



The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ

October, 2010

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From the Interim Pastor:



The change of seasons is an amazing display of God's versatility and providential care for all creation. Here in the northeastern part of our country, each season has its rhyme, rhythm, and reason. Similarly, the mission of the church moves to a tempo and intent that follows the invisible laws of God. Brilliant autumn foliage, crisp fall air, cloudless blue skies or brooding clouds of multi-layered gray underscore God's invisible hand that patiently and consistently moves us through one season to the next. God uses creation in a myriad of ways to visibly illustrate what God invisibly initiates.

Step-by-step, visibly and invisibly God invites us on the path into God's presence to help all God's children grow and develop to their fullest potential. I recently ran across these words by Guy Finley they explain this so well:

"Our real spiritual development is under invisible laws: To grow, we must learn. To learn, we must teach. To teach we must lead. To lead, we must make mistakes. Making mistakes tills the ground of us, making it receptive to new and higher lessons.

Always strive to remember that anything we work to change in ourselves cannot help but change everything. What can be more promising than that?"

This is the time of year that we begin to think about adding new members to our committees and consistories, even as we give thanks to those whose terms have expired. Sometimes, getting new members for committees and consistory is viewed with anxiety and brings out our insecurities. But what if we were to look at these experiences as opportunities for spiritual development? What if we saw them as *necessary steps* for our spiritual growth?

Examples:

To grow, we must learn – as we participate in worship, book and Bible studies, or Sunday School, what we learn stretches our faith.

To learn, we must teach – when we risk becoming a book/Bible study teacher or Sunday school teacher, we enter into the ultimate learning experience. Just ask Bonnie DeBrasky, Tracy Ridenour, and Lesa Boone how much they have learned in their calling as teachers.

To teach, we must lead – I can't think of a single consistory member or committee member this past year that didn't have something to teach the rest of us. The gifts that come pouring out of our leaders are teaching moments for the entire body. It is a blessing.

To lead, we must make mistakes – there is nothing so instructive as an idea or event that belly-flops. I'd love to see a lot more of them (yes, I'm serious), because we're playing it too safe if we never bonk. Mistakes are how we learn – and grow. And that starts the cycle all over again.

If each person tends to his/her own spiritual care, it can't help but have a revitalizing effect on us all. Make a promise to stretch your spiritual development this year. And make sure to make some mistakes along the way.

Peace,
Leigh



Prayer Chain

All Service Personnel and their families. All Charge Shut-ins: Polly Crader, Gladys Hartley, Tom Hazel, Ellen Huey, Maxine Ross, and Bernice Warntz.

Haiti Earthquake Victims, Dorothy Alters, Ryan Balliett, Clinton Bonson, Emily Boob & Family, Fred Boob, Karen Boob, Randall Boob, Mike Braucht, Terry Bressler, Isabel Brindle, Kay Brown, Carol & Nelson Cook, Alex Corman, T.J. Coursen, Jody Covalt, Janie Crater, Janet Devinney, Michael Dimock, Dr. Lillian Earle, Jean Eisenhuth, Tim Galloway, Karen Glasgow, Luke Haskell, Leslie "Diane" Homan, Benjamin Hosterman, Jonathan Huey, Pat Kelly, Jacob Kerstetter (deployed to Iraq), Marcia Lingle, Makayla Luse, Fred & Betty Mensch, Sam Moore, Loretta Neff, Robert Neill, Dixie Ort, Amanda Rachau, The Ross Family, Brenda (Barb Rossman's sister), Bruce Rossman, Shirley Rossman, Jackie Shawver, Justin Shook, Doris Z. Smith, Bernice Snyder, Frank Stapleton, Betty Stover, Family of Dean Stover, Evelyn Stover, Randall Stover, Randolph Swartz, Barb Tobias, Janet VanGilder, Roy VanGilder, Marilyn Weaver Family, Becky Wenrick, Mildred Wingard and Mark Wise.

Please feel free to add/subtract from this list by calling your Consistory President. Please make the changes in your church's prayer chain board.



Our Homebound, Nursing Home or Health Care Residents:

Pauline Crader
50 N. 3rd Street
Apt. 415
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Gladys Hartley
Salem Hill Haven
424 Heckman Cemetery Rd
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Tom Hazel
120 E. Beaver Ave., Apt 709
State College, PA 16801

Mrs. Ellen Huey
168 Long Street
PO Box 289
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Mr. & Mrs. Fredrick Mensch
PO Box 381
Millheim, PA 16854

Randall Stover
PO Box 153
Aaronsburg, PA 16820

Mildred Wingard
377 Paradise Road
PO Box 46
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Hazel Warntz
167 Cemetery Road
Aaronsburg, PA 16820

Mr. & Mrs. Guy Zerby
4412 Penns Valley Road
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Carrie Neese
Salem Hill Haven
424 Heckman Cemetery Rd.
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Maxine Ross
Centre Crest
502 E. Howard St.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

(If you would like to add someone to the Shut-in list, please submit to aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net or drop a note in the milk box on the front porch of the parsonage at 232 W. Aaron Square, Aaronsburg.)



Joint Bible Study at Lesa Boone's Home.

The Joint Bible study group will begin a new course of study after having completed an in depth look at the book of Revelation. They will now briefly review the content of each book of the Bible and select which one they would like to study in the coming year. The group will meet at Lesa's home (135 Gregg St. Spring Mills) at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 7. This is a committed Bible study group that welcomes all who wish to join them.

Salem Happenings

Salem's Mission Statement: Our mission goal is to service the community in a Christian way, to love one another and to worship God together seeking truth, justice and peace.

I hear Keaton Gurner attended Vacation Bible School, did a great job and had a good time - he was the youngest one there. Good job, Keaton! Thank you to Shane and especially Pam Royer for all the time and work they put into Bible school this year.

Family Fellowship hosted the birthday party at Salem Hill Haven on August 5. We played Bingo, gave prizes to the winners, sang Happy Birthday to three residents, served refreshments and enjoyed socializing with everyone. Thank you to Lois Royer and Donna Auman for donating salty snacks and ice cream, thanks to Jean Rishel and Janie Shook for donating refreshments and helping, and a special thank you to Andrew and Patrick Slavinsky for helping. Pastor Leigh left Bible school and arrived for the end of Bingo and to help with the refreshments, thank you.

I delivered a fruit basket to Mildred Wingard after her stay in the hospital back in August. We had a very nice visit.

Rev. Ann Graves was our supply speaker on August 22 while Pastor Leigh was on vacation. Since this was the first time Rev. Graves led us in morning worship, I opened the service with joys and concerns, then introduced Ann to the congregation along with her husband Bob. It was a delight having Rev. Graves with us for the morning and hope she comes again.

Thank you to St. Peter's for hosting the Joint Grange Fair service on August 29. The Women's Guild and members of Spiritual Life assisted Pastor Leigh in dedicating the "Feet & Seat" covers. There were 237 pairs of socks, 279 pairs of underwear and 3 T-shirts for a total of 519 items for the needy children of Penns Valley. Thank you to Fay Stapleton for delivering them to the Outreach Center where they were distributed to the children for the start of the school year. Thank you to everyone who donated to such a worthy cause. Communion by intinction was shared by all.

After having the summer off, Consistory met on September 13. We were asked if we could help in any way with the medical expenses for the King boy. Christian King is a 16 year old Amish boy who passed out, fell and hit his head resulting in being a coma for three weeks. He has a long recovery period ahead. We decided to take up special offerings during the month of October and the church will match up to \$250 from the Discretionary Fund. Special envelopes will be available at the back of the church during October.

Ten Days for Peace will be held at St. John's UCC in Boalsburg on November 14 at 3 p.m. Pastor Leigh reported that the guest speaker will be the Executive Director of Centre Peace, Thomas Brewster and they are asking the churches to make 24" X 48" banners expressing Peace. We decided to go with a very simple banner of a rainbow with the word "Peace" on it and maybe a dove, if anyone can draw one. The details need to be finalized.

Northern Association's Ministry Planning Committee has asked the churches if they are willing to do Christmas cards for inmates. The committee will provide the card stock. Consistory agreed to do 25 - maybe each family could do at least one. The cards will be dedicated at the Ten Days for Peace service on November 14.

It's that time of year again. The nominating committee of Ken Royer and John Devinney will be asking for nominees for Consistory. Elders term expiring are John Devinney and Cindy Ross and deacons are Ken Royer and Peggy Swartz. Consistory president Janie Shook announced it is time to get a new president, so that's something to think about. Annual Congregational meeting will be December 5 following morning worship.

Our Hoss's night on September 8 wasn't great, but we still got a check from Hoss's for \$32.63 plus \$20 cash donations for a total of \$52.63. We already made our pledge of \$500 for the year with around \$250 towards next year's pledge. Another Hoss's night will probably be scheduled for November, no dates as of yet, watch the bulletin.

A sign-up was passed around for people to sign up to make pies for Hartman Center Fall Festival. Please put your pies in the refrigerator at the church on Friday, October 15 - they will be picked up Saturday and taken to Hartman Center. Thank you to the ones who signed up to bake.

The picnic and concert in the park on September 19 was attended by about 35 people. It rained at 5:00, cleared off enough that we ate our picnics and Jay and Alex played for about 40 minutes until it started to rain again. Even with the rain, it was an enjoyable evening.

Congratulations to Erin & Greg Davis on the birth of their second daughter, Raynee Grace. Haylee's baby sister was born August 26. Steve and Peg Swartz and the grandparents and Betty Stover is great-grandma.

As always, please remember those on the Prayer Chain and those that only you know in your heart.
Happy Fall!

When I say that "I am a Christian", I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

Helen Sweeley

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, September 7, 2010, at St. Peter's at 7:15 p.m. with 6 members present. Brenda Stover provided us with devotions. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$539.51



OUTREACH:

We collected \$305.99 for pool passes and \$100 was been used to purchase these. We will be saving the rest for pool passes next year. We collected 237 feet and 279 seat covers as well as 3 T-shirts for children of the Millheim Outreach to begin the school year. We will be supporting once again a "party" for the older Skills clients—\$80 was given towards this cause—Marilyn made a motion and Donna seconded. We will be giving the mother, Judy Ribblett \$50 to help with expenses when she takes her son Thomas for heart surgery—Marilyn made a motion and Donna seconded.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thank you from Relay for Life for the \$75 donation was read.

Helen has 17 turbans that need sewn for Turbans of Love—Brenda has the turbans.

We will be collecting Habitat for Humanity donations during the month of September—see newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donna made a motion and Marilyn second to purchase 25 calendars for 2011. These will be sold during Fall Festival as well as in each church for \$6 each.

We did planning for the Fall Festival table for October 2. Brenda—16 oz bottles of water and sugar packets; Janie—hot chocolate, milk and table; Helen S.—change, ice and table; Marilyn coffee; Leigh—table and ice tea; Donna—table; Tracy and Helen B.—juice boxes. Baked goods are needed and help to man the tables—a sign-up sheet will be distributed in the churches.

Pastor Leigh led us in Bible Study of Chapter 32 in which we learned how "Good overcomes Evil." We will be continuing with Bible Study of Chapter 33 (last chapter!!) of Max Lucado's book at the October 5 meeting and Helen Sweeley has devotions.

Brenda Ream Stover
Secretary



Worship Times - - - Worship Schedule for 2010

St. Peter's: 9:30 a.m. (Sunday school following worship)
Salem: 10:45 am

Communion is open to all who seek to know the Risen Christ and is offered 7 times per year. For more information, please call 349-5094 or email at aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net

Hartman Center Fall Festival

All the churches from Penn Central Conference are invited to participate in the Fall Festival at Hartman Center, Saturday, October 16 from 9AM-3PM. The full day of activities will include: the dedication of phase one of the new multi-purpose building, annual silent auction, inflatable joust game and bounce house, food galore, scarecrow competition, a visit from Miss Tilly Sunshine and live music from three bands. Prizes for the day include one full campership and 2 half camperships (half the cost of a week at camp).

This is a great opportunity to meet with old friends and support the ministries of Hartman Center. Please come!

Rally Day



This year’s Rally Day will be celebrated Sunday, October 17 during worship. The theme for the Rally Day service is “Community under Construction.” With some help from the children we will see how God’s community is always changing and growing. Invite your family and friends to join us for a morning of joy and celebration!

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pet or a picture of your pet to a simple service of blessing at St. Peter’s UCC Garden, Saturday, October 23 at 2:00 p.m. Donations of food and kitty litter are accepted for the Central PA SPCA.



ST. PETER’S NEWS – OCTOBER, 2010

A Joint Communion/Grange Fair Sunday Service was held at St. Peter’s on Sunday, August 29. Many members who do not camp at Grange Fair attended, and also some who do camp. Thank you to all who participated. Thank you to Pastor Leigh for dedicating Kalysta’s and Taylor’s school backpacks during the Children’s Moment on September 12. Welcome back choir! – All are welcome to practice with us after church on Sundays – if you feel called to this ministry, please come! We’ll find a place for you!

OCT	READER	FLOWERS	Monthly Greeter	Monthly Offering Counters
3	Bill Miles	Linda Musser	T. Bressler	Orvil Hosterman/Frank Stapleton
10	Lori Corman	Linda Musser		
17	Dixie Ort			
24	Virginia Hosterman	Phoebe Anskis		
31	Phoebe Anskis	Brenda/Bonnie		

Devotions for next consistory meeting (October 12) – Orvil Hosterman

Our total per month to meet St. Peter’s budget is \$4827.91. To date our actual income as of August 31, 2010 is \$33,772.95 and we need \$38,623.28 to meet our budget needs.

All Saints Day will be observed, Sunday, October 31 at both services. We will be reading the names of those who have died this past year and having the chimes/bell rung after each name. If there is someone you would like to have acknowledged in this way, please submit his/her name and, if at all possible, the family’s address. We would like to send out invitations to our “All Saints” families for the Blue Christmas service in December.



OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Oct. 3	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	<i>World Communion Sunday</i> , Communion at St. Peter's, Neighbors in Need offering received. Communion at Salem, Neighbors in Need offering received.
Tues., Oct. 5	Noon 7:15 p.m.	Autism Support group at Millheim Hotel Women's Guild at St. Peter's
Thurs., Oct. 7	10:00 a.m.	Joint Bible study at Lesa Boone residence
Mon., Oct. 11	9:30 a.m.	Northern Association Ministerium at St. Peter's
Tues., Oct. 12	7:00 p.m.	St. Peter's consistory
Wed., Oct. 13	6:30 p.m.	Book/Bible study at parsonage, Chapter 3
Sat., Oct. 16	9:00-3:00 p.m.	Fall Festival at Hartman Center, Milroy
Sun., Oct. 17	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Rally Day celebration at St. Peter's Rally Day celebration at Salem Halloween party at Carrie and Jason Swartz's Swartz's home (133 Long Lane, Millheim) following morning worship at 12:30 p.m. It will be covered dish lunch and costumes are optional.
Mon., Oct. 18	7:00 p.m.	Worship planning meeting at parsonage
Tues., Oct. 19	8:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Penns Valley Ministerium at Brody's Spiritual Life meeting at Salem Joint Consistory meeting at Salem
Sat., Oct. 23	1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Installation of Rev. Jeff Munnis at Trinity UCC, Hublersburg Blessing of the Animals, St. Peter's Garden
Wed., Oct. 27	6:30 p.m.	Book/Bible study at parsonage
Sun., Oct. 31	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	All Saints' Day at St. Peter's All Saints' Day at Salem (Please submit the name(s) of anyone you wish to include in the All Saints Day reading to Janie, Marilyn, or Pastor Leigh.)

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Sat., Nov. 6	6:30 p.m.	Salem's Thanksgiving meal at Gregg Township Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m. St. Peter's in invited to join us for the ham & turkey meal. Entertainment will be J-Mac. Reservations can be made with Bonnie DeBrasky at St. Peter's or with Helen Sweeley at Salem. Deadline for reservations and money is October 24. Cost:Adults -\$8, 5-12 years -\$3.50,under 5 -Free
Tues., Nov. 9	7:00 p.m.	Salem Consistory at the church.

Sun., Nov. 14	3:00 p.m.	Northern Association Ten Days for Peace worship service, St. John's UCC, Boalsburg
Sun., Nov. 21	3:00 p.m.	UCC Worship Celebration with Geoffrey Black, location TBA in Harrisburg
Wed., Nov. 24		Community Thanksgiving Eve service at Faith Alive. The offering will go to the HOPE Fund of Penns Valley.
November 28		First Sunday of Advent. Tree Trim. Soup & Sandwich Lunch.
LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER		
December 5		Annual Congregational meeting following morning worship.



KEEP THIS DATE! Sunday, December 5th, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., the Aaronsburg Charge will host a Christmas Jazz Concert at St. Peter's UCC featuring J. T. Vonada. Tell your neighbors! Tell your friends! It's going to be a great way to get into the Christmas "swing."

I'd like to say "Thank You", to everyone in the Aaronsburg Charge for making the last 18+ years of being your Charge Secretary and enjoyable experience. There have been ups and downs as in any job, but I have met many wonderful people and have been blessed to be considered a part of your "church family".

I appreciate your prayers, cards and continued support regarding my battle with cancer - you'll never know just how much it means to me. For now, I need to take care of myself and spend more time with Tyler.

Take care and I'll see you out and about the valley,

*Jackie Shawver
Former Charge Secretary*