



The Beacon

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Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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

Trinity
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Loudon

NOVEMBER 2011

Dec. Newsletter Dates

<i>Deadline</i>	Tuesday, Nov. 22
<i>Church Pick-up/Email</i>	Sunday, Nov. 27
<i>Postal</i>	Monday, Nov. 28

*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! ******

Thanksgiving Services

McConnellsburg's Community Thanksgiving Service will be held **Sunday, November 20, at 4:00 p.m.** at St. Stephen's Catholic Church.

Fort Loudon's Service will be at Freedom Light-house on **Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m., following a meal at 6:00 p.m.** Join us as we gather as a community of faith in praising our Lord for his manifold blessings.



Cookies for Truck Stop Ministry in Carlisle

On **Saturday, November 26**, we will be baking cookies at Trinity to be delivered to the Truck Stop Ministry. Each year, hundreds of bags of cookies are given out to truckers and those on the road, and are much appreciated by many who may not get home for the holidays. Cookies may also be brought to the church by November 26, to be packed that day. St. Paul's cookie bakers that are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Valeria.



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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And yet we know that once the leaves start changing color, they are starting to dry, and soon enough they will be withering and falling off the trees. The leaves show us their last beauty before they die. For the next several months, we will be looking at bare trees, before the new leaves will start to come out next spring.

That is the circle of life: change, death, and a new beginning. Each year and with every changing season we are reminded of that circle, and of the one who created it, and made us a part of it.

In America, November is the time of Thanksgiving, of appreciating a plentiful harvest, a big spread of delicious foods, and time spent with family and loved ones. As it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:12-13: “There is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.” In other words: Enjoy the blessings of life, and thank God for them.

In other countries and traditions, November is the time to remember and honor the dead, which is still reflected in our celebration of Halloween: It originated from All Hallows’ Eve, the evening before All Saints day, on November 1. On that day, a special prayer is said for all who have died, that they may rest in peace.

For those who have lost a loved one, there are many days in the year when they remember them: birthdays, holidays, special times spent together, and the anniversary of their death. As Christians, we celebrate every Sunday as the day of resurrection, to reassure our faith in a life after death.

But it is good to have a time of year set apart especially to remember those who have gone before us. With that, we are reminded that none of us are going to live forever. There is a special feeling to this season of late fall, when it gets colder and the days grow shorter, when nature around us is going to sleep. Creation is dying, waiting to be resurrected again in the spring. All life is finite and perishable. One day, we too will lay down to sleep, waiting to be resurrected to a new life in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this month of Thanksgiving, let us thank God for every day that he gives us, and let us make the most of each day, since for all we know, it may be our last. Let us thank him also for those we love, those who are still among us, and those who have gone before us to a better place. Let us appreciate those who love us, while we still have them with us! And most of all, let us thank God for blessing us with life, with changing seasons and changes that happen in our own lives, as they bring us closer to an eternal life in HIM.

Yours in His Name,

Pastor Valeria.

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Food for Thought: Reflection by Martin B. Copenhaver

"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'What should we do?' (Acts 2:37)

Most preachers I know have a collection of stories about things people have said to them while shaking hands after worship. (One of the favorites in my own collection is from early in my ministry. Someone said, "You know, Martin, every sermon is better than the next one." I thanked him. He was in his car and driving away before I realized what he had said.) Of all the things a preacher could be told, however, the words offered to Peter after his sermon on Pentecost are the most fitting response to a good sermon: "What should we do?"

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Submitted by: Linda Best, secretary



Lions Club Dinners

This month, the Mt. Parnell Lions Club dinner will be served **Thursday, November 10**, at the Fort Loudon Community Center. Help is always needed. Please see Rosie Shives.



CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

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ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY SUMMARY OF OCTOBER MEETING

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

Discussion and action was taken on the following:

- ♦ **MEMORIAL FUND:** \$125.00 to Heralds of Hope.
 - ♦ **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Sunday School classes for children will resume on October 23. Basement Sunday School area will need to be cleaned prior to this.
 - ♦ **CHURCH WOMEN:** Bazaar during Folk Festival - Church crafts and bake sale netted over \$400.00. Fair Trade Items netted over \$900
 - ♦ **BASEMENT LIFT PROJECT:** Progress is slow awaiting instructions from Elevator Company for installation. A down payment of \$13,372.50 (half of cost of the lift unit) has been made to ThyssenKrupp Elevator Company. Loy is diligently keeping in contact with contractors.
 - ♦ **CEMETERY PROJECT:** Meeting with Don McClure of Gordon Memorials. Cemetery divided into segments for cost/repair evaluation. First segment containing 37 tombstones repair, resetting and cleaning at a cost of \$1,600.00. Suggestions for funding: line item in 2012 church budget, special offering envelopes, special fundraising events. Subject tabled at this time due to concerns of church's financial deficit.
 - ♦ **GEORGE DIVEN GRAVE:** Fulton County Historical Society in favor of the project and offered to help seek ways to fund a sign. The \$460 cost of a memorial stone for the grave of George Diven 1782 - 1858, has been covered by a private party.
 - ♦ **PASTOR'S HEALTH INSURANCE:** Change in renewal rates based on age related formula gives a cost savings of \$3600.00 per year. (\$1800 for each church)
 - ♦ **CHURCH/PARSONAGE INSURANCE:** Contact was made with agent representing insurance company and more information was received about coverage. Will continue to look into alternative cost comparisons for this insurance.
 - ♦ **ADVENT MATERIALS:** Approved ordering advent calendar sheets and devotional booklets.
 - ♦ **DESIGNAGTED SPECIAL OFFERINGS:** Designated the annual Thank Offering of Nov. 20 to the Fulton County Food Basket. The Advent special offering collection will be donated to the local Salvation Army.
 - ♦ **MISSION: 1** Approval was given to participate in the UCC Mission 1 Campaign by collecting non-perishable items for the Fulton Co. Food Basket.
 - ♦ **BUDGET AND NOMINATING COMMITTEES FOR 2012:** Budget Committee members: Denise Grissinger, Sally Cover and JoAnn Sheffield.
 - ♦ **Nominating Committee:** Mary Haubrick, Elder; Jonna Baker, Trustee; and JoAnn Sheffield, Deaconess...consistory members with terms ending Jan. 2012
 - ♦ **TREE TRIMMING:** Gave approval to Loy Garber to have a contractor do the necessary trimming and clean-up of large maple at rear of church property that is blocking passage of adjacent alley traffic.
 - ♦ **ATTENDANCE/FINANCIAL ISSUES:** Lengthy discussion concerning church's financial deficit year to date in the amount of \$7,070.20 and low worship attendance. Consistory members were urged to "think outside the box" and try to develop some ideas to change this situation. A need to have volunteers for a church nursery for young children during worship service was discussed as a way to encourage young families to attend worship services. This will be given attention by the Sunday School teachers, and Jonna Baker also offered to help.
- UPCOMING CHURCH MEETINGS:** Fall Meeting of Mercersburg Association - November 6 at Mechanicsburg from 3 - 5 p.m.

Small Church Seminar - Saturday, November 12 at Harrisburg - 10 to 2:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Financial Information Treasurer's Report

Income for SEPT.	\$ 16,219.50 *
Expenses for SEPT.	\$ 19,941.03
Interest on Account	3.48
Loss for Month	- \$ 3,718.05

* Income amount includes transfer of \$13,372.50 from the Ray Koontz Bequest Fund for 1/2 cost down payment of elevator lift.

HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY DUES

During the month of November, the annual membership dues for Homewood Auxiliary will be collected at St. Paul's UCC by Donna House. A small donation of \$3.00 for individual membership or \$5.00 for a couple membership will help support the ongoing important work of this faithful organization. Please see Donna to join or renew your membership.

SHOEBOX MINISTRY OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

by: M. Haubrick

It is not too late to participate in this special ministry by filling a shoebox with small Christmas gifts to bring joy and share the love of Jesus Christ with suffering children around the world. Boxes and information are available at St. Paul's. **FILLED BOXES MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13.**

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.



Mission: 1

From 11-1-11 through 11-11-11, the entire United Church of Christ will make good on its "THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE" motto with a coordinated mission campaign to gather more than one million food and household items for local food banks and marshal its 5,300 congregations to advocate collectively — and loudly — for hunger-related causes, both domestically and around the world.

In the 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 million items of healthy food and other household items for local food banks and outreach services. In the 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather online contribution of more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States. In the 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 letters to Congress asking the government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign. Visit ucc.org/mission1. At Trinity, we will be collecting food items for **Maranatha's food pantry in Chambersburg, and at St. Paul's, for the Fulton County Food Basket.**

Items may be dropped off on Sunday, November 6.

Additional drop-off times at Trinity: Evenings of Wednesday, November 2, Monday, November 7, Tuesday, November 8, and Wednesday, November 9. At St. Paul's: Evenings of Thursday, November 3 and 10, and Wednesday, November 9. OR PLEASE CALL PASTOR VALERIA TO ARRANGE A DROP-OFF TIME AT THE CHURCH OR PICK-UP AT YOUR HOUSE.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF MISSION: 1!

Morgan Daniels, granddaughter of Skip and Betty Daniels is working with the FCCCS Environmental Club to collect aluminum cans. Note the attached letter for more information. If you are interested in helping Morgan, contact Betty Daniels.

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
 22 Gladys Williams
 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
 Gene and Elsie Bricker
 Gladys Williams
 Harold and Betty Keefer
 Doug Ray
 Joyce and Thurman Hassler
 Liberty Crouse
 Linda Litton
 Linda Hoffman
 Marie Parkinson
 Military and families
 Rev. Steve and Pat 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
 Malcolm and Lorraine Richardson
 Jean McLucas
 St. Paul's Care Team
 Diane Baxter
 Janis Cutchall
 Family of Coey Fritz
 The people of Japan
 The people in the Middle East
 The people of Eastern Africa

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

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Roger Byers

Thank You for Serving!

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



DATES TO REMEMBER!



- Wednesdays Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m., Prayer and Praise, 8:00 p.m.
EXCEPT NOVEMBER 23
- Thursdays St. Paul's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.
EXCEPT NOVEMBER 24
- November 1 – 11 Mission: 1. Collection of healthy, non-perishable food items for local food banks.
- Sunday, November 6 Daylight Savings Time ends ☹
Mercersburg Association Fall meeting in Mechanicsburg, 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 7 Trinity's Evangelism committee meeting
- Tuesday, November 8 Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 9 St. Paul's Church Women United, 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 12 Small Church Seminar in Harrisburg, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 13 Holy Communion
Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
- Tuesday, November 15 St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 20 Thank offering
Trinity's special offering for the Building Fund
McConnellsburg Community Thanksgiving Service at the Catholic church, 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 23 Fort Loudon Community Thanksgiving Meal 6:00 p.m., and Service at 7:00 p.m., at Freedom Lighthouse Ministries
- Thursday, November 24 
- Saturday, November 26 Trinity's decorating of the church and cookie baking for the Truck Stop Ministry
- Sunday, November 27 Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
Advent and Christmas hymn sing at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.





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 - ♦ **BASEMENT LIFT PROJECT:** Progress is slow awaiting instructions from Elevator Company for installation. A down payment of \$13,372.50 (half of cost of the lift unit) has been made to ThyssenKrupp Elevator Company. Loy is diligently keeping in contact with contractors.
 - ♦ **CEMETERY PROJECT:** Meeting with Don McClure of Gordon Memorials. Cemetery divided into segments for cost/repair evaluation. First segment containing 37 tombstones repair, resetting and cleaning at a cost of \$1,600.00. Suggestions for funding: line item in 2012 church budget, special offering envelopes, special fundraising events. Subject tabled at this time due to concerns of church's financial deficit.
 - ♦ **GEORGE DIVEN GRAVE:** Fulton County Historical Society in favor of the project and offered to help seek ways to fund a sign. The \$460 cost of a memorial stone for the grave of George Diven 1782 - 1858, has been covered by a private party.
 - ♦ **PASTOR'S HEALTH INSURANCE:** Change in renewal rates based on age related formula gives a cost savings of \$3600.00 per year. (\$1800 for each church)
 - ♦ **CHURCH/PARSONAGE INSURANCE:** Contact was made with agent representing insurance company and more information was received about coverage. Will continue to look into alternative cost comparisons for this insurance.
 - ♦ **ADVENT MATERIALS:** Approved ordering advent calendar sheets and devotional booklets.
 - ♦ **DESIGNAGTED SPECIAL OFFERINGS:** Designated the annual Thank Offering of Nov. 20 to the Fulton County Food Basket. The Advent special offering collection will be donated to the local Salvation Army.
 - ♦ **MISSION: 1** Approval was given to participate in the UCC Mission 1 Campaign by collecting non-perishable items for the Fulton Co. Food Basket.
 - ♦ **BUDGET AND NOMINATING COMMITTEES FOR 2012:** Budget Committee members: Denise Grissinger, Sally Cover and JoAnn Sheffield.
 - ♦ **Nominating Committee:** Mary Haubrick, Elder; Jonna Baker, Trustee; and JoAnn Sheffield, Deaconess...consistory members with terms ending Jan. 2012
 - ♦ **TREE TRIMMING:** Gave approval to Loy Garber to have a contractor do the necessary trimming and clean-up of large maple at rear of church property that is blocking passage of adjacent alley traffic.
 - ♦ **ATTENDANCE/FINANCIAL ISSUES:** Lengthy discussion concerning church's financial deficit year to date in the amount of \$7,070.20 and low worship attendance. Consistory members were urged to "think outside the box" and try to develop some ideas to change this situation. A need to have volunteers for a church nursery for young children during worship service was discussed as a way to encourage young families to attend worship services. This will be given attention by the Sunday School teachers, and Jonna Baker also offered to help.
- UPCOMING CHURCH MEETINGS:** Fall Meeting of Mercersburg Association - November 6 at Mechanicsburg from 3 - 5 p.m.

Small Church Seminar - Saturday, November 12 at Harrisburg - 10 to 2:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Financial Information Treasurer's Report

Income for SEPT.	\$ 16,219.50 *
Expenses for SEPT.	\$ 19,941.03
Interest on Account	3.48
Loss for Month	- \$ 3,718.05

* Income amount includes transfer of \$13,372.50 from the Ray Koontz Bequest Fund for 1/2 cost down payment of elevator lift.

HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY DUES

During the month of November, the annual membership dues for Homewood Auxiliary will be collected at St. Paul's UCC by Donna House. A small donation of \$3.00 for individual membership or \$5.00 for a couple membership will help support the ongoing important work of this faithful organization. Please see Donna to join or renew your membership.

SHOEBOX MINISTRY OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

by: M. Haubrick

It is not too late to participate in this special ministry by filling a shoebox with small Christmas gifts to bring joy and share the love of Jesus Christ with suffering children around the world. Boxes and information are available at St. Paul's. **FILLED BOXES MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13.**

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.



Mission: 1

From 11-1-11 through 11-11-11, the entire United Church of Christ will make good on its "THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE" motto with a coordinated mission campaign to gather more than one million food and household items for local food banks and marshal its 5,300 congregations to advocate collectively — and loudly — for hunger-related causes, both domestically and around the world.

In the 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 million items of healthy food and other household items for local food banks and outreach services. In the 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather online contribution of more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States. In the 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 letters to Congress asking the government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign. Visit ucc.org/mission1. At Trinity, we will be collecting food items for **Maranatha's food pantry in Chambersburg, and at St. Paul's, for the Fulton County Food Basket.**

Items may be dropped off on Sunday, November 6.

Additional drop-off times at Trinity: Evenings of Wednesday, November 2, Monday, November 7, Tuesday, November 8, and Wednesday, November 9. At St. Paul's: Evenings of Thursday, November 3 and 10, and Wednesday, November 9. OR PLEASE CALL PASTOR VALERIA TO ARRANGE A DROP-OFF TIME AT THE CHURCH OR PICK-UP AT YOUR HOUSE.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF MISSION: 1!

Morgan Daniels, granddaughter of Skip and Betty Daniels is working with the FCCCS Environmental Club to collect aluminum cans. Note the attached letter for more information. If you are interested in helping Morgan, contact Betty Daniels.

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
 22 Gladys Williams
 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
 Gene and Elsie Bricker
 Gladys Williams
 Harold and Betty Keefer
 Doug Ray
 Joyce and Thurman Hassler
 Liberty Crouse
 Linda Litton
 Linda Hoffman
 Marie Parkinson
 Military and families
 Rev. Steve and Pat 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
 Malcolm and Lorraine Richardson
 Jean McLucas
 St. Paul's Care Team
 Diane Baxter
 Janis Cutchall
 Family of Coey Fritz
 The people of Japan
 The people in the Middle East
 The people of Eastern Africa

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

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Roger Byers

Thank You for Serving!

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



DATES TO REMEMBER!



- Wednesdays Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m., Prayer and Praise, 8:00 p.m.
EXCEPT NOVEMBER 23
- Thursdays St. Paul's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.
EXCEPT NOVEMBER 24
- November 1 – 11 Mission: 1. Collection of healthy, non-perishable food items for local food banks.
- Sunday, November 6 Daylight Savings Time ends ☹
Mercersburg Association Fall meeting in Mechanicsburg, 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 7 Trinity's Evangelism committee meeting
- Tuesday, November 8 Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 9 St. Paul's Church Women United, 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 12 Small Church Seminar in Harrisburg, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 13 Holy Communion
Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
- Tuesday, November 15 St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 20 Thank offering
Trinity's special offering for the Building Fund
McConnellsburg Community Thanksgiving Service at the Catholic church, 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 23 Fort Loudon Community Thanksgiving Meal 6:00 p.m., and Service at 7:00 p.m., at Freedom Lighthouse Ministries
- Thursday, November 24 
- Saturday, November 26 Trinity's decorating of the church and cookie baking for the Truck Stop Ministry
- Sunday, November 27 Trinity's change collection for Hartman Center
Advent and Christmas hymn sing at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.

