

# The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ

January, 2010

Phone: (814)349-5094

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

## The Pastor Writes:



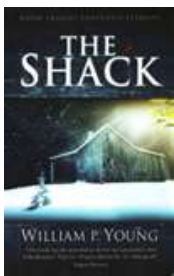
*“Surely it is God who saves me. I will trust in him and not be afraid, for the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense and he will be my Savior.” Isaiah 12:2*

The beautiful words and faith stance of the prophet Isaiah are but one of a myriad of assurances that we, as people of faith, can call upon as we enter into 2010. 2009 was a challenging year all over world. What the new year has in store for us, we can only guess. Knowing that the past, present and future rest in God’s hands gives us the spiritual balance to face today and tomorrow with grace, peace and courage.

“Belief clings. Faith lets go.” As the old year wanes and new year dawns, it behooves us to critically examine the beliefs of the past. Throughout human history many iron-clad beliefs were challenged and gave way to new understandings. Columbus pushed the limits of human belief by venturing out into the uncharted waters of the high seas and discovering that the world is not flat, but round. Disease, thought to be the sole domain of the spirits and gods, was challenged by medical science and found to have roots in poor hygiene, genetics and other biological factors. In our own faith lives, we discover that beliefs and practices that once consoled or strengthened us no longer do. When that happens we have the choice of either believing God has abandoned us and giving up or we can let go of the old beliefs and find new ways of relating to God. When we do the latter, we find that our faith becomes dynamic and a mature relationship with God and others develops.

The new year stretches before us like an unexplored land. God alone knows what 2010 holds in store. All the more reason to trust. And to move forward.

Peace,  
Pastor Leigh



## **THE SHACK: BOOK DISCUSSION**

Tired of reading books that make faith seem easy (except it doesn’t work that way for you)? Want to look at one of the timeless questions, namely, “Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?” Then join a six-week discussion group that will be using a book by William Paul Young entitled, The Shack.

### **The group will meet at the parsonage at the following times:**

Monday, Jan. 4	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 11	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 18	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 25	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 1	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 8	6:30-7:30 p.m.

Books can be purchased at any local bookstore, online or borrowed from one of the local libraries.

## 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.*

The "Hanging of the Greens" service was held November 29 making the church ready for the birth of Jesus. Thank you to the readers of the morning for giving the meaning of all our decorations (poinsettias, lights, star, Chrismons, etc.) We have 17 poinsettias this year purchased by members of the congregation in honor/memory of loved ones. Following morning worship, Santa visited with the children and gave each a treat. We thank Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule to stop with us. Thank you to the committee who helped Santa. There were 43 of us for the soup and sandwich lunch. Thank you to everyone for the quick clean up. Family Fellowship decided to purchase a \$25 gift certificate from Penns Valley Pharmacy for Ellen Huey and we donated \$25 to Salem Hill Haven in honor of Maxine Ross who had been a resident there until recently.



The same Fellowship officers are staying for another year: President - Helen Sweeley, Vice-President - Karen Boob, Secretary - Donna Auman, and Treasurer - Cynthia Ross. The offering for the day was \$51.44. This money is used to pay for fruit baskets, flowers, paper products for the church, etc.

Secret Sisters decided to wait until after the beginning of the year to identify themselves to each other. We will be going to Carriage Corners on a Saturday night for supper. Each sister is to purchase a \$10 gift card for a restaurant to exchange that night. The date, time and details will be given later.

Thank you to Donn Fetterolf for plowing the parking lot December 6 & 12 and Dave Sweeley for clearing the walks.

Salem's Annual Congregational meeting was held following worship on December 6. Both the Proposed 2010 Budget for the Charge and the Proposed 2010 Budget for Salem were approved. Dean Stover's open Consistory position was filled with Helen Sweeley being transferred from deacon to elder and Peggy Swartz graciously accepting the deacon position thru 2010. Thank you, Peg for stepping up and accepting this position. Janie Shook and Dave Sweeley were re-elected as elders; and Janet Devinney and Steve Swartz were re-elected as deacons for a three-year term thru 2010. All the newly-elected members and Peggy will be installed as Consistory members on January 3, 2010. We had been trying out an over-the-ear microphone to see if it would work better than the stand mike or lapel mike. Everyone thought the over-the-ear mike is worth purchasing for around \$325 using money from the Memorial Funds. Dave Sweeley will take care of ordering it.

Once again, election of Consistory officers for 2010 came up with the same results: President - Janie Shook, Vice-President - Dave Sweeley, Secretary - Helen Sweeley, and Treasurer - Donna Auman.

A special donation of \$350 was given to 4 Our Churches Capital Campaign. Thank you so much to the donor.

A \$35 gift card was purchased for Wal-Mart as a Christmas gift for the organist, Carol Corman.

Christmas in Millheim was held December 11 on a very cold night. It was so cold, even the animals stayed at home. I think the attendance was way down - even the participants in the Live Nativity were scarce. Salem was represented by Ken Royer, Wendell Royer, Janie Shook, Andrew & Patrick Slavinsky, and Dave & Helen Sweeley.

Church was cancelled on December 13 due to freezing rain. Thank you to Robin Warntz who was going to play the organ for us.

Salem hosted Penns Valley Ministerium on December 14 furnishing Pastor Leigh and the rest of the ministers some cookies to munch on.

### **Salem's 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.
- January 3 - Installation of Consistory members
- January 11 - Salem Consistory 7:00 p.m. at the church
- January 19 - Joint Spiritual Life committee 7:00
  - Joint Consistory at 7:30, both at St. Peter's
- January 31 - Joint Healing Service, 10:00 a.m. at Salem

As always, especially this time of year, remember those less fortunate. If you have a little extra, give it to a friend or neighbor. Check in on the elderly to make sure they are okay and staying warm and fed. Don't forget your outside pets when it is so cold.

This year, I am sending a special prayer to heaven that we never take anything for granted. Always tell the ones near and ear to you that you love them. Remember the reason for the season and give thanks for what you've got, not complain about what you don't have. I hope everyone has a joyous Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Helen Sweeley



**Prayer Chain**

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

*Hurricane Katrina Victims, Dorothy Alters, Loretta Auman, Clinton Bonson, Emily Boob & Family, Fred Boob, Randall Boob, Mike Braucht, Terry Bressler, Isabel Brindle, Bob Brown, John "Jack" Brown, Kay Brown, Carol & Nelson Cook, Alex Corman, T.J. Coursen, Janie Crater, Janet Devinnay, Michael Dimock, Dr. Lillian Earle, Jean Eisenhuth, Karen Glasgow, Luke Haskell, Eric Henry Family, Benjamin Hosterman, Jonathan Huey, Pat Kelly, Jacob Kerstetter (deployed to Iraq), Dean Krape, Bob Lingle, Sr., Dave Lingle, Marcia Lingle, Makayla Luse, Fred & Betty Mensch, Sam Moore, Carrie Neese, David E. Neese, Loretta Neff, Robert Neill, Bruce Nicholas Family, Dixie Ort, Family of Kate Peese, Amanda Rachau, Amanda Ridenour, The Ross Family, Brenda (Barb Rossman's sister), Shirley Rossman, Lowell Rote, Warren Royer, Tyler Shawver, Ardell & Sarah Smith, Doris Z. Smith, Bernice Snyder, Shirley Snyder-Birth, Frank Stapleton, Family of Dean Stover, Evelyn Stover, Jeff Stover, Randall Stover, Randolph Swartz, Barb Tobias, Roy VanGilder, Adam Weaver Family, Mildred Wingard and Roxann Zarchin (breast cancer).*

*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.*

**St. Peter's News**

On November 29, the traditional "Hanging of the Greens" was held during worship at St. Peter's. Our beautiful Christmas tree, donated by the Haines, was decorated by the congregation while the readers, Bonnie & Brenda explained the meaning of each chrismon. Thank you to Pam and Phoebe for being readers and to Barb & Ed Kerstetter for being communion ushers. Tracy Ridenour provided the fresh greens placed at the front door and the outdoor nativity was set up by Bill Miles and Hank Kerstetter. Jim, Brenda and Hank set up our Christmas tree. Thank you to everyone for making our church look so beautiful during this advent season.

Tracy Ridenour and the children baked cookies at the church for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. They were delivered on December 16.

The Aaronsburg Charge presented their "Live Nativity" during "Christmas in Millheim" on Friday evening, December 11. We appreciate the participation of ALL those involved! It was nice to have Dave Boonie sing and play autoharp for our group during our break time in the Laundromat - THANKS Dave!

Friends With a Mission met at St. Peter's Saturday evening December 12. They make seven fruit baskets for our shut-ins. The group then went out to dinner at the Millheim Hotel. They have a sandwich sale planned for February.

Thank you to Garrett & Gavin Hampton for their song to begin our worship on December 13. Thanks, boys!

St. Peter's held their congregational meeting following worship December 13. Both the Joint and St. Peter's "Proposed Budgets" were approved by the congregation. David Edwards, Virginia Hosterman, Frank Stapleton and Linda Musser were elected to serve a 3-year term on St. Peter's Consistory.

Thank you to Ginny Hosterman for taking notes for our Consistory meeting on Sunday, December 13, following the congregational meeting.

**January 2010 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>
3	Dixie Ort		Hank Kerstetter	Shane Royer/Doug Royer
10	Zach Huey			
17	Virginia Hosterman			
24	Phoebe Anskis			
31	Joint (Salem)			

**Dates to Remember:**

- December 21 - Longest Night Service at Salem 7:00 p.m.
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at St. Peter's 7:00 p.m.
- January 5 - Women's Guild at St. Peter's 7:15 p.m.
- January 13 - St. Peter's Consistory 7:00 p.m.
- January 16 - "Housecleaning" of church records - 9:30 a.m.
- January 19 - Joint Consistory at St. Peter's 7:30 p.m. (Spiritual Life - 7:00 p.m.)

Blessings for the new year!

-Lori Corman

**Women's Guild**

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at St. Peter's at 7:15 p.m. with six members present. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$810.41.



**OLD BUSINESS:**

The treasurer reported she bought 100 activity books at the cost of \$98.58 for the Millheim Outreach project.

We have sold 19 out of 26 of the 2010 calendars—please support the Guild and buy a calendar for \$6.00 each.

We have items for Christmas gift bags for Skills clients.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A Nominating Committee was appointed consisting of Janie Shook.

The Audit Committee consists of Donna Auman and Brenda Stover.

We then wrapped 100 activity books for the Christmas Outreach project. Cookies and hot chocolate were enjoyed by all.

A reminder to all guild members to send Christmas cards to the Rolling Hills Manor residents.

We will be continuing with Bible Study of Chapter 28 in 2010 of Max Lucado's book.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 5 with Helen Benner providing devotions. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Brenda Ream Stover  
Secretary

***Thank You to the Charge***

*Gift cards were purchased again this year for the children of Bethany Children's Home. A total of 20 cards were sent to Bethany: 1 for McDonalds, 2 for Burger King, 1 for JC Penney, and the rest were for Wal-Mart.*

*Thank you to everyone who dug in and purchased them. The children will surely appreciate it.*



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