance of the product.

Consistory members would like to find out more about the materials that Gladhill Services quoted for cleanup and to cover the walls to see if it is feasible to do the work ourselves. Since he is bringing another quote no further action was taken.

Glen said he talked with John Hornbaker about installing an outside faucet. Since this is possible it will be done. He will also fix the sump pump under the crawl space under the sanctuary.

Roy Hornbaker will try to alter the community sign to make a permanent sign for the church.

Contact was made with Pastor Huntoon at St. Luke's. They would like the old outhouse removed and said there was a leak around the belfry and there may be some termites in the basement. The consistory agreed to remove the outhouse.

The Franklin County Literacy Council will be in the large Sunday School room on Tuesday's starting October 22 from 12-5. It was thought that it would be good to post a schedule so congregational members will know when the church will be in use by other organizations.

**New Business:**

Valeria led consistory members through a survey by OCWM.

The Free Food and Clothing event will be held Oct 12 from 10-12 am. \$250 left from the Grant from last year will be used to purchase items for the event.

The Mercersburg Association meeting will be held November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3 pm at Grace UCC in Shippensburg. Volunteers are needed to attend. The theme is Healthy Congregations.

The Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at Freedom Lighthouse with soup served at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm worship. Trinity has been asked to provide desserts.

The Thank Offering this year will be donated to the Women's Guild.

Valeria will again purchase the single page Advent calendars. The cost is \$9/50 which is enough for both churches.

30 sets of offering boxes will be ordered this year since fewer people are using envelopes.

Linda Best, Secretary

## Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget	Expended
Jan.-Sept.	\$46,417.73	\$52,175.25	\$48,417.10
Oct. 1-22	\$3,198.54	\$4,013.61	\$3,922.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,616.27</b>	<b>\$56,188.86</b>	<b>\$52,339.83</b>

**Pastor - Rev. Valeria Schmidt**  
stpaulsparsonage@embarqmail.com

(717)-485-3369

**Secretary - Pam Carmack**  
buckpcar@embarqmail.com

### St. Paul's UCC

228 N Second Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

(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://trinityuccfloudon.org>

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

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

## Franklin County Jail Ministry

For those incarcerated, the upcoming holiday season offers promises of despair and guilt. They have disappointed their families. Their separation adds to their sense of failure. To overcome these dreary promises with the joyful promises of God, the Franklin County Jail Ministry is creating the Holiday Family Connection.

During the days just prior to Christmas, when an inmate's child visits, the inmate will be able to tell their child there is a gift waiting for them that the child can choose. In this way the parent will have the joy of providing a gift for their child.

You can help this happen. We are asking you to purchase either a sports ball or stuffed animal. Gifts should be less than \$15. They may be dropped off at Salem United Brethren Church, 4349 Letterkenny Road, December 9 -13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Do not wrap these gifts.

If you would like to support the work of the Franklin County Jail Ministry and Chaplain Burkholder, please send checks made payable to "Franklin County Jail Ministry" to Franklin County Jail Ministry c/o Mrs. John Good, 965 Penn Wood Court, Chambersburg, PA 17201.



## DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

**Saturday, December 7** Trinity's Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m.

Hymn sing, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 15** Trinity goes Christmas caroling, 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 22** St. Paul's goes Christmas caroling, 6:00 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**Tuesday, December 24** *6:00 p.m. St. Paul's,  
8:00 p.m. Trinity*

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

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

All consistory members present except Paul Stevens, JoAnn Sheffield, Jonna Baker and Hillary Alexander.  
Discussion and action was taken on the following:

**MEMORIAL FUND:** Balance of the Memorial Fund currently \$85.00. No action.

**CHURCH WOMEN:** Upcoming events: are Trick or Treating night; (date to yet be determined), Fall Folk Festival with Fair Trade Items and Bake Sale/Craft items, the annual Women's Retreat on October 26 and Hanging of the Greens, Sunday Dec. 1 after Soup Lunch.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** The children's classes recently visited with Betty Daniels as a Sunday School activity.

**PARSONAGE ROOF:** Project on calendar to be done by Buterbaugh Construction.

**PARSONAGE PAINTING:** Aluminum siding power washed and painted and patio deck sealed and painted by Foster Earley still pending.

**AIR CONDITIONER PROBLEMS:** Voted to repair the 24 year old air conditioning unit for the church sanctuary with a new compressor at a cost of \$600.00

**THANK OFFERING AND ADVENT OFFERING:** Thank Offering will be donated to the Fulton County Food Basket. Approval was given to donate the Advent Offering to the Fulton County Red Kettle Fund of Salvation Army.

**ADVENT CALENDAR & BULLETTING:** Approval was given to Pastor Valeria to order the one sheet Advent Calendars for church members, and to order the special bulletins for Christmas Eve and the Easter Sunrise Service from U.C.C. Sunday Bulletin Service.

**PASTOR HEALTH INSURANCE:** The cost of this insurance has increased based on the age category of rates. The new rate will be \$945 a quarter or \$3,789.00 for the year with the total cost to be shared by Trinity at \$1,890.00 per year.

**SALARY:** The Pastor's salary for 2014 will need to be discussed before the budget committee prepared the proposed 2014 budget.

**LOCK BOX:** The annual rent for a small lock box at Susquehanna bank has increased to \$30.00 a year. Mary Haubrick purchased a new Sentry Fire-safe, Waterproof Security Safe and has donated it to the church to be kept in church office. The safe is large enough to also hold the old record books of the church dating back to 1850's. Approval to close the lock box at the bank was by general consensus.

## St. Paul's Financial Information

### Treasurer's Report

Income for Sept.	\$5,998.25
Expenses for Sept.	\$5,360.37
Interest on Account	1.22
<b><u>Gain for month</u></b>	+ \$ 639.10



## HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY

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



## PRAYER LIST

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

### St. Paul's Flowers

*Arnetta Mellott (485-3965)*

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

### St. Paul's Ushers

*Dave and Ruth Brubaker*

*Thank You for Serving!*

### Trinity's Ushers

*Roger Byers  
 Jeff Lawyer*

*Thank You for Serving!*



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

# NOVEMBER 2013

<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, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, November 3</b>	St. Paul's Contemporary Worship and Soup Sunday Mercersburg Association meeting in Shippensburg, 3:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, November 10</b>	Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
<b>Monday, November 11</b>	Trinity's Evangelism Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, November 12</b>	Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, November 13</b>	St. Paul's Church Women United meeting at Linda Garber's, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday, November 16</b>	Tea at Trinity, 12:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, November 17</b>	Trinity's special offering for the Building Fund
<b>Tuesday, November 19</b>	St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, November 20</b>	Panel Discussion: Faith and the Environment, at Fulton County Library, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, November 24</b>	Thank Offering Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center Fulton County Food Basket Blitz, 2 – 4 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, November 27</b>	Fort Loudon Community Thanksgiving meal, 6:00 p.m., and Service, 7:00 p.m., at Freedom Lighthouse Ministries
<b>Thursday, November 28</b>	Happy Thanksgiving!
<b>Sunday, December 1</b>	First Sunday in Advent St. Paul's Contemporary Worship, Soup Sunday, and Hanging of the Greens

