

The Pastor's Voice: "Blessed Past, Bold Future"

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the time has come for me to write my final Pastor's Voice article. There is so much I want to say on this page that I don't know where to begin. I have never done well with good-byes. I can assure you that November 11 will be an emotional day for me as well as my family, who will be with us that day.

For several months I have used the theme "Blessed Past, Bold Future" for these articles. I think this is an appropriate message for this month's epistle. This is a time for us to remember, but also to look with anticipation of what the future holds for St. John's.

Since I announced my resignation, I have taken time to reflect on my ministry with you. It has been a blessing from God to serve you and to work with you in the ministry that God has called us to do in this community and beyond. We have done some extraordinary work in reaching out to our community. We have supported a variety of mission projects and formed a relationship with a church in Namibia. We have enjoyed potluck suppers and lunches with the pastor. We have comforted and supported one another. We have tried new things in our worship services, which has enriched our spiritual lives. This is a small list of the things we have done over the past

eight years. We did them together! It wasn't just the pastor...it was all of you!

I hope on November 11 we can celebrate what we have done in ministry together over the past eight years. However, I also hope St. John's will be open to the Holy Spirit as you begin a time of transition. The Consistory will need your prayerful support as they search for an interim pastor. All of you will need to be supportive of that interim pastor. They will challenge you in many ways and I hope you will be receptive to their work with you.

As I leave you, I recognize several challenges that you face as a congregation. Let me share with you the top three that are on my mind:

First, St. John's is in need of younger people who will lead the congregation now and into the future. Our educational ministry is stagnant right now. There are very few children & youth who come to the Sunday morning activities. I've been very discouraged to see this happening and I take it personally at times. What can you do to turn this around?

The **second** challenge is stewardship, which has been a challenge for years. We must connect our spiritual lives with our financial giving. For several years now we have depended on fundraisers in order to meet our budget. I must be honest with you that this is a sign of a dying

church. In order for St. John's to have a bold & vital future, the congregation must stop relying on those fundraisers. We can't burn ourselves out with these fundraisers. We also can't expect people in the community to pay our bills.

The **third** challenge is to define our purpose as a congregation in 2013. How will St. John's spread the gospel in 2013 and beyond? Will you be committed to the work that God is calling you to do now and in the years to come? These are critical questions for you to discuss at this time.

It has been a blessed past! I am truly grateful that St. John's was my first church. I have learned a lot over the past eight years and I know I will carry that with me to East Petersburg and wherever God calls me to serve. I truly want St. John's to have a bold & vital future. This is why I felt it was time for me to get out of the way and allow someone with specific skills to work with you in responding to these challenges.

As we go forward, may we share the love of God, the peace of Christ and the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. As we go forward with our respective ministries, I hope we will all be open to the nudging of the Holy Spirit at this exciting time! As we have enjoyed a blessed past, I pray for a bold future!

Blessings,

Pastor Chris



Some familiar words as my benediction to you.

***God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide,
uphold you,
With a shepherd's care
enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you will we meet again.***

*Jeremiah Rankin, 1880
(No relation to me)*

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November Worship News

November 4 (23rd Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints Sunday): We will remember those in our church family and our extended family who have joined the church triumphant in the past year. We will celebrate Holy Communion in the pews. **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS....TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK!!**

November 11 (24th Sunday after Pentecost): This will be Pastor Rankin's final Sunday with us as our pastor. The service will conclude with the farewell liturgy from the UCC Book of Worship, which will be led by Rev. Len Knighton of the Lebanon Association's Church & Ministry Committee. This will be a celebration of Pastor Chris' eight years of ministry with us as well as a blessing for his future ministry and the future ministry of St. John's.

November 18 (25th Sunday after Pentecost): Our supply preacher will be Rev. Dr. Thomas Webster who was recently installed as our new Conference Associate Minister for Pastoral Leadership & Discernment. Dr. Webster will be working with the Consistory and the Search Committee in this transition time.



November 21 (Thanksgiving Eve): Our service will be held at St. Paul's UCC, Hamlin. Rev. Andrew Wilson will lead the service and Rev. Lynn Wetzel from Bethany Children's Home will be the preacher. Rev. Wetzel is our former seminarian and served as supply pastor in 2010 when Pastor Chris was on sabbatical. The offering will support the ministry of Bethany Children's Home.

November 25 (Christ the King Sunday): Our supply preacher will be Rev. Dr. Norman Bucher, pastor emeritus of Christ UCC, Annville. Dr. Bucher served as an Area Conference Minister for Penn Central Conference from 1974-1993.



Norman Bucher

Scriptures Readings for November



November 4

Isaiah 25:6-9

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

November 11

Isaiah 43:19-21

Philippians 3:12-4:1

Matthew 28:16-20

November 18

I Samuel 1:4-20

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 25

I Samuel 8:1-22

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

November Celebrations...

Happy Birthday to:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 MARGARET RUDY | 9 DYLAN KAPP | 24 ASHLEY CARROLL |
| 2 MARY GERHART | 10 DENA EBERHART | 27 WALTER BOLLES |
| 3 JESSICA YINGST | 12 DELANAE SHAFFER | 28 TERRY KNAPP |
| 4 PAT RENTSCHLER | 16 MICHIGAN DAUB | 29 LARRY FOX |
| 6 BARRY FOX | 19 ELIZABETH OVERTON | 30 VIOLET LEIBENSPERGER |
| 9 JILLIAN DITZLER | 22 EDITH TRAUTMAN | |

Happy Anniversary to:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 8 DARLENE & STEVE STOLTZ | 29 KADIE & JEFF WALMER |
| 24 ROSEANNE & WALTER BOLLES | |

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

November Readers

- Nov. 4– Neal Grimes
- Nov. 11– Anne-Hambrick-Stowe
- Nov. 18– Donnette Quairolì
- Nov. 25– Julie Ditzler

November Acolytes

- Nov. 4– Noah Gingrich
- Nov. 11– Jason Eberhart
- Nov. 18– Rachael Quairolì
- Nov. 25– Zachary Seltzer

September/October Attendance

- Sept. 30 - 56
- Oct. 7- 60
- Oct. 14 -70
- Oct. 21-67

November Bulletins

- 4– Gerald Rudy
- 11– Julie & Joe Ditzler
- 18– Terry & Ginny Knapp
- 25– Barb Trainor

November Flowers

- 4– Gerald Rudy
- 11– Julie & Joe Ditzler
- 18– Terry & Ginny Knapp
- 25– Barb Trainor

November Deacon

Missy Daub

November Coffee Hosts

Terry & Ginny Knapp

2013 Altar Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

The sign-up sheets for 2013 for the altar flowers and bulletin sponsors will soon be in the social hall. The bulletins will remain at \$10 a week.

ANNIVERSARY ERROR: Last month we forgot to include Butch & Shirley Rudy’s anniversary on October 18. We hope they had a blessed anniversary and we are sorry for this error!

Consistory News

By Robin Getz

As everyone is aware there is much going on at St. John's. If the Consistory is doing a good job, then each of you should not notice or feel too much of the changes that are happening.

We are currently in process of retaining an interim pastor to help us through the transition of Pastor Chris' departure and the hiring of a new pastor. This will be a challenge for us since there are not that many interims available. Dr. Thom Webster of the Penn Central Conference visited with us to give us the basics of what we have to look forward to and we were given the news that the average tenure of a pastor at any church these days is five years. So we were lucky that we had Pastor Chris longer than most. I guess the thought of a 25-year pastor is a thing of the past.

This month will be the annual congregational meeting which is when we will consider adopting our 2013 budget and add new people to Consistory who will continue their efforts for the benefit of our church. This meeting will be held after worship on November 25.

Another thing that we have been working diligently to accomplish is securing a permanent cleaning service. We are extremely thankful for all of those who have volunteered in keeping our church presentable with all of your hard efforts.

We also continue getting the basement completed. We have come a long way by finishing two classrooms and the nursery but we also believe it is time to spruce up the bathrooms and finish the common areas as well.

We have also began considering a more usable sign for our church, which may eliminate the need for the sandwich signs we have been using when announcing upcoming events. The optimal sign would have lighting as well and would be easily readable when driving up and down Main Street. We are also moving to have an AED station located in the social hall. In today's time it is important to be ready when a health crisis strikes.

Finally, we continue to rely on our neighbors (Bell & Evans) who have generously offered to light our parking area for the safety of our members and their workers as well. Hopefully we will see those changes in the very near future.

So you see there is much happening here in our little church, but I will also remind you that we are only as good as we can be because of you. You will remain our vision and I offer blessings to each of you who serve as our beacon of vision as we continue the work of the church!

Pastoral Coverage

The Consistory is working with Rev. Dr. Thom Webster from Penn Central Conference to secure an interim pastor. Please keep them in your prayers. In the meantime, Pastor Herb Hibshman and Pastor Andrew Wilson will cover pastoral emergencies from November 16-30. The Consistory will keep the congregation informed as the process unfolds. They will need your prayerful support and your willingness to help in this time of transition. You can reach Pastor Hibshman at 866-5390 and Rev. Wilson at 933-5571.

Tax Exempt Cards

By Walter Bolles

We have an additional tax exempt status with our local Wal-Mart store and Bortek. You may pick up a tax exempt ID card in the church office if you regularly purchase items for UCC from any of these providers. If you would like to add a provider to our list, please contact Walt or notify the church secretary.

SENIOR CHOIR NEWS by Louise Walmer

Every Wednesday evening the Sr. Choir is rehearsing music for the weekly Musical Offerings as well as the Advent and Christmas season. The Sr. Choir will be singing Musical Offerings on 3 Sundays during November.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 4 | “You Are Mine” |
| Nov. 11 | “Built on a Rock” and “Lift High the Cross” |
| Nov. 18 | “Walk by Faith” |



The Hand Bells are scheduled to play on Sun., Nov. 25.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee met on Tues., Oct. 9. Robin Getz led our devotion time.

Special thanks go to Dena Eberhart and Robin Gingrich for decorating the sanctuary for our Harvest Home celebration and the Autumn Season.

The Music and Worship Committee sponsored treats on Trick or Treat night on the church parking lot. We served hot chocolate and distributed candy. We are thankful to those who donated candy and assisted with this community outreach event. We hope to make this an annual event.

The memory of 30 members, family and friends of St. John's congregation will be celebrated at our All Saints Sunday Service on Nov. 4.

Plans are underway for the Christmas Program. This year the Music and Worship Committee and the Christian Education Committee have teamed up to present an inter-generational Christmas program. “The Christmas Guest”, is a musical adaptation of Markham's poem, “How the Great Guest Came”. The play will be presented during the morning worship service on Dec. 23. Rehearsals for the cast will be on Sundays after church beginning Nov. 18. The Sr. Choir will rehearse the music during their Wed. evening rehearsal time. A final “dress” rehearsal will be at 8:30AM on Sun., Dec. 23.

The next Music and Worship Committee meeting will be on Thurs., Nov. 15 at 7PM. Sharon Hibshman will have devotions.

St. John's Fellowship News By Ginny Knapp

St. John's Fellowship met on October 16. Louise Walmer conducted the business session. Jerry Mohn led the opening devotions reminding us of the many ways God is speaking to us every day.

Rita Christ, a member of the JOY Pantry of Jonestown, enlightened us on the many facets of this important mission. She thanked us for our regular giving and invited us to join in the volunteer program.

A new slate of officers for the coming year was elected. Those names to the posts were Peggy Mohn, president, Priscilla Rentschler, vice-president, Ginny Knapp, secretary, and Robin Gingrich, treasurer. Robin Gingrich will be getting the necessary information for the sale of the Christmas poinsettias.

The annual Christmas party will be held Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at the Farme's Wife Restaurant. A family style dinner will be served at a cost of \$15/meal.

Congregational Life News *By Ginny Knapp*

Mother nature gave us a splendid day to enjoy our Fall Frolic at Pat & Earl Ziegler's farm on Sunday. We could not have planned a better day for this activity. Hot dogs, pork BBQ and whoopie pies all added to the perfection of the day.

Our next venture will be Christmas caroling for our shut-in's. A time and more details, will follow at a later date.

Plan now to attend our "Birthday Social" on Saturday, February 23, 2013. A few tables are still available. Please note; you do "not" need to sit at your birth month table. Hostesses for the tables will seat you wherever you want to be. Julie Ditzler and Wendy Dorsey are planning the program. It should be a riot!

The fellowship will hold the Holiday Party for residents of Cedar Haven on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 7pm. Soft cookies and finger jello will be served along with the punch. Each resident will receive a box of tissues.

Members were asked to remember the church's invitation to the community's "Trick or Treat" night on October 31st. Candy and helpers are needed! It was announced a Pot-Luck luncheon will be held on November 11, 2012, after the morning worship services to say "goodbye" to Pastor Rankin.

The Christmas Avon sale is underway with orders and monies to be collected October 28, 2012 and delivery the week of November November 5th. Our next meeting will be held on February 19, 2013. The November meeting will be at Cedar Haven and the December Christmas part will be our meeting for that month. Please come join us as we entertain the Cedar Haven residents and enjoy the

Pastor Chris' Farewell Lunch/Program by Julie Ditzler

Our Celebration with Pastor Chris

We are hoping to make our final Sunday with Pastor Chris as our minister, a time of celebration and thanks. On Sunday, November 11th, our plans begin with a potluck dinner after our worship service. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for both attending the dinner, and for providing a dish or dessert. Any questions about the potluck should be directed to Peggy Mohn.

After the dinner, we are planning a program to remember the ministry we've shared together during the past eight years. If you have a favorite story or pictures or any other kind of memorabilia to include as part of this program, please speak to Julie Ditzler or Louise Walmer.

We have invited area ministers and other friends of our congregation to join us for this special occasion. Please plan to attend and be part of this special day in the life of our church family!



FROM THE CHRISTIAN ED. CORNER by Angela Michael

Thanks to Melissa Seltzer for organizing the youth and family trip to the Risser Marvel Corn Maze on October 27.

As we look ahead the Christian Education Committee has a new and/or returning items on the agenda that you can look forward to as the holiday season ramps up. Many of you know that the annual nut sale is in progress--we did the sale slightly differently this year. The pre-orders for the nuts are in and by the time you read this the nuts may have already arrived. The pre-orders will be delivered and the remaining nuts will be for sale following worship as they have been in the past. These supplies may be limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Secondly as we get ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior this advent season, I want to share with you a preview of the intergenerational advent workshop and project. Advent will kick off December 2 with an intergenerational workshop during Christian Connection in which we'll learn about the Prince of Peace and how to fold paper cranes.

There is a tradition in which the folding or collecting of 1,000 paper cranes insures the fulfillment of a wish. Many years ago a young Japanese girl named Sadako, who suffered from leukemia that many thought was the result of the after effects of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Japan during World War II when she was two years old, folded 1,000 paper cranes. Sadako's wish was that she wanted to live. Unfortunately, she died when she was only 16 years old, and, in her memory, her friends and classmates continued folding paper cranes. Theirs was a prayer, and it was a prayer for peace. Today many people around the world fold cranes for Sadako and for peace. This year throughout the month of December St. John's will be folding paper cranes--we have set a goal of 500 cranes.

This will be a church wide effort, and I hope you all will support this project and help us reach our goal of 500 paper cranes. Throughout December the cranes will grace our sanctuary as they are folded and strung into garlands.

During January all of our cranes will be on display at the Matthews Public Library in Fredericksburg. I encourage you to speak to me or to a committee member if you have any questions or if you would like to learn how to fold a paper crane. We'll be folding them during Circle Time!, Christian Connection (on December 2), and we'll be available before and after church to teach interested members to how to fold a crane.

CHRISTIAN CONNECTION SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

During the month of November the children will be learning about "**Jesus Heals 10 Lepers: A story of thanksgiving and healing.**" Scripture: **Leviticus: 13:40-46 and Luke 17:11-19.** Teachers for these Sundays are TBD and will be posted on the bulletin board in the social hall.

November 4: games--children will play tag and/or 'Jesus, May I?'

November 11: Operation Christmas Child shoebox wrapping continues! Children's Worship attendant TBD.

November 18: crafts--children will thank someone important to them by making thank you cards.

November 25: music/puppets--children will participate in a musical puppet skit.

CIRCLE TIME SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

November 4: Pastor Herb & Sharon Hibshman

November 11: No Circle Time! Operation Christmas Child shoebox wrapping commences at 8:30 a.m.

November 18: Neal & Jean Ann Grimes

November 25: TBD

November Youth Event:

Wednesday, Nov. 21 & Thursday, Nov. 22: The Annual Thanksgiving Lock-in & Youth Breakfast; Doors open at the church at 9:00 p.m. On Thursday morning the youth will attend the annual youth breakfast at a UCC church in Lebanon county. Scott Benfer and Chris Wanner will be organizing and chaperoning; please see one of them if you have any questions. There will also be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

MISSIONS NEWS

ANNUAL PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

The Missions Committee will once again be sponsoring a pancake and sausage breakfast on **November 3 from 7-10am**. The cost is \$5 with children under 8 years old eating free. The proceeds from this breakfast will help send the shoeboxes through Operation Christmas Child.

Neighbors In Need Offering Report

Thanks to everyone who gave to the Neighbors in Need offering in October. We received **\$405** which the UCC will use to support their ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States!

UPCOMING MISSION OFFERINGS

The Missions Committee is planning to receive some special mission offerings in the next two months:

Blanket Sundays on Nov. 18 & 25. Church World Service will be able to send blankets to people in need. For every \$5 given we are able to send a blanket!

Budget & Stewardship News by Neal Grimes

The Budget Committee met on Wednesday, October 10, 2012. The budget was completed at that meeting. It will be presented at the October Consistory meeting for their review and input. August and September 2012 figures are listed below:

	Aug. (4 weeks)	Sept. (4 weeks)*		Aug. (4 weeks)	Sept. (4 weeks)*
Envelopes	\$7,817.00	\$7,618.00			
Loose plate	\$ 437.00	\$ 384.25			
Fundraisers		\$ 70.82			
Bulletins	\$ 15.00	\$ 40.00			
Women's Fellowship	\$ 1,250.00	\$1,250.00			
Men's Fellowship		\$ 828.47			
Christian Ed.	\$ 733.13				
Misc. Contributions	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00			
Interest		\$ 2.53			
Aug. Totals:	\$10,267.83	Sept. Totals:	\$10,209.07		
Aug. Expenses	\$ 6,824.91	Sept. Expenses	\$10,209.15		
Profit/Loss	\$3,442.92	Profit/Loss	(\$ 0.08)		

*Hinkelfest week was not included.

Our weekly budget offerings are projected to be \$2,250.00 in the months of August & September. We averaged \$2,032.12. YTD we are averaging \$2,195.86



Christmas Fund Offering on December 16 & 23. This offering supports retired clergy and lay employees who have supported the ministry of our local churches over the years.

We hope that you will be generous with these special mission offerings.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

by Donnette Quairoli

Reminder that the Fundraising Committee will have tickets for pies from November 5-19. Tickets are for Country Fare in Myerstown. Anyone can sell these tickets...not just the fundraising committee members...we will also be selling potato filling for Thanksgiving as well.

Thanks to everyone who supported our R&K sub sale in October! Don't forget our monthly Dine and Donate at Esther's on November 25. You can enjoy lunch after the congregational meeting. St. John's receives 20% of your bill when you use your Dine and Donate card!

Operation Christmas Child by Julie Ditzler

Our final donations and preparations for Operation Christmas Child will take place during early November. Please plan to support the Pancake Breakfast on November 3rd, to raise funds for the shipping of our boxes. If you wish to make a separate donation toward the total we need, please see Julie Ditzler or Pastor Chris.

Because of the larger number of shoeboxes we are filling, and the fact that November 11th will be a busy morning, we are going to ask our package wrappers to begin around 8:00 a.m. We will have a fun time, as always, with plenty of food, music, and holiday cheer. We are hoping for lots of willing hands to help us in this happy work!

NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

THE LEBANON VALLEY HOME'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The annual holiday bazaar will be held on November 17 from 9am-1pm in the chapel of The Lebanon Valley Home, 550 E. Main St., Annville. There will be craft items as well as home-made goodies for sale. There will be hot dogs, sauerkraut, soup, and drinks. They are in need of cookies that will be sold by the pound. If you would be interested in making cookies, please drop them off at the main entrance by November 16. If you want your container returned, please put your name on it and you can pick up in the office the week after the bazaar. For any other questions, contact Amy Tillinger at 867-4467 ext.2024

Report On The UCC Homes Auxiliary Fundraiser At Boscov's

Thank You to the following people who purchased a Boscov's Card to support the UCC Homes Auxiliary:

Pat Ziegler	Regina Engler
Joyce Myers	Kathryn Myers
Madelyn Fegan	Arlene Walmer
Jane Boyer	Peggy Mohn
Louise Walmer	Pastor Rankin
Jean Ann Grimes	Gail Grimes
Ginny Knapp	

CONCERTS AT ST. PAUL'S UCC, SUMMER HILL

Pastor Brad Walmer has invited us to St. Paul's UCC for two concerts in November.

Re-Creation on Nov. 10 at 7pm: This concert will feature a group of young people who perform in VA Medical Centers and Hospitals across the country. Come celebrate God's great love through the songs of our Christian Heritage!

Watoto Children's Choir on Nov. 24 at 7pm. You will enjoy beautiful music from this African Children's Choir!

St. Paul's is located at 1235 Summer Hill Rd., Auburn, PA. If you need directions, speak to Louise or Larry Walmer.

LEBANON ASSOCIATION NEWS

At the recent Lebanon Association meeting, Pastor Herb Hibshman was elected to serve an unexpired term on the Outreach Committee. St. John's is blessed to have other members serving on committees: Louise Wamer-Parish Life; Neal Grimes-Church & Ministry; Regina Engler-Nominating. Pastor Rankin completed his term on the Nominating Committee and Association Vice-President.

Rev. Dr. Chris Rodkey, pastor of Zion (Goshter's) UCC will be leaving to become pastor of St. Paul's UCC in Dallstown. We hold the Rodkey family and Zion (Goshter's) UCC in our prayers during this time of transition.

Volunteer Opportunities at The Lebanon Valley Home

The Lebanon Valley Home, one of the UCC Homes, is looking for some volunteers. They need volunteers to help with bingo, lead Bible study, to visit with residents and to help push people in wheelchairs to various activities. St. John's has several people who currently volunteer at The Lebanon Valley Home. Pat Rentschler helps with bingo and Regina Engler leads Bible Study. If you would like to help these ladies and other volunteers with this important ministry, you can reach the following people at The Lebanon Valley Home:

Ms. Amy Tillinger (Director of Lifestyle Services) at 867-4467 ext.2024 or atillinger@ucc-homes.org

Rev. Ed Dickel (Chaplain) at 867-4467 ext. 2019 or edickel@ucc-homes.org



We want extend congratulations to Missy Zaprazny and Anthony Lynam on the birth of their son, Levi Daniel Lynam, on September 28! We wish God's blessings on Missy, Anthony, Levi and older brother Bailey.

We want to extend congratulations to Taylor Gingrich for being inducted into The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Temple University Chapter on October 14.

Thank You Note

On behalf of myself, my daughter-in-law, Kelly Herr and her family, I would like to thank everyone for their cards, emails and prayers during Kelly's battle with breast cancer. Kelly is now cancer free. Thanks be to God!

She has to go through radiation treatments and reconstruction surgery, but the hardest part is over. Your support, concerns and prayers were greatly appreciated by all of us. Thank you all so much and God Bless!

Gail Grimes

Words of Sympathy

We learned recently that Eleanor Yiengst's brother, Park Bailor, Jr., died in August. We belatedly extend our sympathy to Eleanor and her family as they continue to mourn their loss.

*"For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest:
Alleluia! Alleluia!"*

Men of St. John's

We will meet for breakfast at Esther's on November 11 at 7:30am Hope to see you there!

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

Our last luncheon with Pastor Chris will be held on November 13 from noon-1pm. As we have done for the past 8 years, you bring a sandwich and the pastor will provide other food. He will probably even make some soup! We will conclude our time with a brief communion service. We hope to see you there!



Pastor Chris

Gospel Singers at Cedar Haven by Regina Engler

Just like Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and your birthday, there's a special event that happens just once each year and YOU may be a part of it. It's that time of the year to bring pre-holiday cheer to the residents at Cedar Haven. We've been told that it's the favorite program of the year for them.

As in former years, a group of singers will take to the stage with gospel hymns, accompanied on guitar by our friend, Howard Lee. While that is going on, some volunteers will be preparing to serve refreshments & others will be visiting each floor to drop off a gift box of Kleenex for each of the residents.

This year's event is schedule for **Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 7pm**. The rehearsal for the singers will be held on Monday, November 12 at 7pm at UCC.

Those who have helped in the past have witnessed the joy on the faces of these men & women who call Cedar Haven their "home". They often help to sing along while they enjoy the soft cookies and finger jello provided by our congregation.

Please consider this a "personal invitation" from St. John's Fellowship to do one or more of the following:

>Help sing, Bake some soft cookies, or Make a batch finger jello

You could bring the cookies and/or jello with you to church when you attend the rehearsal on November 12th. Sounds like a plan?



From Robin's Nest to Yours

By: Robin L. Getz



Here we are entering November and by the looks of things, the weather certainly will support and confirm that it is in fact that time of the year. November is always associated primarily with Thanksgiving. In 2008 when I first began writing these articles I touched on this season by encouraging everyone to get involved with their church and give all that they have to offer where their time and talents were concerned. To challenge your own individual limits and find ways to go beyond your comfort level. There are so many things that can fall in this category and money has nothing to do with it.

This time around it will be no different. We will be searching for an interim pastor to lead us on the quest at securing a full time pastor. We are very fortunate to have many clergy as members and by association to this congregation that have offered their time and talents. We have very many gifted lay members who will also give when called upon. As you recall when we honored Michelle for her seven years of service with us I referenced the beautiful banner that now adorns our sanctuary and noted how each week we have noticed changes, just as we do with our seasons outside, the green leaves are falling and the foliage colors changing. I commented at that time that the only constant we will have in life is change, but that we will always have the memories of those who have touched our lives and become part of our St. John's family. The change of replacing those who have been called to other things will always happen and we will always need to repeat exactly where we are at right now, but those that have been called away will always remain tucked away in a portion of our hearts.

I am sure that we have all noticed that as more of our youth continue their educational paths at college and we find less youth filling their shoes times have become critical for our small church. There are always concerns when we move forward with new things, new approaches and new people. We will always have worries that we will lose the ability to seek or mend our spiritual life without having the security of consistency. We

will always worry whether or not our future is as bright as it once had been, but then we must always put those challenges in God's hands in many cases. Just as we find in many of the books of the Bible, both God and his son Jesus have challenged us to let go of the things that have little or no value and follow Him.

This past week some of us (where I work) were talking randomly in general while we were eating lunch. We eventually got onto the subject of how expensive things are and how we remember when there was a time when mothers stayed home as one income per household was enough. We talked about how the staples of our early memories were bread and potatoes whatever meat we raised and butchered or hunted and killed were brought to the table to feed many. As a youngster there was never any thought of what it cost, or what it took to get it there, you were just thankful that you had a hot meal to eat that would sustain you for many hours to come. As the youngest sitting at the table it was very rare that I finished eating (I was always the poky one) and had dibs at seconds. Mom always knew just how much to make with very little waste. It was funny to learn that this was something the 50 and over crowd experienced, but the younger members sitting at the lunch table did not. Some are always fascinated by the stories we recall during those times, just as I had been when the older members of my family recalled walking to school in 6' of snow for 5 miles uphill. We also talked about how hard it was when we married and moved on our own and began our own families and what sacrifices we needed to make to be good providers. We never noticed the lines of worry on our parents or grand-

parents faces because for us life was good. We did our chores, and played with our friends and just went along in life carefree Thankful that we were able to enjoy what life had to offer. We had our parents, our health, friends and just days of joy that it just didn't get any better. The worst thing that faced us was having to get up early every day and go to school. How very simple our life was then.

Later in the evening I remember thinking of that conversation and then remembering Mark 10:17-24 where Jesus spoke with a man who asked for eternal life. Jesus asked him to sell all of his worldly possessions and then to follow Him. The man could not part with his great wealth. This made me think of that conversation of how there was a time when mothers stayed at home. Has our world become so chaotic that we cannot live with the necessities but we need to have so much more? Have we lost sight of being Thankful for what God has offered to us that as long as our hearts are pure and we have given all that we can give, we too will have life eternal?

So as we start a new page in our Christian life here at St. John's, as we pray for the guidance we will need in searching for a new pastor, let us all remove from our thoughts those things that are not important and focus on what is. Remember that our life will have the constant of change and the realization of permanence by believing that God will grant us eternal life as long as we make the right choices. And most important to truly be Thankful for all of the wonderful blessings that we have received.

May I extend to each of you and your families my wish for Christian Love and peace and a wonderful Thanksgiving season.

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 7-10am Pancake Breakfast
4 8:30am Circle Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30am Worship All Saints'	5 Pie & Potato filling sale starts	6	7 12noon Bible study 6pm Missions 7pm Choir & AA	8	9	10
11 8:30am Cir. Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Pastor Chris Last Sun. svc. activities	12 7pm Cedar Haven singers rehearsal	13 12pm Final Lunch w/Pastor 7pm Cedar Ha- ven Holiday event	14 12noon Bible study 7pm Choir Re- hearsal & AA mtg	15 7pm Music & Worship	16 Dec. 2012 Voice Deadline	17 9am-1pm Annual Holiday Bazaar @ Leb Valley Home
18 8:30am Cir. Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30am Worship	19	20	21 7pm AA mtg 7pm Worship Svc at Hamlin 9pm Youth "Lock- in"	22 7am-Youth Breakfast	23	24
25 8:30am Cir. Time 9am Christian Connection 10:30am Worship Congregational Meeting Esther's Dine & Donate	26 7pm Consisto- ry Meeting	27	28 7pm Choir Re- hearsal & AA mtg	29	30	

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Soon

Our Women's Fellowship once more is providing the opportunity for you to order poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary in celebration of the birthday of our Lord.

Please indicate how many plants you want to provide and give this order sheet and the money to Robin Gingrich or Gail Grimes no later than Sunday, *December 2*. You may also mail in your order no later than November 28th. The cost is \$8.00 per plant, each plant having 5 blooms and the color choices are as follows:

	<u>How Many?</u>
<u>Red</u> _____	_____
<u>White</u> _____	_____
<u>Pink</u> _____	_____
<u>Monet (pink/white mix shade)</u>	_____
<u>Total Plants</u>	_____
<u>Total Cost</u>	\$ _____

Your Name: _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In The Glory of God _____

**Order forms and checks payable to: St. John's United Church of Christ
Women's Fellowship, PO Box 87, Fredericksburg, PA 17026**



St. John's United Church of Christ

St. John's United Church of Christ
141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

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St. John's United Church of Christ

St. John's United Church of Christ
141 W. Main Street P.O. Box 87
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

Church Phone # 717-865-7222
Pastor's Numbers 717-274-1770 (H); 717-575-0286 (C)
E-mail stjohnsucc@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccfburg.org

Every Sunday
8:30am Circle Time
9:00am Christian connection
10:30am Morning Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.

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Rev. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director
Ms. Gloria Herneisey, Secretary

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