

# The Aaronsburg Charge United Church of Christ

The  
Charge

September, 2008

**Rev. Faith McCausland**

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## The Pastor Writes:



*"It's been said that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver - but the Lord also accepteth from a grudge! Not so in the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-16). The way we give reveals our inner hearts, and God know the inner hearts of all of us. According to Jewish tradition, God's acceptance of Abel's offering and rejection of Cain's was a result not of how much each gave but of what kind of gift it was.*

*Cain's very name comes from a Hebrew root meaning acquisition or possession. His offering was both grudging and rendered on his terms, as if to say to God, 'I work under your curse and will acknowledge you so long as you provide me with a good harvest.'*

*Abel, on the other hand, gives what is God's due, the selfless sacrifice of the first and best portions of his flock, out of gratitude and love. It is significant that Abel's name comes from a root meaning breath, and breathing is also associated with the spirit of God.*

*Good giving is like good breathing - something essential to our health, but also something that can't happen with an uptight disposition. God says, "I will put my Spirit in you and you will live!" (Ezekiel 37:14). This is the grace, the energy that at once empowers and relaxes us, enabling us to 'let go and let God'. But this spirit can enter only when there is room to receive it. As Goethe put it, 'It is the nature of grace always to fill spaces that have been left empty' and not filled by ourselves.*

*What, more than anything else, fills my thoughts?*

*Does this keep me from relaxing? How far have I gotten worrying about it?*

*Can I trust that a power greater than myself cares about me?*

*Can I breathe more freely - and give more gladly?"*

*This fall, we will be holding our second annual leadership retreat at Hartman Center (tentative date, Sunday, Oct. 16, 1-6 p.m). Our theme will be*

*"Where are we Headed?" and our focus will be on getting there. Part of any Christian's journey is on the path of giving to God and others. Therefore, we (leadership and the congregation) will be talking about giving of our time and our talents this fall.*

*I hope these pastoral moments from the Big Secret of Giving: Hidden Treasures in Life and Church by William C. Green, help you to think about how you see your church and how you support it through your time and your talent.*

*See you Sunday!*

*Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Faith*

## Aaronsburg Joint Cemetery News

On behalf of the Cemetery Association, we are delighted to inform everyone that stones have been installed at both the Reformed and Lutheran Cemeteries. The stones are in Honor of and in Memory of all veterans of all wars. The stones were installed by Mayes Memorials. They will be dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2008; all are invited to attend. We will post a time at a later date. Go and see the stones – they did a beautiful job. They are a fitting tribute.

God Bless,  
Ed Kerstetter,  
Cemetery Assn. Secretary

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## Joint Consistory Highlights . . .

Joint Consistory met at St. Peter's on July 21, 2008. Pastor Faith and 20 members were present. The meeting was opened with devotions by Pastor Faith.

Special notes on the treasurer's report: received credit for one quarter of Pastor Faith's medical insurance; and Ginny Hosterman paid last year's fee for our website and domain which runs from July to July. Thank you, Ginny.

Parsonage Committee held their inspection on July 14 with the following results:

- 1) George Traxler will be asked to fix the soffit which is bent out on the southwest corner of the parsonage.
- 2) Pastor Faith said that David would replace the weather stripping around the door to the secretary's office.
- 3) The committee will replace and add more smoke detectors along with a carbon monoxide detector at the parsonage.
- 4) The committee will purchase a new answering machine along with a surge protector.
- 5) Tracey Ridenour, Frank Stapleton and Doug Royer are the committee looking into the aspects of making the parsonage handicapped accessible in the future.
- 6) Thank you to David McCausland for installing a new lock on the front door. Anyone who had a key before, please see Pastor Faith.

Spiritual Life Committee has been busy as usual. Pictorial Directories are done. If you have not received yours, check at your church or with Consistory presidents. Pictures of the Meditation Garden at St. Peter's have been posted on the website. Feet and Seat Covers will be collected during the month of August and will be dedicated at the Joint Service on August 24. Blessing of the Animals will be held in the Meditation Garden at St. Peter's October 18 and 2 p.m. Hymn selection will be October 26 at St. Peter's at 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Faith and David will be hosting two German missionaries at the parsonage from September 29 through October 3. A tentative date for the missionaries to speak to the Charge is set for September 30 and St. Peter's, 7 p.m.

Church and Ministry Committee took care of getting supply pastors during Pastor Faith's vacation. Rev. Harry Covert will do the Joint Service at St. Peter's, 10 a.m. on August 24 with summer communion and the dedication of the Feet & Seat Covers. Rev. Joe Krabill will supply the following Sunday, August 31 with services at both churches.

Pastoral Relations Committee had about a 30%

response on the Pastoral survey that had been sent out. They met on August 4 to review the surveys and come up with a plan of action if needed.

A committee of Marilyn Weaver, Brenda Stover, Donna Auman and Janie Shook will be checking into getting better rates for insurance for the parsonage, pastor and the two churches. Marilyn will get in touch with Julie Youngmark at Frost & Conn to schedule a meeting.

Joint Budget meeting will be September 15 at Salem, 7 p.m. All officers are to be present.

Mileage has increased to the going rate of \$.585 per mile.

Dave Sweeley has been moved to Elder on Salem's Consistory and Steve Swartz has been installed as Deacon.

Pastor Faith reported that she would be in Lewisburg on July 30 for Women in Rural Ministry. Vacation Bible School is July 27 - 31. Pastor Faith felt that St. Peter's and Salem could handle pledging \$2,500 each over the next five years for the 4 Our Church Campaign. Each church will have to decide what they want to do. Pastor Faith received a letter about the Hope Fund of Penns Valley which was tabled until a later date and maybe more information could be gotten. Back Bay Mission in Mississippi information was to be passed on to women's Guild. Tuesday morning in September, Pastor Faith will lead Bible Study in Rebersburg at 10 a.m. If St. Peter's and Salem have Mission Statements, they should be included with their newsletter articles. Pastor Faith will be on vacation the last two weeks of August. Pastor Faith will receive another day off for August 30 when she will do a wedding for the Lingle family.

The next Joint Consistory meeting will be October 20 at Salem, 7:30 p.m. Joint Spiritual Life Committee will meet at 7 p.m.

The meeting was closed with everyone praying the Lord's Prayer.

*Helen Sweeley, Secretary  
Joint Consistory*

### UPDATE FROM OPERATION SHOEBOX

Dino Campanis has sent a total of 1,885 boxes of goodies since the beginning of the project. That amounts to 18 tons of materials! He thanks all for their ongoing support of our troops. One item that is needed, are issues of magazines, mostly for men. Tracy Ridenour has volunteered to collect and deliver these to Dino. If you have magazines to donate, please let Tracy know.

## Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, at St. Peter's at 7:15 p.m. with 7 members present. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$397.72.



### OLD BUSINESS:

Thank you's were read from the following:

- Mission Central for \$200 contribution for "Flood Buckets."
- American Cancer Society contributions for Relay for Life and luminaries.
- Operation Shoebox for donation of money and goods for troops overseas.
- Marilyn Weaver for fire clean-up.

### NEW BUSINESS:

"Feet & Seat Covers" for the children of Millheim Outreach Center will be collected during the month of August and dedicated at the joint service on August 24.

Tracy Ridenour made a motion we order 25 calendars (1 case) to sell for \$6.00 each and Brenda Stover seconded the motion.

Fall Festival is October 3 and 4; think about new ideas for things to sell at our table.

Marilyn Weaver then conducted Bible Study of Chapter 20, "No Wonder They Call Him the Savior" by Max Lucado. We came to know tears as miniature messengers—they represent the heart, the spirit, and the soul of a person.

The next meeting will be September 2, 2008, at 7 pm with Janie Shook providing devotions. We will be planning and finalizing the Fall Festival as well as having Bible Study on Chapter 21.

*Brenda Ream Stover  
Secretary*

## Neighbors in Need – Another World is Possible

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on **Sunday, October 5**, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network ( a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues

such as federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and on urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the US.

**Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to NiN can be made on-line at any time at:**

[www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin)

**Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need!**

(One of the 5 for 5 offerings)

## Morning Bible Study Thursdays at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's (Joint study group)

The first class will be on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your Bible, (if you do not have one, we are happy to give one to you), paper and pen. We will begin this semester with an overview of the Jewish faith (this is in conjunction with the lectionary readings from the Old Testament for September).

## Lectionary Bible Study Thursdays - 7 p.m. at St. Peters' (following choir rehearsal)

(Joint study group: for Salem and St. Peters')

September 18: "Road to Freedom"  
Exodus 14: 19-31; Psalm 114

September 25: "Tensions in the Wilderness"  
Exodus 16: 2-15; Psalm 105

October 1: "God's Sustaining Presence"  
Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 78

## Salem's Happenings

We celebrated Holy Baptism on July 6 when Natasha Stover had Kaden baptized. Kaden was born September 21, 2007 and has an older brother, Keyton. The boys are grandsons of Jesse Stover and Sonia Stover, and Dean & Betty Stover are their great-grandparents. Bruce & Alisha Kocher were Kaden's sponsors. Congratulations to the whole family.

Following the baptism, Pastor Faith installed Steve Swartz as the newest Consistory member. Steve will be filling the open Deacon position through 2009. Thank you, Steve for your willingness to serve the church in this capacity.

It was a beautiful day again for the Joint Outdoor Worship Service at Black Panther Riding Club on July 13. There were 39 for the worship service and 34 stayed for lunch. Salem Family Fellowship furnished the hot dogs, rolls and condiments which went really well with everyone's covered dishes. Thanks to Dave Sweeley for cooking the wieners again. Thank you to Donn Fetterolf for offering the blessing before we ate. Thank you to everyone who helped clean up afterward. Thanks to Darice Hampton for having crafts for the children to keep them busy after the worship service until lunch was ready. Thank you to Marilyn Weaver for taping the hymn music. Last, but not least, thank you to Pastor Faith for doing the service while she was in pain from oral surgery earlier in the week.

Janie & Larry Shook, Carrie Neese, Dave and I purchased chocolate syrup, blue Jell-o, rice krispies, plastic cups and paper plates for Vacation Bible School. Thank you to Wendell Royer for delivering our goods to Pam.



Salem Family Fellowship sponsored the birthday party for August at Salem Hill Haven on August 6 beginning at 6:45 p.m. We played bingo for the entertainment and gave each winner a prize. We sang "Happy Birthday" to the three residents who had August birthdays. Ginny Boob, Janet Van Gilder, Marcia Lingle, Janie Shook, Pastor Faith, Frannie Packer, Shirley Rishel and I served refreshments to the residents - thank you to each of these ladies. Thank you to everyone who furnished bingo prizes including Carrie Neese. A fun time was had by all.

Michelle Royer Mapstone and Mike (Squeak) Johnson were married on August 8 in a ceremony at the farm of the bride's father, Wendell Royers. The newly-married couple is residing in Lock Haven. Michelle and Mike, congratulations and

best wishes for a wonderful life together. Welcome to the extended family of Salem, Mike.

Our heartfelt condolences to Rob Jackson on the recent death of his grandfather.

August 24, Grange Fair Sunday found us in a Joint Service at St. Peter's with Rev. Harry Covert supplying for the morning. Pastor Covert always does a wonderful job and we enjoy his visits with us. He dedicated the "Feet & Seat Covers" for the Millheim Family Planning Center. We had 176 pairs of underwear and 123 pairs of socks for the needy children of Penns Valley to start back to school. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause. Thank you to Frank Stapleton for lugging Salem's feet & seat covers into the church for me. Thank you to Frank & Fay Stapleton for delivering the socks and underwear to the Outreach Center. St. Peter's choir sang the anthem, Pass the Bread, Pass the Cup before we shared holy communion. Good job, ladies and thank you. Thank you, St. Peter's for hosting the Joint Service.

Women's Guild once again has their beautiful wall calendars for sale, still only \$6. Ask any Guild member if you would like to purchase one. Thank you in advance.

### Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 7 - Worship times change! St. Peter's - 9:30 Salem 10:45. These are the times for the rest of the year.
- Sept. 10- Hoss's Community Night Fundraiser
- Sept. 15- Joint Budget Committee, Salem 7 p.m. All officers should be present
- Sept. 21- Salem Consistory after worship. If you think you'll be hungry, bring a bag lunch.
- Sept. 28- Harvest Home Sunday
- Oct. 4&5- Dutch Days. Women's Guild will have their usual tables on Saturday in front of St. Peter's. We would appreciate and all baked goods and help. Thank you in advance.

It's been a long time since the last newsletter, so if I forgot anything, please let me know and I'll catch it next one.

As always, please lend a helping hand to anyone in need, especially this time of the year when it's time to start winterizing. Also, keep those on the Prayer Chain in your prayers and anyone else in need of a prayer.

*Helen Sweeley*

## St. Peter's News

On Sunday, July 13, the Charge Outdoor Worship and Picnic was held at Black Panther Riding Club. Thank you to Dave Sweeley for serving as "Hot Dog Chef" again this year and to Salem Family Fellowship for providing the hot dogs and rolls.



Congratulations to Chip, Nicole and Dristen Wolfe on the new addition to their family. Baby Nolan was born on Thursday, July 17 and we welcome him into our church family.

On Sunday, July 27, we concluded our worship service outdoors with the formal dedication of our "Meditation Garden". Thanks to everyone who worked to make this garden so beautiful for all to enjoy! Following worship, snacks, sandwiches and drinks were served with time for fellowship with one another.

Thank you to Shane & Pam Royer for all their leadership in the Vacation Bible School this year! Pastor Faith and Marilyn Weaver also helped from St. Peter's church.

Thank you to all those who bought moons and stars in honor/memory of loved ones to benefit the Relay for Life - American Cancer Society.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the "Feet & Seat Covers" collection. They were dedicated by Rev. Harry Covert at the Joint worship held at St. Peter's on Grange Fair Sunday, August 24. Rev. Covert was a wonderful supply pastor, as always! Thank you to St. Peter's choir for their beautiful anthem, Pass the Bread, Pass the Cup.

### September Worship – 9:30

Sept.	Reader	Flowers
7	Lori Corman	Dixie Ort
14	Bill Miles	Fay Stapleton
21	Dixie Ort	Marilyn Weaver
28	Virginia Hosterman	Marilyn Weaver

**Greeter:** Shane Royer

**Offering Counters:** Bonnie DeBrasky & Doug Royer

**Consistory Devotions:** Doug Royer

### September Dates to Remember:

- 2 Women's Guild, 7:15 p.m.
- 8 Consistory, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Autism Support Group, 7:00
- 14 "Rally Day" and "Worker Bees Potluck" lunch
- 18 Bible Study begins, 10:00 a.m.  
Choir rehearsal begins, 6:00 p.m.
- 21 Sunday School begins, 10:45 a.m.

## With Sincere Thanks!!

There have been so many wonderful improvements (and repairs) made to our church this summer. THANK YOU to ALL those involved for their kindness and generosity! I will not name each individual (Pastor Faith has thanked them during worship). To the best of my knowledge, these are all the projects and repairs done at the church recently:

- \* Completion of the meditation garden
- \* Painting of the church kitchen with some additional painting in the social room
- \* "Housecleaning" of the kitchen
- \* Replacement of the social room ceiling (with tracking for Sunday School classes)
- \* Repairs to the kitchen sink
- \* Building of a cupboard and wooden knife holders for the kitchen
- \* Building and installation of shelves for downstairs closets
- \* Building of wooden storage chest for Sunday School room
- \* "Housecleaning" of narthex
- \* Cleaning of social room carpeting

Thank you to all those responsible!!

As always, keep our shut-ins in your prayers and have a happy and safe Labor Day holiday!

*Lori Corman*



## Congratulations to these newly married couples:

Michelle Mapstone (Salem) and Michael Johnson, both of Lock Haven were married on August 8, 2008. Michelle is the daughter of C. Wendell Royer of Spring Mills and

the late Phyllis Royer. Michelle is a graduate of Penns valley Area High School and is employed by Keystone Central School District as an Administrative Assistant to the Curriculum Director and also a waitress/bartender at Checker's. Michael is the son of Betty Johnson of Lock Haven and the late Robert E. Johnson. He is a 1981 graduate of Lock Haven High School and is employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in Lock Haven as a diesel mechanic. The couple resides in the Lock Haven area.

Lacey Marie Coleman and Terry Lingle (Salem) were married on August 30, 2008 at Rays Town Resort in Huntingdon County. The Rev Faith McCausland officiated. Lacey is the daughter of Phillip and Lee Ann Coleman of Berlin, PA. Terry is the son of Robert (Jr.) and Darlene Lingle. They will reside in Centre Hall.

### ORGANIST WANTED

Salem United Church of Christ is looking for a church organist. Pastor Faith McCausland in our minister. We have 50 members at the present time. Worship times rotate every four months - September - December is 10:45 a.m., January - April is 9:30 a.m. and so on. You would be responsible for playing prelude, offertory, hymns, some responses through the service and postlude. There could be times when you would be needed for extra services, (funerals, lent service, etc.) We offer \$47 per service. If you are interested, please call to arrange a meeting - Janie Shook, 349-5567 or Dave & Helen Sweeley, 422-8996.

Thank you.

### Rally Day – September 14, 2008

(St. Peter's, 9:30 a.m. & Salem, 10:45 a.m.)

Did you know there are fourteen infants and children connected to Salem, by family and baptism? That is a big group of young children needing Sunday school!

Sunday school helps the church nurture our children into educated, spiritually well-rounded Christians, who know and love Jesus, care about their neighbors and the world around them, and live responsibly fulfilling lives. It also helps adult leaders to grow in their understanding and faith as they study and prepare each week's lessons.

We provide the curriculum materials, and the lessons follow the Sunday Bible readings. The lessons are easy to follow (crafts, games, stories and song), and can be modified according to the time allotted. Sunday school at Salem could be either during worship (after the Children's Time) or before or after worship, depending on the teacher's and parent's wishes.

If you are interested in beginning a Sunday school and nursery for our children in September, please contact Pastor Faith at 364-5094 or 571-6681, or by email at :

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

Let us work together for our children!

### 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, Dr. Lillian Earle, Gerald Fetterolf, Jean Frankenberger, Karen Glasgow, Luke Haskell, Benjamin Hosterman, 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, Robert Neill, Dixie Ort, Amanda Rachau, Judy Ripka, Dean & Jean Rishel, The Ross Family, Brenda (Barb Rossman's sister), Shirley Rossman, Warren Royer, Doris Z. 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.*

### Special Fundraiser

Salem United Church of Christ is holding a special fundraiser for the 4 Our Churches Capital Campaign. The money raised for this campaign goes for towards 4 significant projects:

1. Beecher Memorial UCC in New Orleans
2. Church Vitality & New Churches
3. Outdoor Ministries (Hartman Center's multi-purpose building)
4. Our Future. Salem is hosting a Community Day at Hoss's restaurant in State College on September 10, 2008. This means that you present a Hoss's card on September 10 when you pay your bill and 20% of the total sale will go to Salem. You only need one card per party. To get a card, contact Donna Auman 422-8406, Janie Shook 349-5567 or Helen Sweeley 422-8996.

## Family Fellowship Kitchen Update



"Worker bees" are busy! "King Bee Bill" started us off with painting the kitchen. Good job! Since then the "worker bees" have been busy - Nan, Lori, Terry, Judy and Dixie. There are still some more cupboards to do, but the hall closet is finished and marked "who's who". This is a very time consuming job, but very necessary. Orvil built a cupboard for paper products and is going to make one for utensils. Knife holder also made by Orvil. With the help of Frank and others I do not know about, the kitchen will soon sparkle. If you haven't seen the kitchen, check it out.

My thanks to all the "bees" of St. Peter's and God Bless!

Once it is done, hope we can keep it organized - (neat & tidy)!

Dixie Ort



## Why go to church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this. If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

Why Go To Church? A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals, but I do know this . . . they

nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing. . . God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

## Pastoral Relations Committee

The committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to do the survey. THANK YOU! About thirty percent were returned, which was good. All good comments - some positive, some not - but good none the less. We plan to work from your comments and come up with some new approaches and introduce them this fall.

So come to church and find out what your participation can do. Who knows, when we do a survey again, maybe sixty percent will respond!

With the Love of Christ,  
Dave Sweeley, Chair



## Worship Times Schedule for 2008

September - December

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

Sunday School following worship

**Salem: Worship at 10:45 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/visitation.

For more information, please call 349-5094 or email at [aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net](mailto:aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net).