

The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ

The
Charge

January, 2008

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The Pastor Writes . . .

A new year lies ahead and for many of us this is a time of reflection on how the old year went and plans for the year ahead. We have a difficult time living in the now—which is really the only time we have. Each week, during the “words of assurance” (following confession), we are reminded that through confession and repentance, the past is gone and our sins are forgotten by God—“behold, we are a new creation”.

How many of us feel like a “new creation” upon rising each day? Perhaps, “These old bones don’t feel new, Pastor!” or “I know God forgives me, but I just can’t forgive myself.” or “The joy at life (job, family, church) I once felt just isn’t there anymore.” might be more like the way you greet the day.

On the other hand, maybe you are always in a hurry to get to some future: “After I graduate things will get better”, “Once I retire I’ll have time to...” or “I need to put in the extra hours (travel, shifts, etc.) at work to get ahead and secure a good future for my family.”

Trouble is, the past is gone and future is not guaranteed to any of us. This doesn’t mean we don’t repent of past mistakes or live recklessly, but I think we all could benefit in taking time each day to appreciate where we are right now, today, at this moment; to take a “soul check”, if you will, to see how it is between you and God.

This is my New Year’s prayer for you: that you begin to live in the now, as much as is possible, with your Creator.

That each sunrise is a new moment of awe and each sunset a time of gratitude; may you take every opportunity to laugh, be gracious towards others and blossom into the beloved one God knows you to be. Happy New Year!

See you Sunday!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Faith



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Welcome to our Churches!

Are you new the UCC? Want to know more?

Check out our web page at:

www.aaronsburgchargeucc.org

and the national web site at:

www.ucc.org or www.iucc.org.

I think I must say something about the Christmas Eve Service at St. Peter’s. It was well planned and it turned out beautiful! I loved the donkey! Thanks, Bill – also everyone else who helped in the nativity scene.

I want to thank everyone who helped in any way with the rest of the service. The choir was outstanding, as always.

I want to thank Candace Lowe for the lovely song – another one of my favorite songs.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to Pastor Faith for doing such a great job!

Terry Bressler

Special Note:

There were 18 gift cards sent from the Charge to Bethany Children's Home for Christmas. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

Salem's Happenings

We had a great turn out for the Hanging of the Greens Service on December 2. I believe almost everyone took part in the service, one way or the other. We had 19 poinsettias on display, purchased by members of the congregation in honor or memory of loved ones. Michele Houtz took care of ordering them thru Jordin's school fundraiser and Michele delivered them to the church, thank you. Following morning worship, Pastor Faith offered a prayer before the Annual Congregational meeting. During the meeting, it was discovered that quite a few people don't like the worship schedule of rotating every 4 months. This topic was tabled until after January 6, when we have installation of new Consistory members and receive our 11 new members at Salem.



The special offering on November 18 was \$1,410. Thank you to everyone who gave extra. Both the Joint Consistory Budget and Salem's Budget were accepted as presented. John Devinney and Cynthia Ross are the new Elders and Kenneth Royer and Helen Sweeley are the new Deacons. Their terms will expire 2010.

The re-organizational Consistory meeting welcomed Ken Royer as the new guy on the block. Consistory officers for 2008 are:

President	-	Janet Shook
Vice-President	-	David Sweeley
Secretary	-	Helen Sweeley
Treasurer	-	Donna Auman

Thank you to Bob Corman for serving on Consistory and being the church's treasurer for many years.

Family Fellowship elected new officers for 2008:

President	-	Helen Sweeley
Vice-President	-	Karen Boob
Secretary	-	Donna Auman
Treasurer	-	Cynthia Ross

We decided to purchase a gift certificate at the Penns Valley Pharmacy for our shut-in, Ellen Huey. It was agreed to basically do the same calendar of events for 2008 - but doing a Lenten lunch instead of breakfast. It was decided to continue with St. John's tradition of "Secret Sister". Karen Boob is taking charge of this endeavor which will run from January through December.

We had 58 stay for the Soup & Sandwich lunch. Thank you to everyone who helped clean up. We finished this very busy Sunday with a visit from the man himself - Santa. Santa presented gifts to all the children present and got their lists and was on his way making lots more visits before his "big

night". Thank you Santa for stopping in and thank you to Donn & Elva Fetterolf, Rick & Cindy Ross, and Steve & Peggy Swartz for making those special arrangements.

Janie Shook, Gary Auman, Andrew & Patrick Slavinsky and David & I took part in the Live Nativity during Christmas in Millheim on December 14. The weather wasn't too bad this year. Thank you to Davie Grubb and his family for allowing the use of their yard and inviting us all in to get warm and to enjoy the snacks and hot drinks.

Thank you so much to Janie Shook for playing the organ on December 9 with only a few minutes notice. You did a good job, Janie - thank you.

As you all know, church was cancelled due to the weather on December 16. It was a hard call to make, but in the end - it was better to be safe than sorry.

The church purchased a \$35 gift card for Carol Corman as a Christmas gift to show our appreciation for her wonderful music throughout the year.

Dates to Remember:

- Jan. 6 Installation of new Consistory members and receiving 11 new members. Reception following morning worship to welcome new members. Donna Auman & Michele Houtz are co-chairing this event. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- Jan. 13 Salem Consistory following morning worship.
- Feb. 10 Joint Healing Service at Salem, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 17 Salem's Pot Luck Lunch, Bowling at Millheim Lanes after lunch. \$2.50 per person per game. Each pays his own.

Well, I guess that's all that's fit to print and it's getting late. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and hope you all have a happy, health, New Year.

As always, remember those on our prayer chain and if you can and are able, lend a helping hand to someone in need.

Helen Sweeley

St. Peter's News

Marion L. Warntz passed away on Wednesday, November 28, 2007. Her funeral service was held on Saturday, December 1 at St. Peter's, where she was a member for many years. Following the service, a light lunch was held in the social room with 25 in attendance. Thank you to those who donated food. Helping to serve the meal: Marilyn Weaver, Ginny Hosterman, Judy Bailey, Nan Immel, and Lori Corman. We extend our deepest sympathy to Robin, Lucinda, Danny and their families.

December 2 has the beginning of advent with

our traditional "Hanging of the Greens" service. The congregation decorated the Christmas tree while Pastor Faith explained the meaning of the symbols. Thank you, Pastor Faith for this very special service.

Thank you to those who brought a nativity scene into the sanctuary to share. The window sills look beautiful!

The children's Sunday school class had a "slumber style" Christmas party at St. Peter's on Friday, December 7. Bonnie DeBrasky, Nicole Wolfe, Shane & Pam Royer hosted the pizza party for the children which also included: decorating the Christmas tree; making cut-out cookies; reading of Christmas stories; and a movie.

The Christmas tree & door wreath have special meaning, having belonged to Bonnie and Brenda's mother, Polly Ream. We thank them for sharing their beautiful Christmas decorations with us.

Also on December 7, the Youth Group, led by Tracy Ridenour, made cookies at St. Peter's. These cookies were given to the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. What a wonderful outreach!

The Family Fellowship held their cookie baking for our shut-ins on Saturday, December 8. A good time was had and lots of cookies baked! Thanks to all who helped and/or donated cookies. It was a success!! In addition to our shut-ins, we spread our ministry of love and caring to the following people: Pat Kelly, Betty Braucht, Caroline & Doug Bower, Barb & Ed Kerstetter, Dr. Young, The Rachau Family, Mike Braucht Family, and Ray Fiedler. We had lunch together and had an enjoyable day.

Out next Family Fellowship activity is a Pork & Sauerkraut lunch on Sunday, January 13.

St. Peter's held their congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, December 9. Both St. Peter's and the Joint "proposed" budgets were approved by the congregation.

Edward Kerstetter, Douglas Royer, Marilyn Weaver and Tracy Ridenour were elected to serve on St. Peter's Consistory for a 3-year term. James Stover was elected for another term on the Cemetery Board.

On Friday evening, December 14, the Aaronsburg Charge presented the LIVE Nativity during the "Christmas in Millheim" celebration. Thank you to everyone who participated! We appreciate the generosity of the following people: Kim and Stan Wallace for the tent; Lynn McCool for the lighting; Charlie & Melody Canning and family for loaning us their sheep (Charlie also served as a shepherd) and Toni Meyer and Betsy Forsythe for allowing us to use their Laundromat for warmth between shifts. Mr. & Mrs. David Grubb provided food and warm

drinks for everyone participating. Thank you all!

On Thursday evening, December 20, 15 people from our Charge (and friends of the Charge) went Christmas caroling for many of the shut-ins from Aaronsburg.

The "Longest Night" service was held at St. Peter's on Friday, December 21. This was a remembrance service for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

The Candlelight Christmas Eve service was held at St. Peter's beginning at 7:00. Before worship, Janie, Kenny, Shane and Marilyn presented Pastor Faith with a digital Kodak camera as a Christmas gift from the Charge. A heartfelt thank you to the following persons who participated in the service: Sarah Miles, Jessica Neese, Joshua Stover, Vanessa Stover, Bill Miles, Ginny Hosterman, Orvil Hosterman, Terry Bressler, Mary Hosterman, Candace Lowe, Brenda Stover, Bonnie DeBrasky, Chip Wolfe, Dave Sweeley, Shane Royer, Janie Shook, Lori Corman, St. Peter's Choir, Choir Director & Organist - Marilyn Weaver, the children and young adults of the Charge, and our pastor, Rev. Faith McCausland. Our service concluded by singing the hymn Silent Night, Holy Night

Jack Smith was our guest speaker on December 30 while Pastor Faith was on vacation.

January Calendar

Worship – 9:30 Sunday School 10:30

<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Flowers</u>
6	Ed Kerstetter	Phoebe Anskis
13	Brenda Stover	Terry Bressler
20	Bonnie DeBrasky	Terry Bressler
27	David Edwards	Barbara Bower

Greeter: Hank Kerstetter

Offering Counters: Frank Stapleton & Doug Royer

Consistory Meeting Devotions: David Edwards

**** Worship time changes to 9:30 in January!**

January Dates to Remember:

- 6 Installation of newly-elected Consistory members and reception of new members. Refreshments served following worship.
- 8 Women's Guild 7:15 p.m. at St. Peter's
- 13 Rev. Harry Covert teaching the adult Sunday school class followed by Family Fellowship's Pork & Sauerkraut lunch after worship.
- 15 Autism Support Group at St. Peter's 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Spiritual Life Committee meeting 7:00 followed by Joint consistory at St. Peter's 7:30 p.m.

February Dates to Remember:

- 1&2 DONUT DAYS at St. Peter's!
- 10 Joint Healing service at Salem 10:00 a.m.

Peace & Joy for the New Year!

Lori Corman

Welcome to our newest members!

Be sure to introduce yourself to Dwayne and Candice Lowe, they are a wonderful addition to the St. Peter's growing church family and we are blessed to have them join us! It was a blessing to hear Candace sing "O Holy Night", as Marilyn accompanied her on the piano, at this year's Christmas Eve service!

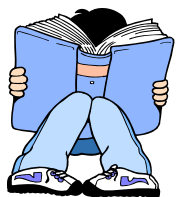
January also sees St. John's members joining either Salem or St. Peter's and we are so delighted to welcome them and their gifts, leadership and friendship. Each church is planning a reception to welcome these folks following the Jan. 6th service—see you there!

Adult Sunday School at St. Peter's

Rev. Harry Covert has recently had his second book published (his first book, Ministry to the Incarcerated was based on his many years as a Chaplain at Rockview State Prison). Harry and his wife have been visitors to our churches and Harry has served as supply preacher.

Discovering the Parables highlights thirty parables and may be used for Bible study as well as an adult Sunday school class. It could also serve as a personal devotional.

On **Sunday, January 13th**, Harry will teach our adult Sunday school at St. Peter's. Copies of the book will be available at both Salem and St. Peter's, and Harry is glad to sign your copy! This class will be followed by a "Pork and Kraut" lunch, hosted by Family Fellowship. Please mark your calendar to attend this special event.



Book Corner

As you may have seen, Orvil Hosterman has generously built us two more book cabinets for our growing library at St. Peter's. These books are here for you to borrow. You may also donate books in good condition that are "family friendly" for others to read. Here is a sample of some of the books you will find:

Take Him Home and Love Him, A Story of Autism and How to Cope with it by Mary Ann Puckett. A mother's story of her love and determination as she cared for her autistic son. An insightful look into the struggles and joys of living with a child with autism.

(Would you like to contribute a brief book review for a book (or books) you have donated? Just write it out and submit it by placing in the milk box on the porch or email it to Jackie at: jshawver@pennsvalley.org)

Thursday Morning Bible Study, St. Peter's UCC, 10:30 AM

New day and place for our study group--for the winter months only. We will return to Salem in the spring. This session we will be studying the book of Matthew. Please bring your Bibles and note paper. We always go out for lunch at an area restaurant after the class. Friends of the Charge are always welcome!

Thursday Evening Lectionary Bible Study, St. Peter's UCC, 7 PM

This class helps us to prepare for the Sunday sermon as we look over the upcoming texts. Join us, and make your Sunday worship experience fuller as you deepen your relationships with fellow parishioners.

January 3, 2008

Isaiah 60: 1-6 *Where is the Child?*
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

January 9

Isaiah 42: 1-9 *Accompanying Spirit*
Psalm 29
Acts 10: 34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 16

Isaiah 49: 1-7 *Meeting Jesus*
Psalm 40: 1-11
I Corinthians 1: 1-9
John 1:29-42

January 23

Isaiah 9: 1-4 *Called to Follow*
Psalm 27: 1, 4-9
I Corinthians 1: 10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 31

No Class—Pastor Faith at Convocation

**Remember to keep your emails up to date:
submit changes/corrections in writing, email to:
aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net.**

*Thank you all so very much for the gift certificate to the Nittany Mall this Christmas. I am very fortunate that both of my jobs allow me to work for and with such nice people!
I feel a shopping trip coming on . . . a new pair of winter boots would be nice!*

*Thanks again,
Jackie*



Worship Times Schedule for 2008

January - April

St. Peter's: Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday school at 10:30 a.m.

Salem: Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Feb. 10: Joint Worship at Salem — Healing Service

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.

For more information, please call 349-5094 or email at aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net.

Events to Remember for January 2008:

- Jan. 6 Reception of new members
Salem & St. Peter's
- Jan. 7 Directory Meeting, 6:30 pm
Salem
- Jan. 10 Northern Assoc. Board Meeting
Trinity UCC, Centre Hall
- Jan. 13 Rev. Harry Covert teaching Adult
Sunday School, 10:30 am. St. Peter's
- Jan. 13 Consistory following worship
Salem
- Jan. 14 Pastor-Parish Meeting, 7 pm
Parsonage
- Jan. 15 Grandparent Autism Support, 7 pm
St. Peter's
- Jan. 16 Sunday School Teachers Meeting, 6:30
pm St. Peter's
- Jan. 19 Young Adult, pot luck, 6 pm
Dave Edward's home
- Jan. 20 Consistory, 10:30 am
St. Peter's
- Jan. 20 VBS planning committee, 12 noon
St. Peter's
- Jan. 22 Joint Consistory, 7:30 pm
St. Peter's
- Jan. 23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!
- Jan. 29-31 Rev. Faith at Convocation, Hershey, PA

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at St. Peter's at 7:15 p.m. with 6 members present. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$621.03.



OLD BUSINESS

It was reported that we were given a generous donation of \$200 from Lori Corman. She was a past member of the PV Women for Community Service, and when they disbanded, they divided the funds between the present members who then gave the monies to a nonprofit organization of their choice. It was decided to inform Roxie at the Millheim Outreach Center that we have this money available to help with fuel costs for people in need this winter.

Janie reminded the members to send Christmas cards to the Rolling Hills residents.

We made a total of 30 turbans presently to be delivered to cancer treatment centers.

NEW BUSINESS

Helen will deliver poinsettias to Jean and Betty this Christmas from the Guild.

We will donate \$50 in honor of Pastor Faith to Mount Nittany Medical Center Foundation.

Tracy Ridenour was appointed to be on the Nominating Committee.

Pastor Faith left each member a devotional for the Advent season which was appreciated by all.

We then wrapped 100 activity books for the Millheim Outreach Christmas project. Afterwards we enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate. The next meeting will be January 8, 2008, with Janet VanGilder providing devotions. We will also continue with Bible Study from "No Wonder They Call Him the Savior," Chapter 16. We will be electing officers and finalizing the 2008 events.

*Brenda Ream Stover
Secretary.*

Prayer Chain

*All Service Personnel and their families.
All Charge Shut-ins: Polly Crader, Julie Haines, Roy Hart, Gladys Hartley, Helen Hazel, Tom Hazel, Ellen Huey, Eugene & Bernice Warntz.
Hurricanes Katrina & Rita Victims, Helen Allison, Dorothy Alters, Mike Auman, Randall Boob, Mike Braucht, Terry Bressler, John "Jack" Brown, Kay Brown, Alex Corman, T.J. & Logan Coursen, Robbi Davis, Gerald Fetterolf, Karen Glasgow, Luke Haskell, Benjamin Hosterman, Jenny Keen, Pat Kelly, Dean Krape, Liz Krout, Bob Lingle, Sr., Dave Lingle, Marcia Lingle, Betty (Hironimus) McClintock, Fred & Betty Mensch, Gail Musser, Teenie Musser, Carrie Neese, David E. Neese, Donna Neideigh, Linda Neideigh's Family, Robert Neill, Dixie Ort, Amanda Rachau, Raymond Reeder, Judy Ripka, Dean & Jean Rishel, Brenda (Barb Rossman's sister), Randy Rossman, Shirley*



Rossman, Warren Royer, Doris Z. Smith, Bernice Snyder, Shirley Snyder-Birth, Frank Stapleton, Barb Stover, Evelyn Stover, Randall Stover, Roy VanGilder, and Lester Weaver.

Please feel free to add/subtract from this list by calling your Consistory President. Please make the changes on 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

Roy Hart
Riverwoods Birchwood 221A
3201 River Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

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

Helen Hazel
502 E. Howard St.
Centre Crest
Bellefonte, PA 16823

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

Alice Sweeley
PO Box 38
Aaronsburg, PA 16820

Eugene Warntz
Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village
889 Fairground Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837-1299

Hazel Warntz
167 Cemetery Road
Aaronsburg, PA 16820

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

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

Northern Association Ministries Planning Committee Presents:

Annual Northern Association February Workshops: Caring for Self, Neighbor and Earth

Workshops:

Stress Reduction—soaking prayer, massage and more

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Syndrome)—how to help those who have experienced prolong traumatic events, i.e. war, domestic violence

Post-Katrina Relief Efforts—How the Northern Association continues to help our neighbors

Going Green—Caring for the earth in new construction and in our individual daily lives.

Registration: 1:30 - 1:45

Opening Worship: 1:45 - 2:15

1st Workshop Session: 2:15 - 3:15

Break and Refreshments: 3:15 - 3:30

2nd Workshop Session: 3:30 - 4:30

Trinity United Church of Christ,
Hublersburg, PA
February 24, 2008



Join us as, together, we learn new ways of compassionate caring for self, neighbor and our earth.