



The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ March, 2009

Rev. Faith McCausland
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The Pastor Writes:



Dear Friends,

We begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 25 with the sacrament of Holy Communion and Ashes. As we journey towards Easter this Lent, I invite you to join with your brothers and sisters in Wednesday evening worship (worship schedule in this issue). You are also invited to join me at St. Peter's at 6pm each Wednesday evening for a simple supper of soup and bread before we travel to the services.

This journey will be one of returning to our families, our friends and community, our church and our God. And as we return each week we will come closer to God's grace, mercy and never-ending love.

The pastors will be preaching and teaching from the text, Returning Home, by David R. Mattson during our mid-week services. For your personal devotions during this season, a devotional by Henri Nouwen, From Fear to Love, Lenten Reflections on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, will be available at both churches.

It is my prayer for you that this year, you turn towards the One who will never leave you or forsake you. The One who assures you that you need not be anxious for anything. God is waiting for you...will you seek him?

See you Sunday!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Faith

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)

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, and delve a little deeper, this class is for you! **There will be no evening Bible study during Lent, so that you may attend the evening ecumenical worship services on Wednesday night.**

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

Joint Consistory Highlights

The first meeting of the year was held at St. Peter's was held at St. Peter's on January 20. The minutes from the last meeting and the treasurer's reports were accepted as presented.

Committee Reports:

Spiritual Life -

February 1 "Souper Bowl" Sunday. Special collection for Food Bank

February 15 Joint Healing Service, Salem 11:00 a.m.

Watch for dates and places for Mid-week Lenten services.

Pastoral Relations -

Newsletter deadlines were given for the entire year.

The other committees had nothing new to report.

Old Business:

The books were audited and found to be in order. A GPS was purchased for Pastor Faith as a Christmas gift and the Joint Consistory officers received gift cards for Burkholder's as did the Charge secretary. St. Peter's Constitution and ByLaws have been finalized and sent to the Conference office. The Poe Valley Ministry is serving Hemlock Acres and Poe Paddy at the present time and when Poe Valley opens back up, it will be included in their schedule. The Charge donated \$175 to this ministry. St. Peter's has been hearing complaints about the worship times and after a lengthy discussion, it was decided to hold a special Joint Consistory meeting just for this purpose. President Royer asked that all Consistory members put down their feelings on paper and give to him before the special meeting. The meeting will be held at Salem on March 23 at 7:00 p.m.

New Business:

Election of officers have the same people holding the same positions: President - Ken Royer, Vice President - Ginny Hosterman, Secretary - Helen Sweeley, and Treasurer - Brenda Stover. Committees were named for the year along with chair persons. The Charge sent \$500 to the Bethany Children's Home in lieu of the Christmas Eve offering. We also sent \$100 for Penn State Campus Ministry.

Pastor Faith presented a written report and added the following:

- * She will be going to General Synod this year so a supply will be needed for June 28.
- * How would we feel about having a Christmas Eve service in July? Think about it till the next meeting.
- * Would we be interested in hosting a simple soup & bread meal Wednesday evenings during Lent?
- * Table communion will be given at the Sunrise Service breakfast at St. Peter's.

The next regular meeting will be April 20 at Salem. Joint Spiritual Life committee will meet at 7:00 and Joint Consistory at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was closed with everyone praying the Lords Prayer.

Helen Sweeley
Secretary



Prayer Chain

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

Hurricane Katrina Victims, Dorothy Alters, Rev. Jack Archer, Randall Boob, Mike Braucht, Terry Bressler, Bob Brown, John "Jack" Brown, Kay Brown, Alex Corman, T.J. Coursen, Janie Crater, Michael Dimock, Dr. Lillian Earle, Gerald Fetterolf, Jean Frankenberger, Karen Glasgow, Luke Haskell, Brian & Cody Homan, Dave Homan, Benjamin Hosterman, Jonathan Huey, Cory Jackson, Pat Kelly, Jacob Kerstetter (deployed to Iraq), Dean Krape, Liz Krout, Bob Lingle, Sr., Dave Lingle, Marcia Lingle, Fred & Betty Mensch, Sam Moore, Teenie Musser, Carrie Neese, David E. Neese, Loretta Neff, Robert Neill, Dixie Ort, Amanda Rachau, The Ross Family, Maxine Ross, Brenda (Barb Rossman's sister), Shirley Rossman, Margaret Royer, 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.



Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at St. Peter's at 7:15 p.m. with nine members present. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$748.15 and \$100 of this is earmarked for fuel fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee: Janie Shook reported that the current officers will remain the same; all agreed. The officers are as follows: President, Janet VanGilder; Vice-President, Tracy Ridenour; Treasurer, Helen Sweeley; Secretary, Brenda Stover.

NEW BUSINESS:

Janie also reported that she has talked to Amy Snare about making eggs at the Lingle's house, the birthday party in June has been scheduled with Salem Hill; and she has ordered 55 Jared boxes. She also has requested an updated Rolling Hills Manor birthday list.

Thank you's were read from Jean Frankenberger and Betty Mensch for the poinsettias and from the Skills staff and clients for the Christmas bags.

Janie Shook has delivered 5 turbans to the Lewisburg Cancer Center and has 5 more which she passed onto Marilyn Weaver to deliver to someone she knows.

Tracy mentioned about giving a donation to Anthony Confer's Funeral Fund. Janie made a motion we give \$50 and Marilyn seconded the motion and all agreed.

The Operation Shoebox will be collected during the month of February—check the newsletter for a list of needed items.

It was decided to give \$250 to the Millheim Outreach Center for the fuel fund.

The next meeting will be March 3, 2009, with Faith McCausland providing devotions. We will be completing Operation Shoebox for troops, planning the making of Easter eggs, and having Bible Study of Chapter 25 from Max Lucado's book.

Brenda Ream Stover
Secretary

Friends with a "Mission"

On February 13th nine church members enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the Valley Diner in Aaronsburg to finalize the soup sale details and talk about upcoming events. A big THANK YOU goes out to all that made donations towards the soup sale and to Tracy Ridenour, Candace & Duane Lowe for making and packaging the soup. We will be selling ham & cheese and turkey & cheese sandwiches for \$3 to be delivered March 20. Orders are due to Barb & Ed Kerstetter by March 13th and all proceeds from the sale benefit the Aaronsburg Community Egg Hunt. Anyone wanting to help make sandwiches, we will be doing so on Thursday, March 19th around 5PM at St. Peter's.

The Community Egg Hunt will be held April 4th from 2 - 4PM at the Aaronsburg Civics' grounds. If you would like to donate candy or quarters for the egg hunt, there will be a box placed in the back of each church. (Candy should fit inside a standard size plastic egg.) Our next meeting is scheduled for March 28th at St. Peter's in the basement at 6PM for a potluck dinner and stuffing of plastic eggs. All Aaronsburg UCC members and non-members are welcome to join Friends with a "Mission" events.

Nicole Wolfe

Lenten Community Worship Services – 7:00 p.m.

February 25	Ash Wednesday, Ashes and communion	Christ UCC, Madisonburg
March 4	St. John Lutheran	Millheim - Rev. Jim Rill
March 11	St. Peter's Lutheran	Rebersburg - Rev. Linda Jezusko
March 18	Salem UCC	Spring Mills - Rev. Faith McCausland
March 25	United Methodist Church	Madisonburg - TBA
April 1	Salem Lutheran	Aaronsburg - Rev. Linda Jezusko
April 9	Holy Thursday	Millheim United Methodist, Millheim - Pastor Carol Price
April 10	Good Friday	Emmanuel UMC, Rebersburg - Rev. Julie Piper

St. Peter's News

February 1 was "Souper Bowl" Sunday and we thank everyone for their generous donations to the Millheim Food Bank. Thank you to the children for their "souper bowl" skit and for collecting the food bank offering. Zach Huey explained how this special offering originated 20 years ago. The Aaronsburg Charge had donated \$1,188 during the nine years we have participated. Our offering from the Charge this year was \$260.50. Thank you to all those who donated!

Also, thank you to Zach Huey who did a great job serving as lay reader for the first time February 1.

The Northern Association workshops were held at Trinity UCC in Hublersburg on Sunday, February 8. Attending from St. Peter's were: Pastor Faith and Marilyn Weaver. Each of them attended two of the workshops. Thanks Marilyn and Pastor Faith for representing St. Peter's!

The Charge Healing Service was at St. Peter's on February 15. Thank you to Ginny Hosterman and Janie Shook who assisted Pastor Faith to serve communion by intinction. Thank you to all those who shared with us to make the healing service so meaningful. Pastor Faith presented a Bible to Amanda Huey to help with guidance throughout her Christian life.

Tracy Ridenour presented a blanket to Janie Shook for Salem church. It was given by Tracy and the Sunday school classes at St. Peter's. Blankets will also be given to St. Peter's church, our troops overseas, and possibly our "sister church" down south. Thank you Tracy for your dedication to our Sunday school children and all you do on their behalf for our community - "far and wide"!

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

<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Monthly Greeter</u>	<u>Monthly Offering Counters</u>
1	Brenda Stover		Helen Benner	Orvil Hosterman & Marilyn Weaver
8	Bonnie DeBrasky			
15	Bill Miles	Phoebe Anskis		
22	Lori Corman			
29	Dixie Ort			

Consistory Devotions: David Edwards

Dates to Remember:

- March 1 - 1st Sunday of Lent - Communion servers: Ed, Kerstetter, Bonnie DeBrasky, Brenda Stover, and Lori Corman. Coffee & Cookies Hour - reception of new members.
- March 3 - Autism Support Group, St. Peter's 7:00 p.m.
- Women's Guild, St. Peter's 7:15 p.m.
- March 17 - St. Peter's Consistory 7:00 p.m.
- March 13 - Deadline for Friends with a Mission (FWAM) Ham & Cheese Sandwich orders \$3/each.
- March 19 - Friends with a "Mission" making Ham & Cheese Sandwiches at St. Peter's 5:00.
- March 20 - Delivery of FWAM sandwiches.
- March 22 - One Great Hour of Sharing offering
- March 23 - Joint Consistory Special Meeting at Salem
- March 28 - Friends with a Mission Pot Luck Supper at St. Peter's 6:00 p.m. & filling Easter eggs.

As always, remember all our shut-ins in your prayers. Happy Spring on March 20!!

-Lori Corman

From the Charge Secretary -

Thank you so very much for the Burkholder's gift certificate this past Christmas. I would also like to thank everyone for the cards, emails and well wishes during my battle with kidney stones these past couple of months. I am feeling better and I thank you for your concern.

Jackie Shawver

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.

Dave and I delivered a fruit basket to Ellen Huey after her stay in the hospital and had a nice visit with Ellen, Jean, Kathy and LeeAnn.

Most of the Secret Sisters turned out with guests and enjoyed dinner at the Valley Diner on January 24. All the secrets were revealed, restaurant gift cards were exchanged and new sisters were drawn for 2009. have you figured out who yours is yet?

It's about time! Janie Shook will be honored at a lunch during General Synod for her faithful and dedicated service to the local and wider churches of the United Church of Christ. There is no one more faithful and dedicated than Janie and she definitely deserved this recognition as a lay woman. Congratulations and thank you! Ruth Rishel from our sister church in Tusseyville, Tri-Penn Charge will be honored also. Good job, ladies.

If you need someone to raise money for a fundraiser, Josh Stover is your man. He collected for the "Souper Bowl" on Sunday, February 1 at Salem and received \$102 which was taken to the Millheim Food Bank. Thank you, Josh for doing a good job, he wouldn't let anyone leave until they donated (only kidding).

The Northern Association Workshops were held February 8 at Trinity UCC in Hublersburg. This year there were three workshops offered: "Exploring Spiritual Direction", "New Church Development" and Marketing the United Church of Christ". Pastor Faith opened with a brief worship service assisted by several others and Marilyn Weaver played the piano for the hymn we sang. Janie Shook, Dave and I represented Salem and between the three of us, we took advantage of all three workshops. Refreshments were served at intermission provided by the folks at Trinity - delicious!

The Joint Healing Service was held at St. Peter's on February 15. Thank you to everyone who took part in this special event.

Thank you to everyone who once again purchased daffodils. We will be seeing them on March 22, so make sure you bring your vases to the church before March 21.

This year you will not be receiving a Lenten Coin Folder. We have gone with a special envelope since the folders cost so much to mail when not picked up at the church. If you can get \$20 worth of quarters in one of these envelopes, please do, otherwise I'm sure the treasurer would be happy to see bills or checks.

Our heartfelt condolences to Bob Corman and Rob Jackson on the recent deaths of their mothers.

Dates to Remember:

- February 22 - Pot Luck Lunch at Salem after morning worship.
1:30 Bowling at Millheim Lanes - \$2.50 per game, shoes included.
- March 16 - Salem Consistory, 7:00 p.m. at the church
- March 22 - Lenten Lunch following morning worship. Ken Royer will lead the men in their cooking duties.
- March 23 - Special Joint Consistory meeting at Salem 7:00 p.m. Don't forget, Consistory members are to put their thoughts down on paper and give to Joint Consistory President, Ken Royer prior to the meeting.

Don't forget, we are collecting items for "Operation Shoebox" for our troops through March 1. Women's Guild will be collecting them for their meeting March 3. A complete list was in last month's newsletter and is posted in the Narthex.

As always, remember those less fortunate than you, helping them in whatever way you can. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Helen Sweeley

The Millheim Food Bank is in desperate need of the following items:
Saltine crackers, spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese, flour, canned dairy products, fruits and canned meats (not tuna). When you make your purchase for the food bank, please keep these items in mind.

DECK OF CARDS

During the North African Campaign, a bunch of soldier boys had been on a long hike. They arrived in a little town called Casino. The next morning being Sunday, several of the boys went to church. A sergeant commanded the in church.

After the Chaplain read the prayer, the text was taken up next. Those of the boys that had a prayer book took them out. One boy had only a deck of cards, and he spread them out. The sergeant saw the cards and said, "Soldier, put away those cards." After the service was over, the soldier was taken prisoner and brought before the Provost Marshal.

The Marshal said, "Sergeant, why have you brought this man here?"
"For playing cards in church, Sir," was the response.

The Marshal asked the soldier, "And what have you to say for yourself, son?"
"Much, Sir," replied the soldier.

The Marshal stated, "I hope so, for if not I will punish you more than any man was ever punished."
The soldier said, "Sir, I have been on the march for about six months. I have neither bible nor a prayer book, but I hope to satisfy you, sir, with the purity of my intentions." And with that, the boy started his story ...

"You see, sir, when I look at the Ace, it reminds me that there is but one God. And the deuce reminds me that the bible is divided into two parts: the Old and the New Testaments. When I see the trey, I think of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And when I see the four, I think of the four evangelists who preached the Gospel: there was Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And when I see the five, it reminds me of the five wise virgins who trimmed their lamps; there were ten of them: five were wise and were saved, five were foolish and were shut out. When I see the six, it reminds me that in six days God made this heaven and earth. And when I see the seven, it reminds me that on the seventh day, God rested from his great work. And when I see the eight, I think of the eight righteous persons that God saved when he destroyed the earth: there was Noah, his wife, their sons and their wives. And when I see the nine, I think of the lepers our savior cleansed, and that nine of the ten didn't even thank him. When I see the ten, I think of the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on a tablet of stone. When I see the King, it reminds me that there is but one King of Heaven, God Almighty. And when I see the Queen, I think of the Blessed Virgin Mary who is the Queen of Heaven. And the Jack or Knave is the Devil.

When I count the number of spots in a deck of cards, I find 365, the number of days in a year.

There are 52 cards, the number of weeks in a year.

There are four suits, the number of weeks in a month.

There are twelve picture cards, the number of months in a year.

There are thirteen tricks, the number of weeks in a quarter.

So you see, Sir, my deck of cards serves me as a bible, an almanac and a prayer book."

**The author and performer of "Deck of Cards" was
T. Texas Tyler.
He stated at the conclusion:
"And friends, this story is true.
I know ... I was that soldier."**



Our Homebound, Nursing Home or Health Care Residents:

Pauline Crader
50 N. 3rd Street
Apt. 415
Lewisburg, PA 17837

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

Maxine Ross
424 Heckman Cemetery
Spring Mills, PA 16875

(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.)