



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ January, 2009

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## The Pastor Writes:



*Happy New Year! As we enter into this New Year, many of us reflect on how the old year has gone, and resolve to make the New Year an even better one. We make new commitments to do better and to be better. Perhaps this is the year you have decided to “walk the walk” with your God and develop your spiritual heart. Why not include attending Bible study in that resolution? We have two options, one morning and one evening (times and details in this newsletter).*

*Or perhaps you have decided to be more involved and connected: why not attend the Friends with a Mission, Women’s Guild, sing in the choir, or discuss forming a Men’s Group with the pastor?*

*Why not make this the year you attend worship with your children regularly? The more children attend, the more they understand the flow of the service, and develop good Christian values like compassion for others, friendship, respect and honesty. As the old song goes, “What the world needs now is love, sweet love, no not just for some, but for everyone”. Worship and Sunday school is the garden where the seeds of love for others are sown.*

*There are many opportunities to grow your faith, for as scripture tells us, “Where your treasure is, there is your heart.” In other words, we put time, money and our talent towards those persons and things we value. What and who are you valuing? Are you demonstrating these values to your children? See you Sunday! Grace and peace,  
Rev. Faith*

## UPDATE - - Change of Worship Times

On Sunday, November 2, a short presentation was given at Salem and St. Peter’s worship services in regards to change of worship times at both churches. This was due to the fact that Salem’s organist, Carol Corman, would not be available to play at their 9:30 services because of a conflict with her home church time, where she also provides music.

A “thinking it over” process then occurred after the presentation until Sunday, December 7. At that time, both churches were asked to cast a “yes” or “no” ballot for having permanent worship times of 9:30 a.m. (St. Peter’s) and 10:45 a.m. (Salem).

The vote was taken on Sunday, December 7. With total charge membership at 114, the results were as follows: Salem - 17 “yes” and 16 “no” for a total of 33 of 47 members voting. (The vote was tied at 16 each and President Shook cast the tie-breaker to 17 “yes”.) St. Peter’s - 24 “yes” and 5 “no” for a total of 29 of 67 members voting. The overall voting was 41 “yes” - 21 “no” with 62 of 114.

Therefore, beginning on Sunday, January 4, 2009, the future worship times will be St. Peter’s - 9:30 a.m. (with Sunday school after church) and Salem - 10:45 a.m.

I thank all those who “thought” and voted. To those who times did not prevail, I hope the results will not affect your reasons for attending services at either of our two churches.

Again, thank you and God Bless!

Ken Royer  
President, Joint Consistory

## THANK YOU

*Thank you to everyone who purchased gift cards for the children at Bethany Children’s Home. We sent 25 gift cards from Wal-Mart and 1 gift card from McDonald’s to the home. We don’t know the dollar amount since some of the cards were enclosed in Christmas cards (nice touch). That’s a lot of gift cards from the two churches. The children at Bethany will have a brighter Christmas because of the generosity of the Aaronsburg Charge.*

*Merry Christmas!*

## 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.*



Hanging of the Greens was held the first Sunday of Advent, November 30. Everyone took part in the service one way or another. Fifteen poinsettias were purchased in memory/honor of loved ones. Thank you to Jordin and Michele Houtz for taking orders (Jordin's fundraiser) and delivering the flowers to the church. Following morning worship, the final decorations were added to the church and Santa made his annual visit presenting each child with a special gift. The soups, sandwiches and desserts were extremely good and really hit the spot on a cold day. Thank you to everyone who helped clean up afterwards.

Election of officers remained the same for Family Fellowship. President - Helen Sweeley, Vice-President - Karen Boob, Secretary - Donna Auman, and Treasurer - Cindy Ross. There was a discussion on having more Fellowship events and possibly having the men to the Lenten meal. Check out the Calendar of Events in the Annual Report when it comes out, some of the committees were just appointed, so if you can't serve on the committee you've been assigned, please let me know ASAP.

A \$25 gift certificate for the Penns Valley Pharmacy was purchased and delivered to Ellen Huey, our shut-in for Christmas.

It was decided to wait until after the holidays to reveal ourselves to our Secret Sisters. We will get together for a meal at the café in Aaronsburg and each Sister may bring their spouse or a guest. Please bring a \$10 gift card for a restaurant of your choice to exchange. Karen Boob will get a head count when the time comes.

Congregational meetings were held at both Salem and St. Peter's on December 7 to vote on worship times. Looks like Salem will be at 10:45 and St. Peter's at 9:30 on a regular basis beginning January 2009. Joint Consistory President, Ken Royer has a report somewhere in this newsletter.

Donna Auman presented the 2009 Proposed Budgets for the Charge and for Salem; both were accepted as presented. It was brought to everyone's attention that \$3,900 had been transferred from Savings during the year to meet our monthly bills. Gary Auman and Dean Stover were elected as Elders and Donna Auman and Wendell Royer were elected as Deacons, terms ending 2011. I believe installation of Consistory members will be held January 4. The officers of Salem Consistory are remaining the same: President - Janie Shook, Vice-President - Dave Sweeley, Secretary - Helen Sweeley, and Treasurer - Donna Auman. President Shook thanked the whole congregation for all their support during the past year.

The "4 Our Churches" fundraiser at Hoss's on December 3 will get us \$109.05 and the Special Offering held on December 7 totaled \$141. At this time, we have a total of \$356.19 for 2008 towards our pledge of \$500 per year.

A \$50 gift card for Wal-Mart was purchased and given to Donn Fetterolf in appreciation of him plowing snow twice the other week. Thank you, Donn.

It's not too late to buy dishcloths for Christmas gifts. Janie Shook has dozens of them and there are some in the Narthex at the church. They are \$1.25 a piece, proceeds go to the church's parking lot paving fund.

Our sympathies to Guy and Mabel Zerby on the recent passing of Mabel's brother, Earl Shover.

Christmas in Millheim wasn't too bad this year, a little windy and chilly at the end. Holly and Lightning were rather energetic sheep at times. Ken Royer, Janie Shook, Andrew Slavinsky and Dave and I participated on behalf of Salem. This year's event seemed to go faster than usual. Thank you to everyone who did participate and to everyone who came out to enjoy the evening's festivities.

Thank you to Janie Shook for playing the organ on Sunday, December 14 while Carol was out of town. Janie never accepts anything when she plays and we are most grateful to her for stepping up (without her shoes) to fill in on a moment's notice sometimes. Marilyn Weaver was going to play for us, but she got a bout of the flu - hope you're back to work and feeling well, Marilyn.

### Dates to Remember:

- December 21 - "The Longest Night" service, Salem 7:00 p.m.
- December 24 - Candlelight Service, St. Peter's 7:00 p.m.
- December 25 - Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!
- December 28 - Rev. Marge Holland supplying the pulpits at both churches.
- January 4, 2009 - Installation of new Consistory members
- January 12, - Salem Consistory at the church 7:00 p.m.
- January 20 - Joint Spiritual Life Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

*continued . . .*

February 15      Joint Consistory meeting 7:30 p.m. both at St. Peter's  
- Pot Luck Lunch at Salem after morning worship.  
Bowling at Millheim Lanes - mark your calendars early.

It seems like I'm forgetting something, but since my mind has gone blank, hope to see you all for the Candlelight service on Christmas Eve at St. Peter's beginning at 7:00 p.m. You know the drill, especially at this time of the year - if you can lend a helping hand to anyone, do it. Remember the less fortunate and make their Christmas a little brighter if you can. Most of all, remember the reason for the season!

*Helen Sweeley*



## **Women's Guild**

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at St. Peter's at 7:15 p.m. with seven members present. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$864.45 and \$100 of this is earmarked for fuel fund.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

We passed along the items for the Christmas gift bags for the Skills clients to Tracy Ridenour who will be delivering the bags.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

We discussed as a group ideas/ways for outreach to the community. Pastor Faith mentioned the Angel Tree Ministry for children of mothers in prison. We will be keeping our ears open for different kinds of need in our area.

Tracy mentioned Anthony Confer's mother (Daphne) has been traveling to Geisinger to visit her son. Janie Shook made a motion we give a \$50 gas card from Harveys to Daphne and Brenda Stover seconded the motion.

Janie Shook was appointed to the Nominating Committee for the new year. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

We wrapped 100 reading books Helen has bought for the Millheim Outreach Christmas project and ended with hot chocolate and cookies. The group was reminded to send Christmas cards to Rolling Hills Manor residents.

The next meeting will be January 6, 2009, with Marilyn Weaver providing devotions. We will be electing officers, planning 2009 events, and having Bible Study of Chapter 24 from Max Lucado's book.

*Brenda Ream Stover  
Secretary*

## **Thursday Morning Bible Study Class 10 a.m. - St. Peter's**

We continue reading Why Jesus Makes Me Nervous, Ten Alarming Words of Faith, by Joy Jordan-Lake; this is usually followed by lunch at an area restaurant. Even if you are not able to attend class, if you would like the book, please let Pastor Faith know (cost is \$10). No class on December 25 or January 1.

## **Thursday Evening Lectionary Bible Study 7 p.m. - St. Peter's**

This class studies the upcoming Sunday scriptures in preparation for worship. If you would enjoy learning the background to the lessons, to delve a little deeper, this class is for you!

Jan 1	NO CLASS - Happy New Year!
Jan 8	Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
Jan 15	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; I Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
Jan 22	Psalm 62:5-12, I Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
Jan 29	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

## St. Peter's News

The "Hanging of the Greens" service was on November 30. Thank you to the readers and all those who participated including the congregation who decorated the tree. Thank you to Ed and Barb Kerstetter who set up the outdoor nativity and to Bonnie DeBrasky and Brenda Stover who delivered set up and put lights on the tree. Thank you to Stewart and Shirley Haines for once again donating our beautiful tree!



Following worship, a Soup & Sandwich lunch was held in the social room. Thank you to everyone who provided food for the meal.

On Saturday, November 6, Dixie, Brenda, Nan and Judy bagged 16 packs of homemade cookies for our shut-ins. Tracy, Helen, Nathan, Paige, Jade and Zach baked and bagged cookies (52 bags) for the "truck stop ministry". Thank you to all these people for their generosity and to those who contributed cookies.

St. Peter's Congregational meeting was held following worship on December 7. Both St. Peter's and the Joint "proposed" budgets for 2009 were approved by the congregation. The members, by a majority vote, decided to have worship at 9:30 a.m. on a continual basis. Bonne DeBrasky, Brenda Stover, Orvil Hosterman and Shane Royer were elected to serve 3 year terms on St. Peter's Consistory. Ed Kerstetter was elected to serve another term on the Cemetery Board.

Following worship, a coffee and cookie social hour was held in the Sunday school room. Thank you to all those who baked the delicious cookies.

THANK YOU to everyone who "adopted" a shut-in during this advent season and helped make Christmas a little merrier for them!

On Friday evening, December 12, the Aaronsburg Charge presented their "live" nativity during the "Christmas in Millheim" celebration. Thank you also to the following persons: Kim & Stan Wallace for the tent; Lynn McCool for the lighting; Toni Meyer and Betsy Forsythe for the use of the Laundromat; Charlie & Melody Canning for the animals; and Phil & Judy Meyer for the use of the yard.

Thank you to "Friends with a Mission" for the beautiful fruit baskets they made for our shut-ins on December 13.

On Sunday, December 14, Nolan Christopher Wolfe was baptized at St. Peter's. Nolan is the son of "Chip" and Nicole Wolfe and the brother of Dristen. It was nice to have the support of so many of Chip and Nicole's relatives in attendance for the baptism.

### January 2009 Calendar - St. Peter's Worship – 9:30 Sunday School - 10:45

<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Monthly Greeter</u>	<u>Monthly Offering Counters</u>
4	Bonnie DeBrasky	Fay Stapleton	Hank Kerstetter	Doug Royer/Shane Royer
11	Bill Miles	Fay Stapleton		
18	Lori Corman	Dixie Ort		
25	Dixie Ort	Terry Bressler/Barb Bower		

Consistory Devotions: David Edwards

#### Dates to Remember:

December 21	Longest Night service at Salem, 7:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve service at St. Peter's 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Jan. 3	Pastor Faith on vacation.
January 4	Installation of newly-elected Consistory members.
January 6	Women's Guild at St. Peter's 7:00 p.m. Autism Support Group at St. Peter's 7:00 p.m.
January 12	St. Peter's Consistory 7:00 p.m.
January 20	Joint Consistory at St. Peter's 7:00 p.m. (Spiritual Life 7:00)

St. Peter's will worship at 9:30 a.m. on a continual basis beginning in January, 2009. Please join us for our candlelight Christmas Eve service at St. Peter's at 7:00.

-Lori Corman



**Worship Times - - - Worship Schedule for 2009**

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

Communion, which is open to all who seek to know the Risen Christ, is offered 7 times per year; please contact the Pastor if you would like to receive home communion/visitation. For more information, please call 349-5094 or email

[aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net](mailto:aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net)

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*Thank you to everyone, Salem and St. Peter's, for phone calls, cards, fruit baskets, visits, thought and prayers for Bob Brown and Mildred Wingard. They are both getting better every day.*

*Mom will be moved to Centre Crest December 17 for therapy.*

*Thank you again,  
Joyce, Bob, Jimmy Brown and Mildred Wingard*

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**Prayer Chain**



*All Service Personnel and their families. All Charge Shut-ins: Polly Crader, Julie Haines, Roy Hart, Gladys Hartley, Tom Hazel, Ellen Huey, Bernice Warntz.*

*Hurricane Katrina Victims, Helen Allison's family, Dorothy Alters, Rev. Jack Archer, Mike Auman, Randall Boob, Mike Braucht, Terry Bressler, Bob Brown, John "Jack" Brown, Kay Brown, Alex Corman, T.J. Coursen, Jody Covalt, Janie Crater, Robbi Davis, Michael Dimock, Dr. Lillian Earle, Gerald Fetterolf, Jean Frankenberger, Karen Glasgow, Luke Haskell, Brian & Cody Homan, Benjamin Hosterman, Jonathan Huey, Cory Jackson, Jenny Keen, Pat Kelly, Jacob Kerstetter (deployed to Iraq), Dean Krape, Liz Krout, Bob Lingle, Sr., Dave Lingle, Marcia Lingle, Fred & Betty Mensch, Teenie Musser, Carrie Neese, David E. Neese, Loretta Neff, Robert Neill, Dixie Ort, Amanda Rachau, The Ross Family, Brenda (Barb Rossman's sister), Shirley Rossman, Warren Royer, Doris Z. Smith, Bernice Snyder, Shirley Snyder-Birth, Frank Stapleton, Barb Stover, Evelyn Stover, Randall Stover, Randolph Swartz, Roy VanGilder, Mae Vonada's family, Lester & Marilyn Weaver, and Mildred Wingard.*

*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*

**Carlisle Area Truckers and Travelers Chaplain Ministry**



On December 6, Zach, Amanda and Jen Huey, Paige Myers, Katie Haines, Nathan Royer and I spent 6 ½ hours baking Oatmeal Toffee, M&M Chocolate Chip, Snickerdoodles, Peanut Butter Blossoms, and Sugar Cookies. We had a total of 50 dozen cookies to take to Carlisle.

Zach and Jacob Royer came just in time to help us create some really snowy scenes on the backsides of the scripture bags the congregation helped to create.

Thank you to all who wrote scriptures on the bags. Pizza and soda maintained our energy level to complete this worthwhile ministry.

Tracy Ridenour  
Youth Group Leader



Our Homebound, Nursing Home or Health Care Residents:

Pauline Crader  
50 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Apt. 415  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Roy Hart  
Centre Crest Room 243  
502 E. Howard St.  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Gladys Hartley  
424 Heckman Cemetery Rd  
Salem Hill Haven  
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

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