

Sharing the **GOOD NEWS**



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

October, 2012

~ October highlights ~

- ◆ **Sunday, October 7 ~ Holy Communion**
 - ~ **Neighbors In need All-church offering**
 - ~ **Operation Christmas Child begins**
 - ~ **Crossroads, 9 am (First Sunday only)**
- ◆ **Friday, October 12 ~ Hayride at Merrymeade Farms**
- ◆ **Sunday, October 14 ~ CROP Walk ~ walk for hunger or sponsor a walker.**
- ◆ **Saturday, October 20 ~ Chicken-Pot-Pie Dinner. Bring your Family and friends to enjoy the meal or come help behind the scenes.**
- ◆ **Every Monday morning, 9:30 am. ~ Tot Time**
- ◆ **First & Third Tuesdays, 1pm. - 3 pm. ~ Prayer Shawl Ministry**



*The secret of living is learning to pray.
It's asking our Father for strength for the day!
It's trusting completely that His boundless grace
Will overcome care and each problem we face!
It's waking by faith every mile that we plod,
And knowing our prayers bring us closer to God!*

*St. Paul's
United Church of Christ
104 Green Street
Sellersville PA 18960*

Phone: 215-257-7268
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Staff

- ◆ Rev. Patti Thomas, Pastor
- ◆ Nancy Ziegenfuss, Director of Christian Education
- ◆ Christopher Ziegenfuss, Choir Director
- ◆ Peter Ziegenfuss, Handbell Choir Director
- ◆ Ruth Schoeller, Organist
- ◆ James Stover, Assistant Organist
- ◆ Karen Weikel, Secretary, Newsletter Editor
- ◆ Dennis Hurchalla, Custodian
- ◆ Cindy Bibic, Financial Secty.

*Worship ~ 8 & 10:15 AM
Sunday School ~ 9 AM*

~ The Voice of Consistory ~

There are times in all of our lives where we have to deal with stress. And it is at these times that we often turn to Bible verses to help us deal with the difficult times before us.

I found a collection of Bible verses compiled by Rebecca Groothuis that focuses on keeping the faith during stressful times. Her list is comprehensive, and I would like to share a few with you.

My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. (Ex. 33:14)

I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. (Ps. 34:4)

Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. (Ps. 34:10b)

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. (Ps. 62:1-2)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him; and He will make your path straight. (Prov. 3:5-6)

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust in your strength. (Is. 30:15)

You will seek me and find me when you see me with all your heart. (Jer. 29:13)

Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life. If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why worry about the rest. (Lk. 12:25-26)

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Ps. 4:8)

You can check her out online for her complete list. The above verses were short enough for me to commit to memory and repeat when I need them.

And finally, there is one question that I always struggle with 'How can I turn my worries and problems over to God?'

So, each day, taking one step at a time, we should pray for God's Word to guide us, read or listen to God's Word, and meditate on God's Word when problems, worries, and anxieties of life come along. The secret to giving over to Christ is really no secret at all ~ it's simply asking Jesus to take our burden of 'original sin' and be our Saviour (Jn. 3:16) as well as submitting to Jesus as our Lord in day-to-day living.

-Scott Huff, Secty., Consistory

~ SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER ~

- ◆ **Sunday, October 7th, Twenty-seventh**
Sunday in Ordinary Time
- WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**
- Worship: 8 am. in Parlor & 10:15 in Sanctuary**
- Sunday School for all ages, 9 am.**
- Crossroads Breakfast & Worship,**
9 am. in Fellowship Hall
- Scriptures: Job 1:1; 2:1-10**
Mark 10:2-16
- Theme ~ Enfolding Love**
- Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.**
- Confirmation Class, 5 pm.**



***NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED** all church offering. . . .

**With your support, Neighbors in Need is
"Imagining a World Without Hunger"!**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN supports the council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.



A program called "Food of God 4 People of God" started in California. It strives to be a living crucible of Christ's compassion and concern for those on the streets by sharing a hot meal with people in public places. Program Director, Rev. Theresa Freeman says, "Food of God 4 People of God" responds to the effects of hunger, and the catastrophic effect poverty has created by constant budget cuts and a 'throw away' mentality toward humans beings in our cities. As a hungry child herself, Rev. Theresa wanted to tie together her own life experience with the gospel of Jesus Christ as well as respond to hunger. She began this vital ministry and the spiritual practice of feeding the hungry at First Congregational Church, Oakland, in 2010.

- ◆ **Sunday, October 14th, Twenty-eighth**
Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Worship: 8 am. in Parlor & 10:15 in Sanctuary**
- Sunday School for all ages, 9 am.**
- Scriptures: Job 23:1-9, 16-17**
Mark 10:17-31
- **CROP WALK**
- Theme ~ What Must I Do?**
- **Rev. Elaine Ely, guest preacher**
- Coffee, Cookies & Conversation**

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- ◆ **Sunday, October 21st, Twenty-ninth**
Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Worship: 8 am. in Parlor & 10:15 in Sanctuary**
- Sunday School for all ages, 9 am.**
- Scriptures: Job 38:1-7, (34-41)**
Mark 10:35-45
- Theme ~ Great Service**
- Joyful Noise loose change offering**
- Coffee, Cookies and Conversation**

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- ◆ **Sunday, October 28th, Thirtieth**
Sunday In Ordinary Time
- Worship: 8 am. in Parlor & 10:15 in Sanctuary**
- Scriptures: Job 42:1-6; 10-17**
Mark 10:46-52
- Theme: Take Heart**
- Coffee, Cookies and Conversation**
- Youth Group, 6 pm.**



God
is still
speaking.

CROP Walk Sunday October 14th



From: Nancy Lyons

We recently had a minor plumbing problem, and we were told that the solution was to run water in the sink for several minutes several times a day. So every time I brushed my teeth, washed my hands, or just passed the sink, I let the water run.

With each drop that ran, I felt guiltier and guiltier and guiltier. There are millions of people in this world who don't have running water, many of whom walk miles to get water to wash themselves and their clothes, to drink, to water their gardens and their animals.

Sunday, October 14th the annual Pennridge CROP Walk will take place. Walkers from many area churches will raise money to be used for food and water for those who are without, both locally and world wide.

- ◆ In 2011, 17 local churches and 160 walkers took part. St. Paul's sent 11 walkers and raised \$2,372.
- ◆ Total receipts for 2011 were \$20,694 and FISH received \$5,173 of that amount.
- ◆ Since 1984, \$593,742 has been raised in Pennridge with \$148,435 going to FISH.

It's not too late. Please sign up to walk or sponsor a walker with your generous donation.
Remember our motto: **We Walk Because They Walk.**

DID YOU KNOW these facts about the 2011 Pennridge CROP Walk:

- ◆ 17 Churches participated
- ◆ 4 Students participated from South Middle School
- ◆ 160 walkers total
- ◆ Top Two walkers (contributions)
Mae Cole, Presbyterian Church of Deep Run, Perkasio, \$1,815
Nancy Lyons, St. Paul's UCC, Sellersville, \$1,495.
- ◆ Top Churches:

Trinity Lutheran	\$2,524
St. Paul's UCC	\$2,372
Deep Run Presbyterian	\$2,271
St. Andrew's Lutheran	\$2,024
Deep Run Mennonite	\$1,695

~ Plan to walk on October 14th or sponsor a walker ~



Chicken



Pot Pie Supper

**Chicken Pot Pie Dinner will be served
at St. Paul's from 4 – 7 p.m. on
Saturday, October 20th**

Check the flyer in this GOOD NEWS. . .

- Post it on your refrigerator.
- Give it to a friend.
- We hope all members will be involved.
- Volunteers are needed to serve the supper as well as to provide desserts.
- Of course, we also need diners!
- We hope you will come and enjoy a delicious meal!
- Take-outs available for home-bound and at end of dinner while quantities last.

Operation Christmas Child

Mission: To demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, share the good News of Jesus Christ.



Start Date: October 7 ~ boxes and brochures (including all instructions) are located in the Narthex. Please take one and fill it with your prayers and gifts.

Needed: Extra shoeboxes ~ please bring them in and place them in the Narthex. Make certain they are regular sized shoeboxes, not boot boxes or sneaker boxes.

Bring some hope and joy to children who are in desperate situations throughout this world.

With God's grace, we can get more than 25 boxes to mail.

~ Janet Dunlap

Family Hayride and Bonfire

The second Family Fun Night is scheduled for Friday, October 12.

This month, we will be going on a Hayride at Merrymead Farm in Lansdale. We will gather at the store at Merrymead at 7 pm. Our hayride is scheduled for 7:15-8:15 pm. Following the hayride, we will have refreshments at a bonfire from 8:15 – 9:15 pm.

We currently have 38 people signed up for the hayride. We have room for just a few more people.

If you'd like to join us, but missed the sign-up deadline, please speak to Nancy Ziegenfuss to see if there's still room.



HAPPENINGS WITHIN ST. PAUL'S

THANK YOU RUTH!



At its August meeting, Consistory accepted Ruth Schoeller's resignation as our Organist, effective December 31, 2012. While we feel a sense of sorrow over the loss of all the wonderful contributions she makes every week, we also wish her all the happiness of a well deserved retirement.

As she mentioned in her letter, Ruth has been with us since 2005 and playing in various full time, temporary or substitute positions for 62 years! We know she will put her energy and talents to good use in all her future endeavors.

May God continue to bless you in your retirement, Ruth!



**CURB
APPEAL**
SELLERSVILLE

What is . . . "Curb Appeal Sellersville?"

It is a soon to be renamed program of small landscaping and beautification projects in the community.

Do you enjoy yard makeovers, plants and flowers and mulch, maybe a little paint? Then you could be part of the team. A few quick Saturday morning makeovers a year as gifts to our neighbors and community as a fun form of outreach.

Contact Neil Clark for more information.

Opportunities to Serve. . . .

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS for the month of October . . .

October 7	Lucy Chrastina & Kristen Tomlinson
October 14	Donna Tomlinson & Sam Clark
October 21	Marty Milkowich & Jeremy Mask
October 28	Jackie Kemmerer & Mary Ziegenfuss



COOKIES, COFFEE, CONVERSATION following late church each Sunday . . . please sign up on the clipboard sheet in Fretz Hall. Bring some cookies, a cold drink, and make some coffee!

Bulletin Chart Openings:

- October 21
- October 28
- November 4
- November 11

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday bulletin, (\$10), please sign the chart in the Narthex.

Thinking Ahead to 2013!

If anyone is interested in serving on Consistory to fill any openings, speak to an officer. We had some success last year with flexible terms of less than 3 years.



Stewardship of the Earth

Stewardship of the Earth “Honor and Preserve All of God’s Creation”

Recycling: Easier???

You will soon see some new labels on products that may help you know just what and how they can be disposed of. These labels should help to clarify confusing recycling rules and hopefully boost recycling rates.

They are called Voluntary How 2 Recycle labels and will indicate whether a product is recycled in most, some or few communities.

Will we understand these new labels or will they only confuse us more about what we can recycle? Let’s hope we will learn and, most important, continue to recycle all that we can.

<p>Here’s how Voluntary How2Recycle labels that will appear soon on a number of products try to tell consumers which products they likely can recycle. But check local rule, when in doubt.</p>	 <p>Not yet recycled Less than 20% of the population can recycle this packaging, or the material is a contaminant.</p>
 <p>Widely recycled At least 60% of the U.S. population can recycle this packaging at curbside or drop-off locations.</p>	 <p>Store drop-off At least 60% of the population can leave this material at store drop-off locations, primarily grocery retailers.</p>
 <p>Limited recycling 20% to 60% of the population can recycle this material.</p>	<p>For more information, see www.how2recycle.info/recyclability-reference/ Source: How2Recycle By Frank Pompa, USA TODAY</p>

~ submitted by Nancy Lyons



Halloween

Corn shocks and pumpkins, cider nice and sweet,
Doughnuts and apples, all that one can eat.



Skeletons a-dancing, a big October moon,
Ugly-looking witches riding on a broom.

Laughing jack-o’-lanterns, funniest ever seen,
Children all so happy ‘cause it’s Halloween.



... **NORTH PENN ASSOCIATION PSEC** announces their **FALL MEETING** for Monday, October 15th to be held at Tinicum United Church of Christ, Pipersville. Registration begins at 6:30 pm. Stephanie Wooten from Living Waters UCC will be the guest speaker.

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...PENNRIDGE FISH has listed food needs.

- ◆ Diapers (especially sizes 3, 4, 5, & 6), baby wipes
- ◆ Canned Meats
- ◆ Canned Fish
- ◆ Fruit juice
- ◆ Sugar and flour
- ◆ Soap (hand soaps, dish soaps, & laundry)
- ◆ Rice and Pasta
- ◆ Coffee and Tea

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...ALL Request to Consistory, Facility Usage, Endowment Request forms are located in a black wall bracket in the Narthex above the Mission Table and also downstairs, in the office, just as you enter Nancy's desk area. Please use these forms to submit your request. . .or, find these forms on-line!

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... CONGRATULATIONS, Mike Bitner. . .on October 5th, Mike will be presented with the honorary Alumni Hall of Fame Award by Montgomery County Community College. Mike is being recognized for his many years of dedication serving the college both as a member and chairman of the Board of Trustees.



“Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,004 to Neighbors In Need in 2011. Every setting of the church works daily to address injustice in their communities, the nation, and the world. For example, powerful coalitions of faith and non-religious communities are addressing the crisis of global poverty, human trafficking, and climate change.

The Mission 1! Campaign in November of 2011 was an amazing success ~ contributions far surpassed our goal of \$111,111; at this time, \$189,000 has been received. Thank you again for your gift.”

*~ Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, Ex. Minister,
United Church of Christ*

More 'THANK YOU'S' . . .

Last month's newsletter included a 'Thank you' from Bob & Judy Ockenfuss to members of St. Paul's for helping with the St. Stephen's IHN mission project. This month we will include those people from St. Paul's who helped with IHN:

Ellen Clark

Lucille Moore

Scott and Donna Huff

Rev. Patti and David Thomas

Chris and Cindy Fosbenner

Jerry Fosbenner and granddaughter, Lauren Fosbenner

Thoughts To Ponder

The Suffering Christian

"Where was God on 9/11?" many asked. The fact is that God's children are in the world and share the sufferings of the world. On 9/11, God was with every one of those victims, granting them hope beyond the circumstances of that moment. God does not cause tragedies, but God is present in them. "God does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone" (Lam. 3:33). When famine, crib deaths, robberies, house invasions, shootings, and the like happen, it is not because God has forsaken us. The psalmist declared, "The Lord's kingdom rules over all".(Ps. 103:19) When awful things happen, God in no sense causes them or takes delight in our misery. But God does work through them to draw us into closer relationship.



God gave us free will and with it the freedom to sin in our decisions and choices. But we can also make good choices: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Acts 2:21, Rom. 10:13) One day soon God will close the curtain on evil and with it all suffering and sorrow. Then we shall see the final purpose of the Christian faith, "Christ in us, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

~ Submitted by Richard Moyer

WHY DO WE LOVE CHILDREN?

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that has been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered, "It's Adam's suit."

THE SOLID ROCK

Edward Mote, 1797-1874

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid,
which is Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 3:11*

Life with Christ is an endless hope; without Him a hopeless end.

The Bible likens our life to a house. Some homes are built to last while others crumble easily in strong wind or rain. The difference is not in the severity of the storm but in the quality of the foundation upon which the structure is built. The author of this hymn text wisely chose ‘the solid rock’ on which to build his own life, and he rested on Christ’s ‘unchanging grace’ until his home going at age 77.

Edward Mote knew nothing about God or the Bible as he grew up in London, England, the child of poor innkeepers. At the age of 16, he was genuinely converted to Christ. Mote later settled in a suburb of London where he became known as a successful cabinet maker and a devoted church layman.

After a time, a Baptist chapel was built in Horsham, Sussex, England, largely because of Edward’s efforts. The grateful church members offered him the deed to the property. He refused it, saying, ‘I only want the pulpit, and when I cease to preach Christ, then turn me out of that.’ Here Mote ministered faithfully until forced to resign because of poor health one year before his death. He commented, ‘The truths I have been preaching, I am now living upon and they’ll do very well to die upon.’

During his busy life as a minister, Edward Mote wrote more than 150 hymn texts. In 1836, he published a collection titled *Hymns of Praise* and included ‘The Solid Rock’ in it.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

REFRAIN: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand—all other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.



FOR TODAY: Matt. & 24-27, John 14:6, Acts 4:12 Roman 5:1-5, Hebrews 6:17-20

Reflect on some of the shaky foundations upon which many of your friends seem to be building their lives.
Determine to share Christ with them as you have opportunity.
Carry this musical testimony with you as you go-----

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand—All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

~ submitted by Ruth Schoeller

As Jesus and the disciples watched the rich young man walk away, unable to let go of all that he had, the disciples asked: "Who has any chance at all?" Jesus looked hard at them and said, "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it." (adapted from Matthew 19:24-26; The Message)

October 2012

Dear Friends in Christ:

It's no secret that times are tough! And these tough times have affected everyone. It doesn't matter how old you are or where you live or if you are a 2-income, 1-income or no-income family. To live and survive in our 21st Century world, every one of us have been forced to re-evaluate our life styles, to decide what is essential and what can be eliminated, and perhaps even to institute stricter economic 'policies' to guide our day-to-day decisions.

And, what's true for our own personal lives is also true for the life of the local and wider church. Over the past year, the Consistory of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference has been reviewing the financial and overall health of the conference, taking into consideration:

- Decreased giving to OCWM by local churches, which has led to a decrease in staff and a deep concern over meeting financial obligations
- Decreased camping and retreat registrations, which has led to decreased staffing and a deep concern over properly maintaining our Mensch Mill property.

Our up-coming search for a new Conference Minister has led the leadership of the Conference to engage in a thorough review of our overall status and to make several critical recommendations. In her letter dated August 27, 2012, Conference Moderator Janis Edwards outlined these recommendations:

- The ad-hoc By-Laws Committee, with staff support, conducted a thorough review of the By-Laws. Revisions were made and studied. Proposed changes to the By-laws were recommended and accepted by the Consistory.
- Members of the Conference Consistory, with staff support, formed the Visioning Sub-Committee of the Conference and reviewed the input gathered through Appreciative Inquiry at the Spring meetings of the Associations. They have recommended a process of on-going Leadership Development for clergy and laity, financial security, transparency, and improved trust and sense of unity to guide the processes and procedures of how leadership will conduct itself.
- After many conversations, study of our financial responsibilities, and time for prayerful discernment, the Consistory has recommended the sale of both the Church House and the Mensch Mill Property.

Copies of the Moderator's letter, By-Law revisions, and proposed budget are available on the Conference website (www.psec.org) under the heading PSEC Newsroom. These recommendations will come before the Church for a vote at the Fall meeting, to be held on Saturday, November 10th, at Zwingli United Church of Christ, Souderton.

In preparation for this important conference-wide meeting, regional meetings have been planned in order to provide an opportunity for Conference delegates and interested church members to meet with the Conference staff and Consistory members to discuss these critical issues. The meetings will take place at:

- Living Water UCC, Philadelphia; Wednesday, October 17th, 7:00 pm
- Immanuel UCC, Shillington; Saturday, October 20th, 10:00 am
- St. John's UCC, Lansdale; Tuesday, October 30th, 7:00 pm

The outcome of the vote on these recommendations and the decisions reached at the Fall meeting will affect the life of all of our churches, including St. Paul's. I invite every member of this congregation to review these documents and to share your thoughts, your questions, and your concerns with myself and the members of our Consistory. As part of the wider church, your voice needs to be heard so that our leadership can make wise decisions that will carry us into our future.

In the weeks leading up to our Fall meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, I invite you to hold the staff, the Conference Consistory, and the members of our Conference churches in prayer so that, together, we may discern God's will for all of us and be open to the guidance of His Holy Spirit so that we may joyfully live into the exciting new possibilities that God has in store for us and His Church.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Patti

Our Lord is Called Hope

Our Lord was a Lord who turned
 things upside down and inside out
a man who dined with sinners
a man who befriended prostitutes and tax collectors
a man who was called heretic
a man who broke the Sabbath rules
a man who changed water into wine
And he bids us to follow him
 to turn things upside down and inside out
 to go where the hurting is
 to change water into wine
 to change who we are into the Kingdom of God.

(from Searching for Shalom, by Ann Weems)