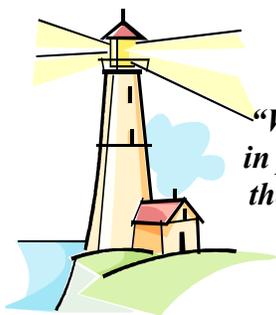


The Beacon

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



"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."

Romans 12:6-8

SEPTEMBER 2014

Deadline for Oct. News **Wednesday, Sept. 24**
Church Pick-up/Email **Sunday, Sept. 28**
Postal **Monday, Sept. 29**

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.



Items to be Donated for Trinity's Food and Clothing Event

Our next food and clothing event will be **Saturday, October 11, from 10:00 – 12:00**. We will start collecting canned goods (meats, soups, ravioli, etc.), pasta and cereal starting early next month. Fresh produce, bread, eggs, etc. are also welcomed. When donating clothing, please remember that if you no longer want to wear something because it is faded, torn or stained, nobody else will want to wear it either. Seasonal items for fall and winter are preferred.

Thank you for your generous contributions as we reach out to our neighbors in Fort Loudon!

This month: **Be mindful.**

Most pollution and waste happens because we don't think about what we are doing. An extra plastic bag when we could have easily brought our own bag, an additional napkin that we didn't really need that ends up in the trash, a Styrofoam cup when we could have used a mug, excess use of shampoo, detergents and dish soap when smaller amounts will be just as effective and need less water to rinse. A light or TV left on in an empty room, a device left on a charger after it has been fully charged. These are all little things that add up to a large amount of pollution and waste. Be mindful. Pay attention to what you are doing and consider what you may do differently. You will be surprised at how much you can save!



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

Stamp

Message from Your Pastor

“We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.”

Romans 12:6-8

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Are your gifts mentioned in this list? I am sure it is not a complete list of all the gifts that make up a church. And even though we may have other gifts that are not mentioned, I believe we all have at least one of the gifts listed above. But are we using them to their full extent?

School has started, and students and teachers and their families are back to their every day routine. At Trinity, Sunday school classes have been held for children all summer long, with special thanks to Bernice Crouse and her helpers. At St. Paul's, kids and teachers got a break and are getting ready to reconvene on September 21. This has led me to ponder the gift of teaching.

What makes a good teacher? Some might say, a certain knowledge or skill set to be passed on to the students. Others might say, it takes a caring heart and a lot of patience. It takes dedication and motivation. It takes a person who does not give up easily, who is not discouraged even if the results differ from what they had envisioned. And it takes a lot of flexibility, a willingness to respond to students' thoughts and questions. A good teacher is also sensitive to the individuals' needs and abilities. And in addition to all of that, it takes a big time commitment, especially if it is a volunteer position: to prepare a lesson and to be there to teach it.

As I am writing this, I am thinking: Why am I surprised that so few people are willing to teach a Sunday school class? That's a lot to ask of a person, and a lot of pressure!

Maybe I should rephrase the question. Maybe I should ask: What does a teacher get out of teaching? They get the opportunity to share their faith with others, to have a conversation with them. They don't need to have all the answers, just a willingness to search for them together. If they are working with children, they get to see the curiosity in their eyes when telling them a Bible story. They get to enjoy singing or doing a craft together, maybe even play a game. They get to see friendships develop among the children. And they get to build a relationship with them and make a lasting impression on a young person's life.

Think back to your own days in Sunday school as a child. Do you remember the content of each lesson? Or do you just remember that there was somebody there who cared about you and wanted to spend time with you? That is the most important lesson that we can teach our children: that somebody cares, that they are loved, that they are wanted.

And that, by the way, is a lesson that we all teach, whether we are aware of it or not: If you take the time to greet a child, if you pay attention to them, maybe invite them to sit with you, or even offer to staff the nursery during worship - those are all lessons that our children will remember: Somebody saw me, and somebody cared.

What children learn in church is not just intellectual knowledge about the Bible and Jesus. It is the *experience* that they are loved, that they are important, and that they are children of God.

And the way we as the whole church - not just the Sunday school teachers - treat children is how they will learn (or not learn) that important lesson for life.

So whether you want to be or not: You are a teacher!

May God help us all to be good teachers with our words, and with our actions.
Pastor Valeria.

Women's Retreat: "Faith Full Happiness"

Join us for a day of conversation, devotions and laughter about how to find happiness in gratitude, in connection, in setting boundaries, in anticipation, and in finding your purpose on **Saturday, September 27**, from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Washabaughs' beautiful farm at 2421 Breezy Point Road outside of McConnellsburg. The cost is \$10 including lunch. Please sign up at church **by Sunday, September 7**.

Directions: Take Route 30 West.

Go 5.7 miles past the

McConnellsburg exit, then turn right onto Breezy Point Rd. The destination will be on your left after 2 miles. Look for the sign "Pearl's Place".



Special Offering for the Scholarship Funds

On **September 7**, we will be taking up a special collection for our Scholarship Funds at both churches. Please take this opportunity to support our young members in getting a good education.



Sarah Gordon

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sarah Gordon who passed away in Nazareth, PA on July 26. We are thankful that we knew her (and her sense of humor), but we also give thanks to God for relieving her of all earthly troubles and calling her home to his eternal peace. Jesus said: "Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:18)

Worship and Picnic at the Garbers' on September 14

On **Sunday, September 14**, Trinity and St. Paul's will be joining together for our annual open air worship service at the Garbers' Sheep Ridge Farm, 794 Peach Orchard Rd in McConnellsburg, at **11:00 a.m.**, followed by a picnic lunch. *Joyful Noise* will be playing the music. Please bring your lawn chairs, a covered dish, and your place settings. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided by St. Paul's Church Women. The heated pool will be open for swimming. Bring your family and friends out to enjoy God's beautiful creation, and fellowship between the two churches!

There will be no worship or Sunday school at Trinity or St. Paul's that day. In the event of rain, worship and lunch will be held at St. Paul's at 11:00.



How This Church Changed My Life

By Karen Fox

This church feels like home to me. I was raised in a church, and I am so thankful that my parents did bring me up in a church, but I never really appreciated what going to church meant at a young age. I looked at going to church, when I was young, as seeing family and friends and writing notes back and forth to my cousins. When I became a teenager, I started working and did not really want to go or had the time to go to church. Then as a young adult I was too worried about going out with friends than to worry about going to church. Then I became a mother. The first thought I had when I first had my son was I really want to raise him in a church environment. When I first took my children to church they were so bad that I got so stressed out that I could not even enjoy the service myself. Now that my children are older and will sit through church, mostly quietly, I can actually enjoy listening to the service and can actually remember what the sermon was about. This is why this church feels like home. The people of this church have welcomed us with open arms and I cannot wait till I can welcome a family with open arms.



Picnic at Trinity on September 28

We will gather at the pavilion behind the church on **September 28** after Sunday morning services, around **12:00 p.m.** Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring your place settings and a covered dish to share.



St. Paul's Sunday School for Children

The adult class has been meeting throughout the summer, with many thanks to Pam Carmack. Plans are underway to resume classes for children on **Sunday, September 21**. We are currently working out a schedule with several teachers. Please pray for teachers and students! How can you be supportive of Sunday school students and their families?



Messy Church at Trinity

“Messy Church” is a worship service for young children (and their parents or grandparents) where they can move around, dance, talk and ask questions. We will experience a Bible story, sing songs and do a “messy” activity together. Our first Messy Church will be on **Sunday, September 21, at 4:00 p.m.** All children ages 0 – 6 are welcome (and their older siblings as well). This is an opportunity especially for parents who may not yet feel comfortable bringing their children to our Sunday morning activities. Please invite anyone that you know with young children to come and experience church like they never have before!

Baptisms at Trinity

Congratulations to Rick Lake, Tesha Keefer, and their daughters Shaylee, Cheyanne, and Gracey, who were baptized last month. We are happy to welcome them into our church family and the universal body of Christ, and we pray that God may bless and guide them all the days of their lives!



Trinity's Peach Festival

We had another beautiful day and a good crowd of people who enjoyed our Peach Festival on August 16. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make it possible, and to Anna Rotz for overseeing this ambitious endeavor! She writes:

“I would like to thank everyone who served on the committee for the fourth annual Peach Festival and our members, friends and neighbors who volunteered their time and effort that day. The festival continues to grow and be successful, but it takes teamwork to make this happen.

Thanks also to the organizations, businesses and individuals who supported us financially and in other ways. God bless all of you.”



Fall Folk Festival

St. Paul's will be open again this year on Friday and Saturday of Fall Folk Festival, **October 17 and 18**. We will offer fairly traded items from all over the world, a bake sale, and free tea and coffee for people to relax and visit. We will also be selling **yard sale items** in the church basement. Please see Donna House if you have items to donate.

Trinity's Financial Update

Month	Received	Budget to Date	Expended to Date
January- July	\$32,156.98	\$42,782.81	\$36,839.62
August 1-24	\$11,166.04	\$5,171.47	\$5,914.50
TOTAL	\$43,323.02	\$47,954.26	\$42,754.12

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

Trinity UCC

P.O. Box 253

13189 Main Street

Fort Loudon, PA 17224

(717)-369-4773

trinityuccfloudon.webs.com

www.pccucc.org (Penn Central Conference)

www.ucc.org

TRINITY CONSISTORY NOTES

The Trinity Consistory met on [August 12, 2014](#). The meeting was opened with prayer by Anna Rotz, followed by the minutes and Treasurer's reports which were both approved. The trustees gave the following updates.

1. The adjustments to the basement heating system are finished.
2. The water control people will begin the morning of Wednesday, [August 13](#) and should be finished by the weekend.
3. The following quotes were provided in reference to the eight pine trees that we are looking to have removed from the church property. Someone from Fulton County would remove the trees, shred the limbs, keep the wood and clean up the debris for \$3700. Mr. Barnhart, who Glenn had talked to before, would do it for \$800 with Kevin Black taking the wood and paying us \$12.00 per tree if they are approximately 1 foot in diameter and 10 ft, 6 in. in length. It was approved to get Mr. Barnhart to remove the trees and then sell the wood to Mr. Black.

The Evangelism Committee reported that our Pork and Sauerkraut supper will be held on Saturday, [November 8, 2014](#).

The Pastor's Report was reviewed by all and a copy included with the minutes.

Under old business, there was nothing new to report in reference to St. Luke's. The Stewardship Committee will report at the September meeting.

New Business:

1. Cowan's Gap pavilion #3 has been reserved for Sunday, [June 7, 2015](#) since Pavilion #1 was not available. It was approved to reimburse Pastor Valeria for the \$83 for this cost.
2. A rental agreement has been created when someone wants to use the church building. Copies have been placed in the minutes binder.

Other business:

1. Heather Fisher would like to use the pavilion for her child's birthday. This was approved.
2. Missy Loucklin would like to use the Sunday School room for her child's birthday party on [September](#). This was also approved.
3. We were offered the opportunity by Sue Rice to have the food stand for an auction at the Goldfish Barn on [October 4th](#). Due to Bethany Crouse's wedding the same day, it was decided to not do this that day.

Submitted by Kathy Hess, Secretary

ST. PAUL'S CONSISTORY SUMMARY OF AUGUST MEETING

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

All consistory members present except Jonna Baker, Hillary Alexander and Jo-Ann Sheffield.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: planning a Fair Trade and Bake sale and also a basement yard sale for the Fall Folk Festival.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Looking at different options of times for the children's S.S. classes. There is a need for volunteers to teach and help with the Children's S.S. classes which will resume on September 21

MEMORIAL FUND REPORT donated \$100.00 to McConnellsburg Vol Fire Co. Fund Drive

OLD BUSINESS:

BASEMENT DEHUMIDIFIER SYSTEM: humidity problem in the church basement is still a concern. The floor dehumidifier is still being used and emptied frequently along with the new heating/air system running continually to take care of the humidity. Kirk Cover offered to bring an instrument to check the percentage of humidity to the church and get more accurate figures of how effective the system is working.

BASEMENT LIGHTS: some of the old fluorescent tube lights in the basement were not working even after replacing the tube lights. Parts to fix these old lights are no longer available and replacement of the lights was recommended. Loy will consult with Brian Mellott concerning this and report back.

CHURCH STEEPLE LIGHTING: The lighting had been completed and a plaque in memory of Arnetta Mellott has been ordered. The plaque will be placed on a stone base from Gordon's Memorials. At the completion of installing the plaque/monument, a special dedication service will be planned. The entire cost of this project was paid by the Arnetta Mellott family in her memory.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Pastor Valeria reported that she has not been successful in recruiting volunteers to serve on the committee. Consistory member John Glazier has been the only volunteer to offer to serve. She noted that she was continuing to seek ways to contact and promote stewardship with church members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Greg Reineke of the Fulton County Conservation District checked the church for better energy efficiency and made several suggestions regarding insulation, weather strips, LED and CFL light bulbs, etc. It was noted the basement should be installed with **smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.** Kirk Cover commented that a smoke detector would not be helpful if it went off and there was no one in the church to hear it. He stated that another local church installed a smoke alarm that was set up to contact someone via phone if the alarm was activated. More information regarding this will be discussed at another meeting.

ELECTRIC BILL COMPARISON: Denise Grissinger prepared a report to Consistory members keeping them informed about the electric bills for the church during the summer: June \$55.20; July \$101.55 and August \$205.62. In 2013 the electric bill paid in August was \$117.66.....looking back to 2012, the bill was \$285.05.

WORKER'S COMP RENEWAL: An increase in the Worker's Comp Insurance to \$678.00 annually with Hartford Insurance Co. Will check with the carrier for the church's fire and liability insurance to see if they offer Worker's Comp.

TAXES: Approved to pay school taxes for the parsonage in the amount of \$1,967.10 if paid by Sept. 30.

FUEL OIL: A letter received from TWIN OIL offering their services. Currently using the CM Fuel oil company. Will do a comparative check on this.

CAR WASH FUND RAISER:

Saturday morning Thomas Tique Flea Market Car Wash. Verbal information indicated that there was a \$200.00 donation made by Thomas and all the extra tips would add to this. More information was needed, and consistory members noted that the younger church members would need to participate in this event. Pastor Valeria will check on this.

St. Paul's Financial Information**Treasurer's Report**

Income for June	\$ 31,018.17	*Includes \$25,000.00 from Bldg Fund
Expenses for June	\$ 33,587.00	– Includes \$7,875 parsonage roof-\$17,000 Heat/air
Interest on Account	2.28	
<u>Loss for month</u>	- \$ 2,566.55	
<u>Deficit for year to date</u>	- \$ 3,635.47	

Income for July	\$ 6,622.99
Expenses for July	\$ 3,236.65
Interest on Account	1.21
<u>Gain for month</u>	+ \$ 3,237.86
<u>Deficit for year to date</u>	\$ 396.71

**Growing Older Has Its Challenges**

The original sanctuary of the St. Paul's church building was completed in 1895. Later in 1926 the educational Sunday School room was constructed. Over the decades the building and its contents have been aging. And as it often happens with older structures, repairs, upgrades, and replacements come in bunches.

Within the past couple of years the Church Consistory has been faced with the need to deal with church and parsonage structural and equipment issues:

A new roof for the church and parsonage.

An older organ to be replaced with a newer organ.

An elevator lift to assist persons to move between the upstairs SS room and basement.

A handicapped bathroom added.

Repairs to the parsonage deck and garage to prevent rain water leakage.

Replacement of the 20-some year old air conditioning system, and eliminating humidity in the church basement.

As responsible stewards of the church cemetery, tombstones needed repaired, cleaned and straightened.

On the immediate agenda is the replacement of the 30-some year old oil furnace in the Fall.

And if all this was not enough to cope with, the older lighting fixtures in the basement are malfunctioning, parts are outdated, and new high efficiency lights need to be installed.

It can be said that when it rains it pours repairs and expenses. But thanks to the bequests of Mary Bard, Friday Shimer, Ray & Fay Koontz, Betty Grissinger, Dr. Walter Grissinger, and various anonymous donations, funds have been available for the repairs and upgrades. Your generosity has been greatly appreciated.

Needless to say, sources of funding have been drawn down. The Building Fund will need donations to deal with the basement lights issue. A part of what we are called to do as Christian believers is to keep our house of worship and Sunday School facilities functioning efficiently, not only for our generation, but for future ones as well.

Loy Garber

St. Paul's Consistory President

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

- 1 Cindy Barley
- 2 Linda McLucas
- 3 Henry Isban
- 7 Amber Myers
Jason Fox, Jr.
- 8 Sam Rotz
Shari Washabaugh
- 10 Leah Hamil
- 14 Reese Alexander
- 17 Sam Burns
Jeff Zeis
- 18 Elizabeth Kerlin
- 20 Imogene McLucas
Joe Rotz
- 23 Barb Bricker
- 24 Kathy Hess
- 25 Jerry Armstrong
- 26 Ricky Lake II
- 28 Troy Ott
Richard Sheffield
- 29 Ryan Koontz
- 30 Linda Weller



St. Paul's Flowers

Denise Grissinger

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

St. Paul's Ushers

Mary Haubrick and Sally Cover

Thank You for Serving!

Trinity's Ushers

Ann Hays and Barb Hurst

Thank You for Serving!

PRAYER LIST

Family of Sarah Gordon
 Family of Thelma Miller
 Bob Carmack
 Family of Warren Daniels
 Bertha Byers
 Betty Daniels
 Bob and Nancy Lawyer and family
 Dorothy and Paul Stevens
 Gary Stevens
 Gene, Elsie and Barb Bricker
 Harold and Betty Keefer and family
 Joyce and Thurman Hassler
 Military and families
 Sponsored Children: Adrianus, Marc
 Philip, Thierry, Marcela
 Zeis family
 Jean McLucas
 Diane Baxter
 Janis Cutchall
 Kylene McLucas Arwood
 All individuals and families affected by
 cancer
 All Sunday school classes
 Family of Susan Ott
 Family of Arnetta Mellott
 Family of Roger Byers

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



SEPTEMBER 2014

Wednesdays

Thursdays

Sunday, September 7

Monday, September 8

Tuesday, September 9

Wednesday, September 10

Sunday, September 14

Tuesday, September 16

Sunday, September 21

Saturday, September 27

Sunday, September 28

Sunday, October 5

Trinity's Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.; Prayer and Praise, 7:45 p.m.

St. Paul's *Joyful Noise* Band practice, 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Contemporary worship. **NO Salad/Sandwich Sunday**
Special Offering for the Scholarship Funds

Trinity's Evangelism Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Trinity's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Church Women United meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Joint outdoor worship and picnic at the Garbers', 11:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Consistory meeting, 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's children's Sunday school classes resume
Trinity's Special Offering for the Building Fund
Messy Church at Trinity, 4:00 p.m.

Women's Retreat at 2421 Breezy Point Road, McConnellsburg,
9:00 – 4:00

Trinity's Change collection for Hartman Center
Picnic at Trinity after Sunday school

World Wide Communion
Contemporary Worship and lunch at St. Paul's
CROP Walk, 2:00 p.m.



Something New on **Wednesday** Evenings at Trinity

Are you curious about the book or movie "Heaven Is for Real"? Have you read the book by Todd Burpo? Have you seen the movie? Are you just plain curious about the story of a preschooler who seems to have visited Jesus in heaven while on a surgical table for a ruptured appendix? Whether or not you believe the story is evidence of the boy's visit to heaven, this will be a great opportunity to share your ideas of heaven with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

We will begin by viewing most of the movie in the first 2 weeks, then begin discussions based on a book and DVD guide created by the Burpos. Bernice Crouse will facilitate the discussions from 7:45 to 8:30 each **Wednesday** from **September 17 to November 19**. Join our small Prayer and Praise group on this new adventure. Some copies of the original book and a children's version will be available for those who would like to read them. Fort Loudon Library also has a copy, and the ebook version is available on the fclspa.org website through Overdrive.

Bernice

