

The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ

June, 2010

Phone: (814)349-5094

aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net

Message from Joint Consistory President...

INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH

God is still speaking. Those are four dynamic words that you may have read or heard via TV, newspaper or even our own church bulletins and Charge newsletters. I think those words were present, in one form or another, at our last Joint Consistory meeting on April 19. During normal agenda business items, Pastor Leigh informed the Consistory that she was willing to extend her term as "Interim Pastor" for another two, or maybe three, years. Elsewhere in this newsletter she will expand on the reasons that lead her to make this decision. Needless to say, the Consistory accepted her proposal, so we will be extending her current contract termination date of Nov. 1, 2010 to the future date of Nov. 2012 or 2013. This will be formalized at a later date.

Therefore, the current "Search" process will be temporarily suspended and the Search Committee is on a stand-by status.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue through this period. And, as always, if you have any questions, please call me (422-8597) or any of the Consistory members. God Bless!

Ken Royer
President, Joint Consistory

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

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.



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

From the Interim Pastor:



When Tracy Ridenour, Dave Sweeley and I attended the Small Church Gathering at the Conference office this winter, we had an opportunity to find out the various strategies small churches have at their disposal when considering their future. What leapt out of that discussion for me was the need for small churches to "stabilize" before they make any major decisions. That concept stayed with me.

As I thought about it more, I wondered if it wouldn't be better for the Aaronsburg Charge to become stabilized before it did anything, including calling a permanent pastor. Given our separate circumstances - you folks beginning the search process and me embarking on a search process as well, it seemed that neither of us was going to be able to give the time and attention needed for stabilization to occur. As I considered the situation further, I began to feel that it would be better for both parties to slow down and focus.

What I proposed to Joint Consistory was a two to three year time frame (as recommended in the Small Church Gathering literature) in which to concentrate on two main areas: budget and church growth/membership. By stabilizing the financial situation in the Charge, the general anxiety level in the churches would be lowered freeing up more time and energy for ministry - such as approaches to reach out to people who need what you folks have to offer. The conversation expanded when the Search Committee met with Interim Area Conference Minister Char Burch. Out of that discussion a third focus was unearthed: to take the final steps to formally and finally disperse St. John's holdings.

By concentrating on creating a stable financial foundation, increasing church growth and tying up the loose ends from St. John's closure, we can put the Charge in a much more favorable position to call a permanent pastor.

*Steps have already begun to tackle the most pressing issue, namely, church finances. On July 25, Jerry Thomason from the PCC Stewardship Team will join the Charge to give a presentation on the "Narrative Budget (Mission Spending Plan)" - see more details in this month's newsletter. Labels for the "Summer Beverage and Snack" offering have been given out and more are available as we practice gratitude to God, **not** giving to the church. There is an article in this newsletter about that approach, too. Your Search Committee is now acting as a Steering Committee to assist me in guiding the Charge to address these issues.*

I feel much better that we have agreed to take the time to work specifically on these three areas. That does not mean that the other ministries fall by the wayside. But it does mean that we keep our "eye on the ball" and put the Charge in a stable position so that it can increase its confidence and options.

I am thankful to be among you. I see God at work here. By the grace of God, together we can accomplish these things and more.

Peace,
Leigh

Joint Consistory Highlights

Joint Consistory met at Salem on April 19 for their second meeting of the year. Pastor Leigh provided devotions using the Penn Central Conference’s 50-Day Sabbatical to Pentecost.

We sponsored a \$100 hole for the Hartman Center Golf Tournament held in memory of Lee Lawhead.

Poe Valley Chaplaincy will receive a \$175 donation once we receive proper notification.

H.O.P.E. Fund Memorial Day weekend “Taste of Penns Valley” fundraiser at Millheim Park asked each local church to supply something.

Hymn selection was held at St. Peter’s on April 25. Dakota School Kits will be dedicated at the Joint service on May 30. We’re shooting for 60 kits.

The Charge’s Profile was accepted and sent to Area Conference Minister, Rev. Allen Fluent.

Jerry Thomason from the Penn Central Conference Stewardship Ministry Team will be presenting a program on "Creating a Narrative Budget" for the Joint Consistory and anyone interested on July 25 following morning worship at Salem. There will be a finger food lunch before the program. There will also be a sign-up sheet passed around for you to sign up in you plan to attend so we have some idea how much food we need.

The Aaronsburg Charge's Prayer Bowl and Urns story is on the UCC website. I believe it was one of the first ones featured if not the first. Thank you, Pastor Leigh.

President Ken Royer has a notice in this Newsletter on the offer we accepted from Pastor Leigh.

The Aaronsburg Charge will give \$100 and a card for Area Conference Minister, Allen Fluent’s retirement. He will be retiring on June 30 and the card and money will be presented to him at Penn Central's Annual Conference in Selinsgrove the weekend of June 11-13.

The Joint Spiritual Life Committee meeting will be July 20, 7 p.m. and Joint Consistory will follow at 7:30 p.m. - both at St. Peter's.

ST. PETER’S NEWS – JUNE, 2010:

Your Search Committee met with Char Burch (Interim Conference Minister) on May 3 at St. Peter’s. We went over the church profile and she made a couple of suggestions to make our profile more inviting to prospective pastors. (Please see other parts of this newsletter for more details.)

Thank you to Pastor Leigh for the lady bugs that were given to all the ladies on Mother’s Day and also to Zach and Jacob for passing them out. A thank you also goes to Barb and Ed Kerstetter for providing carnations for all the ladies.

We celebrated Pentecost by receiving Communion, and wearing red on Sunday, May 23. The window decorations were a wonderful visual for understanding the “gifts of the Spirit”. As always, we appreciate the children, who always add so much to our worship, and the “balloon” sermon.

Marilyn and family extend a heartfelt “thank you” for all your thoughts and prayers and condolences on the passing of her father, Robert Clarke, who was a resident at Wynwood House in Centre Hall. This has been a rough eight months for the Weaver family, and we appreciate everything you have done to help us through this difficult time.

JUNE	READER	FLOWERS	Monthly Greeter	Monthly Offering Counters
6	Dixie Ort		Mike & Bert	Bonnie DeBrasky & Marilyn Weaver
13	JOINT SERVICE - Salem		Hosterman	
20	Ginny Hosterman	Ginny Hosterman		
27	Ginny Hosterman	Ginny Hosterman		

June Dates to Remember:

- 11-13 – Penn central Conference Annual Meeting - Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA
- 13 – JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE - SALEM - 10 A.M. - Please come and hear Randy Smith from Centre Hall, who will lead us in worship this Sunday.

(Please keep your representatives in prayer during this run, but working weekend.)

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, at St. Peter's at 7:15 p.m. with 8 members present. Tracy Ridenour provided us with devotions. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$499.38.



OUTREACH:

Helen provided Roxie at the Outreach Center with \$169.90 for fuel needs and \$60.00 for Allegheny Power—electricity needs. We earmarked another \$200 for the Outreach Center to be used as needed. A donation for \$50 to Relay for Life was given as well as \$25 for luminary bags in memory of Edna Vanatta, Marie Kelly, Vivian Weaver, Pauline Ream and Jean Frankenberger.

OLD BUSINESS:

Profit from Easter eggs was \$395.27.

A wonderful thank you was read from Ryan Balliett for the \$100 donation.

Helen gave an update on the needs for the 60 Dakota school kits. We need 11 scissors, 1 pack of crayons, and 10 tablets. These will be dedicated at the Memorial Day service.

NEW BUSINESS:

We will be going to Salem Hill Haven on June 1 at 6:45 PM for the annual birthday party celebration. We will be playing bingo and each member is to bring two wrapped gifts. Helen, Janie and Brenda will bring angel food cakes, Marilyn drink and cool whip, Janie tableware, Donna pretzels, Leigh ice cream, and Helen and Tracy strawberries, bananas, etc.

Helen cut 16 more turbans and Janie took the turbans to sew.

Pastor Leigh led us in Bible Study and the next event will be birthday party at Salem Hill on June 1 at 6:45. We will be continuing with Bible Study of Chapter 31 of Max Lucado's book at the August 3 meeting and Brenda Stover has devotions.

Brenda Ream Stover
Secretary



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.)

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.

Our Hoss's Night fundraiser was very good on April 20. We received a check from Hoss's for \$117.65 and donations of \$32.35 for a total of \$150. Thank you to everyone who went and ate and also to the ones who donated cash because they didn't go and eat. The next date will be Tuesday, July 13 - so get it on your calendar now.

Salem Consistory met on May 10 at the church. Pastor Leigh opened using Penn Central Conference's 50-Day Sabbatical to Pentecost. The total bill for painting and insulating was \$1,782.77 leaving \$5,217.23 to be added to the Parking Lot Paving Fund. The Paving Fund now has a total of \$10,705.56. Once again, we thank Guy and Mabel for their most generous gift to the church in memory of Guy's parents and other relatives. Anyone willing to help update the church's brochure, please see Janie Shook. Their will be a joint service on Conference Sunday 10 a.m. at Salem. We have lay person Randy Smith as a supply for the morning and Robin Warntz will be our organist. Pastor Leigh gave a report on what has been keeping her busy - a lot!

Thank you to Dave Sweeley for spending a couple days at Hartman Center helping to get Cabin #23 handicapped accessible for this summer's camping season. While we're on Hartman Center, instead of a basket this year, on behalf of Salem, I donated a Counted Cross Stitch Picture for the auction this Fall. The picture of an eagle and the American Flag is called "Flight of Freedom" and is 12" x 14" with 40 plus colors and color combinations. Last Fall, I submitted it to the PA State Grange Session contest and received first place along with the People's Choice Award. The picture will be auctioned off at Hartman Center's Fall Festival in October. I gave it to Rev. Bruce Druckenmiller at the Church Leaders' Banquet.



The Leaders' Banquet was held on May 20 at the Penns Valley High School. The Aaronsburg Charge had a whole table present. Representing Salem was: Donna & Gary Auman, Wendell Royer, Kay Brown, Janie Shook, Jean & Dean Rishel, Dave and I along with Pastor Leigh present on behalf of the Charge. The meal was great as always. An offering was taken up for Cabin #23 at Hartman Center, sorry I haven't heard how much was collected. The welcome and roll call of churches was done by Pat Long, invocation by Rev. Julian hall, Benediction by Rev. Marjorie Holland and we had greetings from Area Conference Minister, Rev. Allen Fluent who will be retiring June 30. Special recognition was made with a framed certificate to Janie Shook for her dedication and support to Cabin #23 at Hartman Center. Terri Krabill introduced our speaker, Dr. Daryl Hollinger, Minister of Music at St. Peter's UCC in Lancaster. Dr. Hollinger's topic for the evening was "How Can We Keep From Singing" and did a wonderful job getting everyone involved with music and singing. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Don't forget, Janie Shook has the Moons and Stars for Relay for Life. If you wish to purchase one in memory or in honor of someone fighting cancer or someone who has lost their battle, you can do so for \$1 per card. So far, we've sold 12. The money will go to Relay for Life which will be held at the Centre County Grange Fair Grounds the last weekend in June.

The H.O.P.E. Fund requested 3 dozen hamburger buns and 5 dozen hot dog rolls for their fundraiser, "A Taste of Penns Valley" at Millheim on May 29. The following people purchased the buns and rolls on behalf of Salem: Steve & Peg Swartz, Cindy Ross, Betty Stover, Joe & Lucinda Stover, Heather Ross, Donna & Gary Auman and Dave and I. Thank you to all of you.

Our heartfelt condolences to John Devinney and his family on the recent death of his brother, Charles.

We're happy that Karen Boob and Roy VanGilder are home from the hospital. Hopefully, I will have delivered fruit baskets to both of them before you read this.

Get those "SUMMER BEVERAGE & SNACK OFERING" containers started. Put your leftover change or whatever in a container marked with the label that was in the church bulletin on May 23. Whenever you enjoy a cool drink or a tasty snack, drop a couple coins in the container. On September 26, Harvest Home Sunday, all the containers with money in will be dedicated and the money will go in the General Fund to give it a little boost after summer's festivities.

Salem's Dates to Remember:

- June 1 - Women's Guild sponsoring the June Birthday Party at Salem Hill Haven. We will be playing Bingo. Come out and join us.
- June 4-6 - Nittany Antique Machinery Show at Penns Cave.
- June 11-13 - Annual Conference, Selinsgrove. Janie Shook and Wendell Royer attending for Salem.
- June 13 - Joint Service, Salem 10 AM Randy Smith, Layperson, will be supplying. *continued . . .*

- July 11 - Joint Outdoor Worship at Black Panther Riding Club, 10 AM. Hot dogs & condiments furnished by Salem Family Fellowship. Bring a covered dish to share, place settings, drink and a lawn chair.
- July 20 - Joint Spiritual Life Committee meeting 7 PM followed by Joint Consistory at 7:30 - St. Peter's
- September 13 - Salem Consistory at the church, 7 PM.

Don't forget to pray for the ones on the Prayer Chain and any that you may think need an extra word with God. Happy Father's Day to all you Dads!

When I say that "I am a Christian", I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

Helen Sweeley



Narrative Budget: What Does Our Budget Say about Our Faith?

Did you know that a church's budget tells a story? Did you know that, like a well-told story, a well-presented budget either excites people to action or bores them into indifference? Jerry Thomason of the PCC Stewardship Ministry Team is coming to the Aaronsburg Charge to explain how we can plan and present our budgets in a way that

everyone understands.

In his handout, "Creating a Narrative Budget (Mission Spending Plan)," Jerry writes, "People are more excited to support mission and ministry rather than a budget. A 'Narrative Budget' describes how a congregation uses its finances for mission and ministry. It is often called a 'Mission Spending Plan.' It is used to celebrate the work of the congregations as well as encourage support for new missions being planned..."

This is a meeting for **everyone**. It will be held at **Salem UCC, July 25 after worship**. Both churches will provide the finger food luncheon after which, Jerry will lead us in understanding how to plan and present a narrative budget.

Here is a chance for the Charge to move from having to occasionally break the piggy bank to "meet the budget," to having clearly defined reasons for why we spend what and where – which helps us all get on board with "spending for our missions."

Jerry is very engaging, understanding and speaks on the church budget in a way that is humorous, clear and extremely helpful. So join us as we welcome Jerry with some great food and he offers us a timely, hopeful presentation on Sunday, July 25 at Salem. We have even invited local churches (UCC and otherwise) to join us. You are encouraged to sign up for the event, but that is only to give us a "guesstimate" of how much food to prepare. ALL are invited to participate!

Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting June 11-13, Susquehanna University

The red prayer bowls have been a visual reminder from the Conference of the importance of prayer in the life of our UCC churches. The past 50 days leading to Pentecost have seen our committee meetings prefaced by worship and prayer, in keeping with the Conference's desire that we take a "sabbatical" from business-as-usual and deepen our connection with God's spirit. The theme for this year's annual meeting is simply: "Spirited!"

We need **your continued support** in the Conference's vision of a spirited Church. With the annual meeting upon us, this is not a time to "lighten up" in our faith practices. You can be a part of the annual meeting in two ways: firstly, pray for your representatives and all attending the annual meeting for guidance by the Spirit and secondly, attend the joint worship service on Sunday, June 13. Through prayer and worship, we demonstrate our faithfulness to the triune God. **Your representatives to Conference are: Wendell Royer, Marilyn Weaver, Janie Shook and Pastor Leigh.**

Preaching on Sunday, June 13 will be Randy Smith, a lifelong resident of Centre Hall and currently a Penn State student working toward a degree in ministry with an emphasis on social work. Randy is married, has five children and, most recently, has been working with people with mental and emotional disabilities and challenges. Randy has preached at Trinity UCC and many have appreciated Randy's deeply spiritual and heartfelt sermons.

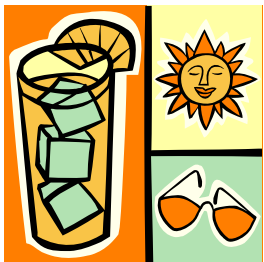
Continue to support the Body of Christ by praying for your representatives, your church and the Conference and through your faithfulness in worship. We thank you in advance.

June Calendar

Tues., June 1	6:45 p.m.	Women's Guild picnic at Salem Hill Haven with residents
Wed., June 2	7:15 p.m.	Northern Association Church and Ministry Committee meeting at Trinity UCC, Centre Hall
Sun., June 6		Graduation Sunday Observance 7:30 p.m. PVHS Baccalaureate service at Penns Valley High School auditorium
Tues., June 8	8:30 a.m. Noon	Penns Valley Ministerium at Brody's Autism Support Group at Millheim Hotel
Fri.-Sun., June 11-13		Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting at Susquehanna University, Wendell Royer, Marilyn Weaver, Janie Shook and Pastor Leigh attending
Sun., June 13	10:00 a.m.	Joint Service at Salem, Randy Smith preaching Blanket Sunday offering received
Mon., June 14	9:30 a.m.	Northern Association Ministerium picnic at Joe and Terri Krabill residence
Sun., June 20		Father's Day Observance at both services
Mon., June 21	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Relations committee meeting at the parsonage
Wed., June 23	6:30 p.m.	Aaronsburg Library Children's Program at St. Peter's -"Magician"
Sat., June 26	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	VBS meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Rebersburg. Bring a bag lunch. Autism Support Group picnic, Lions Club Park, Centre Hall
Sat.-Sun., June 26-27		Relay for Life, Grange Fair campground
Mon., June 28	6:30 p.m.	Aaronsburg Library Children's Program - "Puppet Show"
Tues., June 29	10:00 a.m.	Interim Ministry Partnership, Conference Office
June 30 <u>through</u> July 9		Pastor Leigh on vacation

Looking ahead...

Sun., July 4	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	The Rev. Harry Covert preaching, St. Peter's The Rev. Harry Covert preaching, Salem
Sun., July 11	10:00 a.m.	Joint service at Black Panther Riding Club. Bring a covered dish to share.



SUMMER BEVERAGE

&

SNACK OFFERING

**BRING OFFERING TO CHURCH ON
SUNDAY, SEPT. 26TH FOR HARVEST
HOME DEDICATON.**

The summer season is a great time to relax and enjoy special time with family and friends. It's also a time to enjoy refreshing beverages and little snacks – especially when the summer heat increases thirst and the “munchies”.

During the summer, you are invited to take home a “Summer Beverage and Snack Offering” label and put it on a jar, cup or whatever. Whenever you enjoy a cool drink or tasty snack, put a coin or two in the jar. Then on Harvest Home Sunday, Sept. 26th, we'll dedicate the jars and their contents to God and the church.

With summer fast approaching, don't forget to show God your gratitude for the blessings of summertime – the warm weather, picnics, family gatherings, vacations, the beauty and wonder of creation, and the like. Here is a small way to demonstrate your gratefulness to God for the blessings of summer by contributing to the beverage and snack offering.