

The Voice

St. John's United Church of Christ, 141 W. Main St.
Fredericksburg Pa, 17026

September 2012

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

Dear Friends,

You may recall in my last Voice article that I used the theme of the Penn Central Conference's 50th anniversary as the theme for my pastor's voice article. I would like to continue to use that theme this month as we reflect on the summer and look to the fall events.

It is hard to believe that the summer is a thing of the past already! The kids are back in school and our summer vacations are now just memories! I hope all of you were excited about our wonderful events this summer. We connected with many people through our Tuesday evening programs. You will find a report about those events in this newsletter.

One of the exciting things that I have noticed this summer is the visitors who have been attending worship. I believe some of these people noticed our church through the Tuesday evening programs. The really exciting thing is that they have been returning for morning worship. As we celebrate the blessed past of this summer, we can look to a bold future as new people come through our green doors!

Another joy of the blessed past of the summer was our intergenerational Christian Connection lessons. Dena Eberhart led a study on the work of Heifer International, which was our summer mission project. Through our giving we are able to provide a bold future for someone in need. Sharon Hibshman helped us make a worship banner that focuses on the theme of harvest and thanksgiving. We will boldly proclaim our faith for years to come with a new worship banner adorning our sanctuary.

We are now ready for some fun things in the fall. We will kick-off Rally Day weekend with some youth activities on September 8. Our Christian Connection will be starting on Rally Day, September 9. The Senior Choir will return from hiatus and add their voices to our worship services.

As the summer ended, our hearts were heavy with the passing of Wayne Rentschler. However, we know that the "gum man" will live on through the many stories that we will tell to those who come through our green doors. As we celebrate the blessed past of those who have gone before,

we must be intentional about the ministry of St. John's now so there will be a bold future for this church!

I am proud to share with you that St. John's is a member of the Parish Resource Center in Lancaster, which was paid for through by an anonymous donor. As a member of the PRC we will be able to attend workshops and other events that will help St. John's have a bold and exciting future!

However, with this excitement, I must also share with you a heartfelt announcement. It is with a heavy heart that I have submitted my resignation as pastor of St. John's. You can read the letter on page 2. I am sure that many of you have questions or concerns about this announcement. I want you to know that my door is always open to talk with you about this decision. However, I believe that this is an exciting time for St. John's and for me. In my reflection on eight years as your pastor, I can honestly say it has been a blessed past. However, I believe that it is time for me to move forward in my own ministry and allow God to call a new person to lead you so that St. John's will have a bold future. I hope and pray that you will be supportive of me as well as be open to the Holy Spirit in this transition. It will not be easy for all of us, but God will help us through! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Chris



Worship News	3
Celebrations & Worship Volunteers	4
Financial & Fundraising News	5
Christian Ed. News Thank You Notes	6-7
Music News Church Life News	9-10
Missions & Wider Church News	11
Robin's Nest	12

A Pastoral Letter

August 27, 2012

Dear Members of St. John's UCC,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The prophet Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Of course, we know that Isaiah said, "Here I am; send me!" Each of us has received a call to ministry and hopefully when the Lord calls us we will respond the same way that Isaiah did. I received the call eight years ago to become the pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ and now the Lord has called me to a new ministry. Therefore, it is with heartfelt thoughts that I resign as pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ effectively November 30, 2012. My last Sunday will be November 11 and my last day in the office will be November 15. I will take the remaining two weeks as vacation.

The decision to leave St. John's was not taken lightly. After prayerful consideration and conversations with Anne and my family, I realized that this was a good time for me to accept another call. Therefore, I have been called to be the pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in East Petersburg. This transition in ministry will allow me to move to Lancaster County to be closer to my family, which is very important following my brother's sudden death last year. This is also a good move since Anne and the kids have settled in the Lancaster area.

As I reflect on my eight years as your pastor, there are several memories for me. The significant highlight for me is our sense of mission beyond the four walls of the church. I was delighted when the congregation decided to engage in a partnership with a church in Namibia. I have been ecstatic with the extraordinary work we have done in the community, which did not exist eight years ago. We have "Takin' It To The Streets" as well as sponsored summer programs for families in the community. These are the kind of things that Trinity UCC has not been doing and are now interested in exploring ways they can connect with their community. Therefore, I feel like a missionary from St. John's who is now being sent to help another congregation connect with their community.

The most important and the most difficult thing for me to think about at this time are the relationships I have formed at St. John's. You have been good to me and my family over the years. You supported us after the deaths of my grandmother and my brother. You have accepted Anne, Zachary, and Rachel with open arms. I have enjoyed the fellowship opportunities, especially all of those potluck suppers and lunches with the pastor! Your love and care for one another is contagious and I hope future pastors will have the same experience.

I plan to be faithful and diligent as your pastor until November 15. I want you to know that I am available if you have questions or concerns about the next steps for St. John's during this transition time. I can inform you that Rev. Dr. Thom Webster, Conference Associate Minister for Pastoral Leadership & Discernment of the Penn Central Conference, will work with the Consistory in securing an interim pastor and later will work with the search committee as they seek a new pastor for St. John's. I plan to assist Dr. Webster and the Consistory in any way that I can, but I also must respect the proper pastoral boundaries and protocol. Dr. Webster will lead worship at St. John's on November 18.

As I depart from St. John's, I take all of you with me through the countless memories that we have shared over the past eight years. I hope we can continue to keep in touch. However, I must be upfront in saying that I promise to not intrude upon the interim pastor and my future successors. I obviously want the best for St. John's and I will always hold you in prayer.

In the meantime, let us continue to do the ministry that God has called us to do at this time.

Blessings,

Rev. Christopher M. Rankin

September Worship News

Worship Highlights for September

September 2 (14th Sunday after Pentecost): James urges Christians to be doers of the word and not merely hearers. He extols generosity and charitableness, so how are we as doers of the word? We will celebrate communion at the altar with Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe (Anne's mother) assisting. Aleta Babe & Michelle Jackson will provide the musical offering.

September 9 (15th Sunday after Pentecost/Rally Day): The young people of the church will assist with the worship service. We will commission the Christian Connection teachers during the worship service. The Heifer Project boxes will be received and our worship banner will be dedicated.

September 16 (16th Sunday after Pentecost): We will not have worship at St. John's because we are invited to join our brothers and sisters in Christ for an ecumenical worship service at Firemen's Park as part of the Hinkelfest activities. Rev. Jim McNair, the new pastor at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, will be the preacher. Their service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to bring a canned good item that will be donated to the JOY food pantry in Jonestown.

September 23 (17th Sunday after Pentecost): The third chapter of James begins with the qualities of teachers and the power of words for good and for ill. Then James speaks about the two paths that one can follow in life. One path is the way to worldly wisdom and the other is heavenly wisdom. One path leads to death while the other is humble and fruitful.

September 30 (18th Sunday after Pentecost): Our readings from James conclude with a picture of the early church caring for those who are sick and disabled. How can we be challenged by these words from James?

Scripture Readings for September

September 2

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 23

James 3:1-4:3

Mark 9:30-37

September 9

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

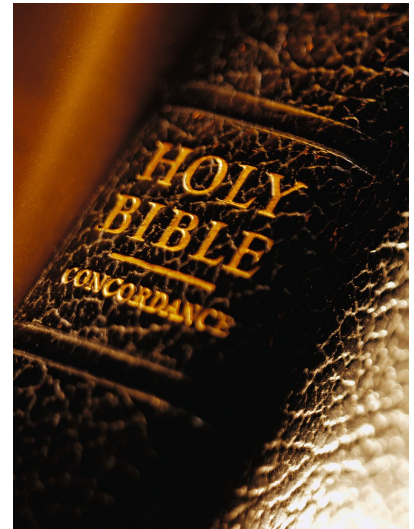
September 30

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

September 16

Hinkelfest Service



September 2012 Celebrations...

Happy Birthday to:

2 Courtney Marinkov
3 Chester Michael
4 Neal Grimes
9 Robin Gingrich
12 Al Fortna
13 Ann Mulholland

14 Chelsea Michael
14 Kaitlin Fegan
16 Regan Lynn Walmer
17 Wyatt Hevel
17 Megan Nace
25 Noah Gingrich

25 Barry Fox, Jr.
27 Emily Rentschler
28 Adam Martin
30 Julie Ditzler

Happy Anniversary to:

1 Cynda & John Kless
4 Judy & Larry Fox
6 Steve & Amy Zechman
9 Darlene & Rodney Boltz

12 Pam & Roger Myers
13 Joan & Bob Losiewicz
20 Cindy & Chester Michael
20 Elizabeth Overton & Philip Brewer

27 Louise & Larry Walmer
29 Mildred & Al Schriver
29 John & Yvette Oskam

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

September Readers

2-Wendy Dorsey
9-Robin Getz (Rally Day)
16-Hinkelfest
23-Steve Zechman
30-Gail Grimes

September Acolytes

2-Rachael Quairol
9 -Zachary Seltzer
16-Hinkelfest
23 -Dylan Walmer
30 -Noah Gingrich

July/August Attendance

July 1-70
July 8-85
July 15-62
July 22-61
July 29-61

September Bulletins

2-Loretta Lutz
9- Christian Education
16- Hinkelfest
23- Loretta Lutz
30-Pastor Rankin

September Flowers

2- Loretta Lutz
9- Christian Education
16- Hinkelfest
23- Loretta Lutz
30- Larry & Louise Walmer

August 5-64
August 12-48
August 19-75
August 26-88

September Deacon

Amy Zechman

September Coffee Hosts

September 2 & 9: Paul Smith & Dan Wenger
September 23 & 30: Arlene Walmer & Gerald Rudy

Welcome Aboard!

In July we welcomed Gloria Herneisey as our new church secretary. If you have not met Gloria, please stop or give her a call at the church office!

Budget & Stewardship Committee News Update

By Neal Grimes

The budget committee has not been active since our May 2012 meeting. By the time this newsletter is mailed to our members, we will have met to begin our annual process of putting together the proposed budget for 2012.

Here is the most recent breakdown for our weekly offerings (the month of June 2012).

Offerings (4 weeks):

Envelopes	\$ 8,206.00
Loose Plate	\$ 810.72
June 2012 Totals	\$ 9,016.72

Our weekly budget offerings are projected to be \$ 2,250.00. For the month of June 2012 we averaged \$ 2,254.18. YTD we are averaging \$ 2,235.84.

CONSISTORY NEWS

By Robin Getz

On behalf of the members of Consistory I wish to extend my appreciation to all who were responsible for organizing and manning the Tuesday evening events that let up to our fifth annual National Night Out. Even though I personally was unable to attend National Night Out this year I have heard rave reviews of the good time had by all.

I am happy to report that the nursery is back in order and ready for use. As special thanks to all of those who gave their Saturday morning to come to our work party as part of that effort. There is still work to be done and another date will be set. It is time to organize and wash the kitchen cabinets again. Some labels are missing and we may need to look at marking the contents again. There will be discussion concerning what we need to do to finish the basement area and to spruce up our downstairs' bathrooms.

We will also be actively looking to our members to work through a survey of sorts as part of an effort to fully understand where the church is at. Where it is going and what still needs to be done. I see the church as our body and without occasional visits to make sure we are doing what we can to keep it healthy we are not being good stewards. You have selected us to serve in this capacity and we must continue to do what we can to make sure your voice continues to be heard. Don't be surprised if you receive a call or a visit during Sunday social time.

We are glad to report that both a grill was purchased for church functions as well as a hose and caddy. This should make things much easier for all who spend the time making our grounds the beautiful place they are in our community. We also approved to allow the Northern Lebanon Recreation and Parks Commission to use our social hall for a preschool program on Friday mornings from 9:30-10:45am from October 26-December 7.

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!



Fundraising News

Thanks to everyone who went to Texas Roadhouse on August 9. We raised \$70.45 for the church!

Don't forget about our fundraising event each month at Esther's Diner. It is called our "Dine & Donate" program. Just stop in & eat on the 4th Sunday of each month and 20% of your purchase comes back to the church. So save your appetites for Sunday's meal & help your church at the same time—eat at Esther's on Sept. 23, 2012 & have some fun!

From the Christian Education Corner by Angela Michael

A busy summer for Christian Education has come to a close, but we look forward to many exciting things in the coming months. We have several items in the planning stages; new and fun activities, youth events, the Christmas program and the 2013 children's rotation workshops.

We hosted some very successful Tuesday programs in July/August with over 80 people in attendance at the carnival. The majority of those in attendance were members of the community. I want to thank everyone involved with helping to organize and run these events (there are many people who helped out). Without your help and support, these events would not have been possible.

Things to look forward to this month: Saturday, September 8, 2012, the youth will take part in the Annual Car Wash / Bake Sale, followed by a picnic. Please see Pastor Chris, Julie Ditzler or Robin Getz, if you have any questions regarding this event. This event was moved from August to September to coincide with Rally Day on September 9, when the regular Christian Connection schedule of adult and children's classes resumes.

The teens' class, fearlessly led by Robin Getz, will also return on September 9, after a length hiatus. I encourage children of all ages, teens and adults to come out for Christian Connection that day and don't forget to bring a friend!

September also kick starts the Fall with new and fun youth events, please stay tuned for more details to follow regarding this schedule.

I will resume scheduling people for teaching the children's rotation workshops and sponsoring the Circle Time refreshments & devotions. If you'd like to get involved in teaching, Circle Time, refreshments and/or youth events, please see me at church. We always welcome & encourage people to get involved.



Young people are making their own puppets after the puppet show on July 24. They are also enjoying some ice cream and other snacks!

Christian Connection Workshop Rotation Schedule for September 2012

Throughout the month of September, the children will be learning about the story of Zachaeus, "the wee little man". Teachers are TBD and this month's teaching schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the social hall.

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10



September 9: "Rally Day" with storytelling

September 16: Hinkelfest (**NO CIRCLE TIME! or Christian Connection**). Come join us at the Hinkelfest for the community worship service.

September 23: craft

September 30: game

RALLY DAY ACTIVITIES

By Julie Ditzler

Plans are underway to kick off our Rally Day activities on Saturday, September 8, 2012 with some youth events in the afternoon. We will be holding a Bake Sale & Car Wash here at the church from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We are asking all bakers & everyone with a dirty car, to come out & support the kids in this project! Thereafter, we will be going to Lion's Park to play vol-

leyball together, have devotions & a picnic in the park pavilion. Kids of all ages are welcome to attend. Parents are invited to join us around 4:00 p.m. if they would like to come. We plan to talk about the upcoming year and the events we have planned for fellowship. If you know of anyone who would like to attend; maybe a neighbor, a friend, a family member,

please speak to Robin Getz, Julie Ditzler or Pastor Chris, so that an invitation may be sent along with them.

Let's use this "Rally Day" to launch a great year of fun and fellowship for the kids who attend St. John's and their friends!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

By Julie Ditzler

As you continue your shopping for back to school this year, don't forget to look for bargains that can be used to fill our shoe boxes in the next several months. Items like pencils, tablets, notebooks, crayons and markers are all available at discount prices right now. We will begin to collect these items at church in October, which of course, will be here before we know it! The good news is we already have 64 shoe boxes under the

table in the social room! We are going to be discussing that and decide whether or not we want to increase our goal this year, since we have such a fine start. I will report on that decision and on our schedule for the overall project, in the next edition of *The Voice* newsletter.



Thank You:

To everyone who supported me with get well wishes, cards, food, prayer and love. I had a serious fall on June 23rd. I received outpatient physical therapy for a while and recently have been able to start doing them at home instead.

*Thank you again,
Kathryn Myers*

Thank You Note From Steph Warlow

Dear St. John's Family:

Thank you so much for generously supporting the needs of the precious little ones in Africa. Your loving kindness is a big encouragement to me and life saving for them. I would not be who I am today without you and all the love you gave me throughout my upbringing and even now. How richly God has blessed me through you!

My sincere gratitude, Steph.



DO you know who this is?
Guess.....

Do you recognize the person in the hard hat? It's Jillian Ditzler! This picture appeared in the company newsletter of McCarthy Construction, the firm in Atlanta that Jillian has been working for as an intern since January. Her friend Sydney, who has visited us at St. John's, works for an organization called Creative Enterprises in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Sydney's mother, Leigh McIntosh, is executive director of the facility, which provides social, vocational, and economically-independent programs for adults with a number of disabilities, ranging from mental or emotional problems to physical disabilities. When Jillian saw that the Creative facility needed renovations, she pitched the project to her company's community involvement program, Heart Hats. The work that they did at Creative included replacing old carpet, refinishing and painting walls, and converting several small rooms into one large classroom. Future plans include new tile flooring and additional shelving for the thrift store. We are very proud of the initiative Jillian took in bringing this project to fruition, and wanted to let you know of the wonderful job that the Atlanta branch of St. John's is doing in furthering our mission!

WORDS OF SYMPATHY

In the last issue of the Voice, I (Pastor Chris), forgot to list **Walter & Roseanne Bolles** in our list of members to hold in prayer as they mourn the loss of a loved one. We continue to pray for the Bolles family as they mourn the loss of their son-law, Mark Moyer, who died at the beginning of June.

We also pray for **Pastor Herb & Sharon Hibshman** who grieve the loss of Sharon's aunt, Barbary Yager.

Lastly, we express our sympathy to the family of **Wayne Rentschler**, who joined the church triumphant on August 18. A service of remembrance and thanksgiving was conducted by Pastor Rankin August 22 at St. John's. Let us continue to hold Verna Rentschler, Mickey Voshell, Cynda Kless and the rest of the Rentschler family as they mourn their loss. Wayne served on the Consistory and was an active member of the Men's Fellowship and the former St. John's baseball team. Of course we will all miss Wayne's special "gum ministry".

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

in-



Wayne presenting Rev. David Goode (Pastor of St. John's from 1985-92) a pack of gum at our 270th anniversary service in 2009.

SENIOR CHOIR NEWS

The Sr. Choir from St. Paul's UCC Summer Hill and our Sr. Choir once again enjoyed fun, fellowship, and refreshments for our 3rd "swap" Sunday on Aug. 26. Oh, and we did include rehearsal time during our get-togethers. It sure looks like this is fast becoming an annual event our churches.

The Sr. Choir will begin their regular Wednesday night rehearsals on Sep. 5, at 7PM. If you have been thinking about singing in the choir, this would be a great time to begin. We have some new music and some old favorites that we will be singing this season.

The Music and Worship committee members who participated in the Loser's Music workshop in July are really excited about our new music selections. We look forward to praising God in song.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

The Music and Worship Committee met twice in Aug. At our Aug. 6 meeting, Robin Getz led devotions. We decided on a theme, scripture and songs for the annual Vesper Service at Memorial Lake, scheduled for Aug. 26.

We also discussed some ideas for the Children's Christmas Program. The Christian Ed committee asked that our committee help with this program for 2012. Pastor Chris was not at this meeting so we were unable to make any decisions. We will have to set a time to meet again, when all can attend to talk over our ideas.

Then on Aug. 13, the members of the committee who attended the Music Workshop met. Louise led devotions. We reviewed the music from our AM and PM packets and coordinated our notes, our likes and our dislikes. Louise will take the music from our "likes" pile and discuss with the Pastor when these anthems will be appropriate for our worship services throughout the 2012-13 Choir Season.

We did not set a date for our next Committee meeting. Louise will discuss a date and time with Pastor Chris and notify the committee.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Here are some changes to our church directory:

Verna Rentschler—600 Jonestown Rd., Jonestown, PA 17038. Phone #: (717) 865-3629

Dianne Rhoads—57 E. Brookfield Drive, Lebanon, PA 17046. Phone #: (717) 277-5944

Peter, Morgan and Wyatt Hevel—6 Rainbow Lane, Fredericksburg, PA 17026.

Steve, Amy, Austin, & Aidan Zechman—22 Cranberry Ct, Lebanon, PA 17046.

A Reprise of the 2012 Tuesday Evening Programs Sponsored by the Christian Education, Congregational Life, & Evangelism Committees

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Tuesday evenings a success! It was hard to keep attendance records at these events but we had at least 80 people at the splash party, 45-50 people at the puppet show, about 70 people at the carnival and more than 100 people at the National Night Out party. This was a great way for us to connect with people in the community. These programs would not have been a success if it weren't for the generosity of our members.

A few highlights of the National Night Out party. Regina Engler was surprised when Tom Russell (WHP-TV weatherman) showed up in response to the email invitation that she sent him. The crowd enjoyed dunking

some local celebrities: Pastor David Ulm, Pastor Bennett Harris, Pastor Chris and Melissa Seltzer. We were delighted that our former supply pastor, Rev. Lynn Wetzel, went in the dunk tank as a representative of Bethany Children's Home. Mickey Voshell did a great job with the entertainment! Bob Seltzer did a wonderful job at the grill. We extend our appreciation to Redner's and Shuey's Pretzels for their donations. Thanks to the Evangelism Committee for all of their hard work in preparing for this special event. Good job everyone!



Pictured Above: Mickey Voshell, Regina Engler, and Tom Russell from WHP-TV singing at the National Night Out!

Congregational Life Committee News

By Ginny Knapp

It's been a busy summer for our committee! We provided the refreshments for the Pool Party Tues. July 17; the ice cream party on Tues., July 24 and the pizza for the carnival Tues., July 31.

On Sunday, August 12, we held our outdoor service and the committee provided the guessing games with the following winners: Angela Michael, the cantaloupe (1 lbs. 14 oz.); Rachael Miller, the deck of cards; Regina Engler, the pretzels (at 182); and Chris Wanner, the pot holders. As usual we had enough food to feed at least another congregation. Many thanks to all who came and participated.

Our next outing will be on **October 14**, the Fall Frolic at the home of Pat & Earl Ziegler. So, mark your calendar's and plan to attend.

Please keep Saturday, **February 23, 2013** open for our return of the Birthday Socials. You will be responsible to decorate a table and provide the food for your table only. We do not sit only birthday celebrants at the monthly tables. You can invite anyone to sit at your table regardless of their birthday month. Julie Ditzler and Wendy Dorsey are planning the entertainment. I'm sure it will be better than ever!

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

It's that time of the year to have our luncheons with the pastor. Here are the dates for our fall gatherings: September 11, October 2 and November 13, 2012. Join us from 12-1:00 p.m. for some wonderful fellowship and delicious food. All you need to bring is a sandwich and everything else will be provided. If you've never attended, now is the time!



Thanks to Scott Benfer for the bulletin board in the social hall that will display pictures from church events!

MISSIONS NEWS

2012 Annual Crop Walk (from Neal Grimes)

This year's crop walk has been set for Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012 at Memorial Lake. The start time is 1:30 p.m. with registration starting at 1:00 p.m. All walkers will meet at the middle parking lot to get their instructions and begin the walk.

A good representation from our church is needed to help support this worthwhile event. All proceeds go toward ending world hunger at home and around the world. The CROP Hunger Walk is a unique response to the needs of poor and hungry people.

Literature and donation envelopes will be available in the church secretary's office. Watch the bulletin board in the social hall for more information.

Northern Ireland Presentation by Rev. Brad Walmer

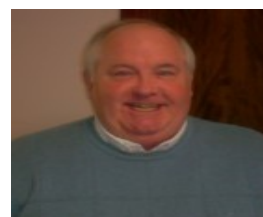
The members of St. John's have been invited to a presentation by Pastor Brad Walmer about his recent trip to Ireland. This trip was through the Leadership Now program for youth at Lancaster Seminary. The presentation will be held at St. Paul's UCC, Summer Hill on September 23 at 2pm. If you have questions, speak to Pastor Chris or Louise Walmer.

NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

HARTMAN CENTER FALL FESTIVAL

The annual fall festival at Hartman Center will be held on October 20 from 9am-3pm. There will be craft items to purchase as well as food, which includes home-made baked goods, chicken bbq, hot dogs, chicken corn soup, and ice cream. There will also be hayrides and games. There is fun for all ages. This is an important fundraiser for Hartman Center. If you have never been to Hartman Center, this is a good time to check it out!! Talk to Pastor Chris for more information!

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. DR. THOM WEBSTER



Rev. Dr. Thomas Webster will be installed as the new Conference Associate Minister for Pastoral Life & Discernment on September 30 at St. Thomas UCC, Lingelstown. The service begins at 3pm. Pastor Chris will be attending and would love to have people attend from St. John's!

LEBANON ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING

The Lebanon Association will meet on October 21 at Salem UCC, Campbelltown. The tentative time for the meeting is 3pm. Rev. Dr. Thom Webster, our new Conference Associate Minister, will be speaking. Speak to the pastor if you are interested in joining him for the meeting.

From Robin's Nest to Yours

By: Robin L. Getz



Can you believe that this month marks one year since my first article appeared? I offer my sincerest thanks to all of you who have expressed support for their continuance. By now the kids are back in school. Hinkelfest will be happening shortly. Before you know it the leaves will be falling and we will again be preparing ourselves for the grips of the cold winter months.

There are many changes here at St. John's. A new secretary is now with us and soon a new cleaning service will join us as well. We continue to look for new members and always tearfully mourn the loss of our old members. New challenges constantly nip at our heels and yet we continue to find ways to provide established functions that we have all come to enjoy.

Some months back I spoke briefly of all of the benefits I have been experiencing with the spiritual discussion group and how much it has helped me broaden my understanding of where I am in my faith journey. I was hope that others would be ready to join as well or if you are not into that computer age of discussion, the weekly Bible study group also has much to offer.

Even though, generally, it is unusual for me, I have found that this has been a difficult month for me to get my thoughts together for this article. Again much sorrow has blanketed our church family with the passing of "the Gum Man". So many memories I have while growing up. Again I will revert back to what has molded me in my life. I remember that forever Wayne was a constant body in the pew seat each and every week along with all of the children. Each was active in their own way in giving back to their church by either time and/or talent. It was always sad for me to admit that my sister and I were generally the lone wolves in my family when it came to attending church especially when compared to their presence. And I recall making that trek through the alley alone more than one time. But photos of those wonderful days are comforting. Even though I laugh at my confirmation picture, it is a wonderful memory none the less.

Again I find myself wondering exactly when I realized that all of those that were endeared to me as a youngster would eventually leave my life with yet another empty void. I remember when I was absolutely convinced that everyone I ever knew would be there always. I would always be able to pick up the phone and give them a call and they would always be at the other end to answer and share a laugh or two with me. When reality finally set in, I struggled with conforming to or agreeing with the facts. To know that my grandkids would miss the opportunity of meeting their grandfather as he was gone before they were born. What a treasure lost for them. They would never know all of the things that he had to offer. He would never be able to teach them "exact" rules of croquet as we learned to play in the yard during summer picnics. How to properly layer the baker for a clam bake, how to secure every trick during a pinochle game or the "old" recipe for chicken bar-b-q. Now I would have the added pressure of, could I measure up? Could I teach them all of those wonderful things I was shown?

I can now look at the Gospel according to Matthew and understand the desperation that surely Jesus' disciples must have felt knowing that he would be gone. No one could ever be in a position to be able to "pick" his brain again to make sure they were teaching exactly as he had directed them. That fear that they would never be able to relay in great detail all of the things that he had taught them all of which were much greater than croquet or pinochle. Would something be missed in the translation? As I look back on what I have been taught by the many that have touched and continue to touch my life, I realize that that answer would be an em-

phatic no. Nothing has been lost in the translation. More inquisitiveness where the meaning is concerned on my part, but the crux of the text remains intact.

So when I reconsider the nostalgia that I sometimes feel with all of those from my past that are now gone for some unknown reason I think of the song entitled "You've Got a Friend", where the lyrics are along the line of, "you just call out my name and you know where ever I am I'll come running, to see you again. Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, all you need to do is call, cause you got a friend."

Perhaps it would have been a little more calming if the disciples had the insight to the lyrics of that song as the time that Jesus told them of his fate. I guess my message for this month is that do whatever it takes to build those memories. Never take for granted that someone will be there forever. Capture those photos, videos and sound bites as your lifelong memory. Remember that it is a way to show those grandchildren who were never privileged enough to meet your parent or grandparent directly how wonderful they were and how much joy they brought while they were here. And never doubt in your heart what was instilled during your youth. You were taught by the best, to do the best and give the best of what you have to offer. For however the day is long you must always remember that all you need to do is call for those memories to come running, for you will always have a friend.

September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am- Communion Svc.	3 *Labor Day*	4	5 12pm- Bible Study 7pm AA	6	7	8 1pm Youth Car Wash & Bake Sale & picnic
9 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am Worship (Rally Day)	10	11 12pm Lunch w/ Pastor	12 12pm-Bible Study 7pm-AA Mtg.	13	14	15
16 10:30am- Hinkelfest Service	17	18 630pm Fellow- ship picnic	19 12pm- Bible Study 7pm AA	20	21	22
23 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am- Worship CE Mtg. after worship	24 7pm-Consistory Mtg.	25	26 12pm-Bible Study 7pm AA	27	28	29
30 8:30am Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am Worship						

Schedule of Events

- September 8-9 Rally Day weekend activities
- September 15-16 "Hinkelfest weekend" activities
- September 23—Esther's Dine & Donate night

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
Lebanon, PA 17042
PERMIT NO 206

«Salutation» «First Name» «Middle Name» «Last Name» «Name Ext»
«company name» «Address1»
«Address2»
«City» «St» «Zip»

St. John's United Church of Christ, 141 W. Main St.

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

Phone # 717-865-7222
Pastor's Numbers 717-274-1770 (H) 717-575-0286 (C)
E-mail: stjohsucc@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohsuccfburg.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.

Church Staff

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

Consistory

Robin Getz, President
Wendy Dorsey, Vice President
Charlene Ziegler, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Julie Ditzler
Wendy Dorsey
Jean Ann Grimes
Jerry Mohn
Melissa Seltzer
Charlene Ziegler

Deacons

Walter Bolles
Missy Daub
Robin Getz
Terry Knapp
Angela Michael
Amy Zechman