

# The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ

## The Charge

July/August, 2008

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### The Pastor Writes:



*“Jesus sums up the purpose of his ministry this way: that we “may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). He came to make possible a quality of life meant to be all of ours. This is not just for “the religious people,” but for “Gentiles” too. Meaning anyone, including those at odds with conventional norms and expectations—a particularly big controversy in the early church (Acts 10-11, Matthew 25: 31-46, Galatians 3:28, Ephesians 3:1-13). We began as one family before sin fragmented us and difference became division. In the spirit of Jesus we’re called to reunion, finding God’s abundance as one family.*

*This abundance is about sharing the sheer joy of being alive, and the assurance of welcome and acceptance whatever our differences, freed from the grip of fear and rejection. This sharing is what stewardship is all about. It’s also what salvation means.*

*“Salvation” in Hebrew comes from a root that suggests space, freedom, and security, which is gained by the removal of constriction. This means release from whatever threatens the promise of God’s love. God creates life, gives us our first breath, and enables us to breathe again amid all that would stifle us.*

*Sin and evil, including oppression and injustice, selfishness, indifference to others and to the environment—these arise from the burden or boredom of feeling hemmed in, as though we don’t have enough room, enough of what we need.*

*But we’ve already been given all we need to live a full and satisfying life! We see and learn this quality of life in Jesus. And we learn to give as he gave, becoming generous under the influence of the goodness of God.”*

*Do you believe you have received all that you need from God? If so, what is your response to this provision?*

*(Material provided by the UCC stewardship devotional: “The Big Secret of Giving: Hidden Treasures in Life and Church” by William C. Green)*

*May God bless you with safe travels, the fellowship of family and friends, and a time of renewal this summer.  
See you Sunday!*

*Grace and Peace  
Pastor Faith*

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## Worship Times Schedule for 2008



May - August

**St. Peter’s: Worship at 10:45 a.m.**  
(Sunday school resumes in the fall)

**Salem: Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

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

## St. Peter's News

The Church Leadership Banquet was held at New Hope Lutheran Church on May 22. There were 23 in attendance from the Aaronsburg Charge. Pastor Faith gave the Invocation and "Roll Call of Churches". Following the meal, we proceeded to the sanctuary where the speaker for the evening was our President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. John Thomas. Thank you, Pastor Faith for serving as the chairperson for the Ministries Planning Committee and making this very special evening possible!

The Charge Memorial Day Worship Service was held at Salem on May 25. Thank you to ALL those who participated in this very special service including: Carol Corman, Joshua Stover, Helen Sweeley, The Millheim American Legion Post #444, and Pastor Faith.

The 63 kits for the Dakota school children were dedicated at the service with the Women's Guild being represented by Janet VanGilder, Helen Sweeley, Janie Shook, Marilyn Weaver and Brenda Stover. Marilyn will deliver the school kits to the Annual Meeting of Penn Central Conference. Thank you everyone for your generosity! The tote bags were made by Lucinda, Helen and Janie.

Our sympathy to the Warntz family following the death of their family member, Marian Bower on May 30.

Thank you to Doug, Ed and Bill for making the adjustments to the microphones for our sound system in the sanctuary. Things sound a lot clearer now – thanks guys!

There were 23 in attendance for our Family Fellowship "Strawberry Social" following worship on June 8. Thank you to everyone for all the delicious food. A time for fellowship was enjoyed as well. Thank you to those who washed dishes and tidied up after the meal.

St. Peter's Choir is now on "summer break" and we thank them for all their beautiful music through the year. THANK YOU and we look forward to hearing from you again in September.

Thank you also to our wonderful Sunday school teachers (Bonnie, Nicole & Pam). We appreciate your dedication to St. Peter's children!

Thank you to Pastor Faith for leading our Bible Study groups. It is very meaningful (and fun) for all of us who participate.

Salem hosted the Charge Worship Service on Sunday, June 15 with Dan Warntz as our guest speaker. Danny did a wonderful job, as always. Thank you also to Josh Stover who was both reader and acolyte.

On Wednesday evening, June 18, a memorial

service was held at St. Peter's in memory of Lynn L. Dinges. (Lynn passed away on November 12, 2007.) Following the service, a meal was served to friends and family members in the social room. Thank you to those who set tables and served the meal. Our sympathy to the Dinges family.

Thank you so very much to all those who have been working on the "Meditation Garden" in front of the church: Doug & Nancy Royer, Frank Stapleton, Ed Kerstetter, Ginny Hosterman, Orvil Hosterman, and Linda Musser. It will be beautiful when completed! We appreciate the use of Ken Royer's truck, Frank Stapleton's tractor, and Don Royer's tractor. (Don also donated the stones.)



Thank you also to Frank, Orvil, Doug, Don and Craig Smith for removing the damaged portion of the social room ceiling. Thankfully, our deductible has already been met and the repairs for the ceiling will be covered by our insurance.

There has been so much activity at the church recently and we appreciate the generosity of all those persons giving of their time and talents! I apologize if I have omitted the names of anyone who has been helping with any of these projects!

Please keep Lester and Marilyn Weaver in your prayers as they recover from the fire at their home on June 6

Also, we keep Chip, Nicole, Dristen and "Baby" Wolfe in our prayers.

\*St. Peter's members: Please refer to Pastor Faith's "Church Use" letter to the congregation available with this newsletter at the church.

Our new church Pictorial Directories have arrived! Thank you to Doug and Nancy Royer and ALL those who helped with this project from both Salem and St. Peter's congregations. A job well done!

### July/August Flowers

#### Worship – 10:45

<u>July</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Flowers</u>
6	Earl Walker	3	Don & Darice
13	Black Panther 10:00	10	Ed & Barb K.
20	Brenda & Bonnie	17	Lori Corman
27		24	Lori Corman
		31	

**Greeter:** July - Dixie Ort; August - Earl Walker

**Offering Counters:** July Ginny Hosterman & Brenda Stover; August - Marilyn Weaver & Orvil Hosterman

#### July Dates to Remember:

- 13 No worship at St. Peter's! Please join us for outdoor worship & picnic at Black Panther 10:00
- 21 Spiritual Life 7:00 followed by Joint Consistory at 7:30 both at St. Peter's

## August Dates to Remember:

24 Joint Service at St. Peter's 10:00

Have a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday!

*Lori Corman*

## Congratulations to the Sunday School Class of St. Peter's on another great year!



Zachary Royer, Jacob Royer, Dristen Wolfe (we look forward to welcoming your baby brother soon!) Kalysta Long, Taylor Long, Sarah Dills (brother George will be joining us before we know it!)

Paige Myers, Jade Myers, Kayden Myers (another precious baby!), Gavin Hampton, Garrett Hampton, Emmett Schafft, Alex Corman

Teacher: Bonnie DeBrasky

Teaching Assistants: Pam Royer, Nichole Wolfe

As you can see, our class is growing, and will become 2 classes in the fall. We also plan to have a nursery for our newest friends. This requires helpers! Please let the Pastor or Sunday school teachers know if you can be a part of this growing area of St. Peter's!

If you are interested in starting a nursery/ Sunday school class at Salem, please speak with Pastor Faith.

## Salem's Happenings

Thank you to everyone who purchased moons and stars in memory/honor of loved ones. The money went to the Relay for Life, American Cancer Society.

The Church Leaders Banquet was held at New Hope Lutheran Church on May 22. I understand the meal was delicious and the guest speaker for the evening was Rev. John Thomas, President of the United Church of Christ. Thank you to everyone who attended on behalf of Salem: Donna & Gary Auman, Kay Brown, Janet & John Devinney; Elva, Donn & Barry Fetterolf; Pastor Faith, Jean Rishel, Randy Rossman, Ken & Lois Royer, Wendell Royer, and Janie Shook. It was a special treat to have Rev. Randy Rossman join the group for the evening.

The Joint Memorial Day Service was held at Salem on May 25. The service opened with Shane Royer presenting the colors and Carol Corman's prelude honoring the military. American Legion Post #444 and Auxiliary members of Millheim were present during the prelude. Anyone serving in the military stood or took a step forward when their anthem was played. For everyone who was

honored, we thank you. Thank you also to Carol Corman for your lovely music.

We then followed the Legion crew out to the cemetery for their service honoring those who went on before. Bob & Jimmy Brown of Hampton's Battery "F" PA Light Artillery fired the cannon to conclude the service.

*Lori Corman*  
Thank you so much to the men and women of the Legion for your steadfast loyalty in honoring our service personnel for fighting for our country and our freedom. The Legion moved on to the next cemetery and we returned to the church and proceeded with our morning worship. Thank you to everyone who helped make the morning special.

Thank you to Steve Swartz for agreeing to fill the open Deacon slot through 2009.

Jack Smith was supposed to be our guest speaker on June 15, Conference Sunday. Due to Jack's wife Edith being ill, Jack bowed out and Dan Warntz (another tried and true friend of the congregation) did the supplying for the day. Dan reported on his own Conference at his church that morning, and still made it to Salem by 10 a.m. for the Joint Worship Service. Thank you, Dan for your dedication to the Lord and your commitment to the community. Josh Stover was the lay reader for the day. Hank Kerstetter and Dave Sweeley took up the offering. Hope you "Fathers" had a great day!

Thank you to Wendell Royer for representing Salem at Conference in Selinsgrove. As far as I know, Wendell and Pastor Faith were the only two from the Charge attending this year.

A great big thank you to Pastor Faith who delivered the Charge's 63 school kits to the people from the Dakota Association at Conference. Thank you to Janie Shook for helping to get the kits loaded in Pastor Faith's vehicle. Another thank you to Pastor Faith for delivering Salem's 8 dozen cookies to Conference. The cookies were for the host table furnished by Northern Association. Salem's bakers were: Donna Auman, Jean Rishel, Janie Shook and Helen Sweeley – thank you ladies for your yummy treats.

What a surprise we had when we arrived for Sunday morning worship at Salem on June 22 – NO ELECTRICITY! The storm from the night before put us in the dark (so to speak) but, it didn't dampen our spirits. Pastor Faith changed a couple of the hymns and we proceeded with morning worship singing a cappella.

Our second surprise of the morning – the Pictorial Directories arrived!! Thank you to Doug Royer for delivering them (cool haircut!) and to Wendell Royer for handing them out. They are at the church, middle window at the back – if you wish

to pick yours up. Address labels are on the back – if you can't find your name, please let Janie Shook or Donna Auman know. Also, if you pick yours up, please write your name on the box or leave a piece of paper with your name in the basket beside the box - thank you. Thank you to the committee for all their hard work.

**Dates to Remember:**

- June 29 - Hymn Selection at St. Peter's 2:00 p.m.
- July 13 - Joint Outdoor Worship at Black Panther 10:00 a.m. Hot dogs, rolls & condiments furnished by Salem Family Fellowship. Please bring lawn chairs, drink, table service & covered dish to share. I believe Darice Hampton has volunteered to come up with some ideas for the children. I'm sure she would appreciate your help, if you decide to volunteer. Thank you!
- July 21 - Joint Spiritual Life Committee meeting 7:00 p.m. & Joint Consistory 7:30 p.m. both at St. Peter's.
- Aug. 6 - Salem Hill Haven Birthday Party 6:45 PM sponsored by Salem Family Fellowship. Program & Refreshments – Peg Swartz, Janet VanGilder, Virginia Boob & Marcia Lingle. Everyone is invited to come out and help, even the guys. Ladies, please let the rest of us know what you need.
- Aug. 24 - Grange Fair Sunday Joint Service 10 AM at St. Peter's with summer communion.

Well, Summer is officially here now and I think the weather is finally catching up. Hope you all have a great July 4<sup>th</sup>, a good summer, a happy Grange Fair and a lovely Labor Day holiday.

As always, keep those on our Prayer Chain in your prayers and also some that aren't on the Chain. When possible, lend a helping hand or maybe just a listening ear. God Bless!

*Helen Sweeley*

***To the Aaronsburg Charge . . .***

***Thank you all so much for your thoughts, prayers and cards throughout this past year. It was meant a lot, to know that you have lifted me up through my illness and recovery.***

***I also appreciate your prayers and thoughtfulness for Mother and Dean through this past year.***

***Thanks again and God's Blessings to you all,***

***Randy Rossman***

**Tongue-in-cheek wisdom from  
The 7 Habits of Highly Ineffective Churches  
by Anthony B. Robinson:**

**#4. Blame early and often**

Maintaining dysfunction in a congregation is made easier if scapegoats are regularly identified. In some congregations, ministers make wonderful scapegoats. You may also blame 'newcomers,' or 'people who don't understand how we do things in this church'. If all else fails, blame the Conference, the denomination, or Satan.

**#7. Spend as little money as possible.**

Even though you may enjoy spending money on personal things like a car or a cruise, you can demonstrate your commitment to modesty and a simple life-style at church. The very best programs cost nothing. And why would your church building need any renovations? If it was good enough for your grandparents then it'll be good enough for your grandchildren.

*Want to know some of the 7 habits of highly Effective churches?*

**#2. Cultivate a spirit of innovation and experimentation**

Make the "Seven Last Words of the Church," i.e. "We've never done it that way before," a distant memory. Be open to new ideas that advance your mission. Free people to develop and try new ministries. Just remember, if you're not failing at something, you're probably not trying anything.

**#3. Take the initiative to build relationships with people and groups in the wider community beyond your congregation.**

Refuse to be isolated. Take to the streets, the coffee shops, library and parks of your community. Be curious about what's going on. Get involved in community events. Meet people. Invite people to "come and see."

*Which advice is your church listening to?*

## 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.



Hurricanes Katrina Victims, Helen Allison, Dorothy Alters, Rev. Jack Archer, Mike Auman, Randall Boob, Mike Braucht, Terry Bressler, John "Jack" Brown, Kay Brown, Alex Corman, T.J. & Logan Coursen, Jody Covalt, Robbi Davis, Michael Dimock, Gerald Fetterolf, Jean Frankenberger, Karen Glasgow, Luke Haskell, Benjamin Hosterman, Barbara Hubbard, Jonathan Huey, 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, Donna Neideigh, Robert Neill, Dixie Ort, Amanda Rachau, Judy Ripka, Dean & Jean Rishel, Brenda (Barb Rossman's sister), Shirley Rossman, Warren Royer, Doris Z. Smith, Jack & Edith Smith, Bernice Snyder, Shirley Snyder-Birth, Frank Stapleton, Barb Stover, Evelyn Stover, Randall Stover, Roy VanGilder, Lester & Marilyn Weaver, and Mildred Wingard.

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.



## Vacation Bible School

VBS will be "Surfin' through the Scriptures" Sunday, July 27 – Thursday July 31 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Any

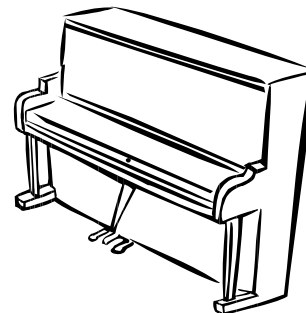
and all help is appreciated. This year we will be offering a pre-school class for children 3 – 5 years of age. Any questions, please contact Pam Royer – 349-4378 or Kimmy Boller-Beebe 234-0758.

*To the Aaronsburg Charge . . .*

*Thank you all so much for your well wishes phone calls, cards, food (Dave didn't have to cook so much) and your prayers during my recent knee replacement. Each day gets easier. Dave and I both appreciate all the support and love we've received from our church family.*

*Friends in Christ,  
Helen Sweeley*

*Would you have a love for an upright piano???*



*If so, please contact:  
Sabrina Glasgow at  
349-8396 or 360-5346 or  
email [scg4@psu.edu](mailto:scg4@psu.edu)*