

# The Voice

April, 2012

## The Pastor's Voice

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the Lenten season is over and we will soon gather together in worship to sing the Easter alleluias! Many of us gathered each Wednesday evening in Lent for a brief worship service. The theme for these services was "Faith Practices for Vital Churches". I want to thank Pastor Allen Helwig, Pastor Herb Hibshman, Seminarian Tom Busteed, and Rachael Miller (a seminary graduate) for joining me in the leadership of these services. I appreciated their messages on the different faith practices.

As most of you know, congregational vitality is a personal passion for my own ministry. It is sad to notice the multitude of churches that are declining and are now faced with some difficult decisions. Some of these churches will decide to go with a part-time pastor, while other churches must decide to close their doors. Another option for these churches is to join forces with other churches, which could result in a shared ministry or a possible merger. However, too many churches believe that they are not one of those churches and ultimately put off the conversation until it is too late. In my

opinion, St. John's is a congregation that must begin to talk about these issues before it is too late. This is why I had us explore the faith practices throughout the Lenten season. So what is the next step?

I have suggested to the Consistory that we form a Visioning Committee to begin exploring some goals for the future, which hasn't been done since 2005. These goals should focus on our ministry in 2012 as well as for the next few years. As we look to celebrate our 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, I think we need to look to our present as well as our future. What is God calling us to do and be now and in the years to come? We must have a clear sense of our purpose now before we can even think about our future.

The decisions we make now will influence our future. For instance, are we going to attract young families with an uninviting nursery and classrooms? Despite the current renovations that we were forced to due after the flooding in September, I am not sure we will provide a welcoming place for families with young children. We must also discern how long we can depend on fundraisers to balance

our budget. Are we practicing good stewardship? Are the decisions we make now going to lead us into a bright future? If you are interested in these questions, then you should be on the Visioning Committee!

The Easter message is one filled with hope and new life. As we shout our Easter alleluias, we must question our own willingness to be open to the numerous possibilities that God is placing before us! In the midst of our decline, we must look for the resurrection moments where God is trying to do a new thing in our midst. I am writing this epistle to you while I am on retreat at Hartman Center with our confirmation class. They were charged with the responsibility to form a new church. They were asked to be creative and form a church that is different than their home church. The sixty plus youth came up with some creative churches. They are good models for us to be open to the many ways that God is trying to do a new thing in our midst! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Blessings,

*Pastor Chris*



### Inside this issue:

<i>Worship News</i>	2
<i>Celebrations &amp;</i>	3
<i>Consistory News</i>	4
<i>Congregational Life</i>	
<i>Christian Education</i>	5
<i>Music &amp; Worship</i>	6
<i>Missions</i>	
<i>St. John's Fellowship</i>	7
<i>Budget &amp; Stewardship</i>	
<i>Fundraising</i>	8
<i>Note of Thanks</i>	
<i>Evangelism</i>	9
<i>News From The Wider Church</i>	
<i>News About Our New Members</i>	10
<i>Holy Humor</i>	11
<i>From Robin's Nest to Yours</i>	12
<i>Calendar</i>	13

## April Worship News

**April 1 (Palm Sunday):** Palm Sunday sets the tone for Holy Week. As we move from Palm Sunday to the events of Holy Week, we are reminded of the contrasts and tensions in which we live. We hear jubilant crowds hailing Jesus as God's chosen one, while other crowds are angry and call for Jesus to be crucified. As current disciples, we look to how Jesus stood up to the powers of his time.

**April 5 (Maundy Thursday):** We will remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples with a service of Word & Sacrament at 7pm.

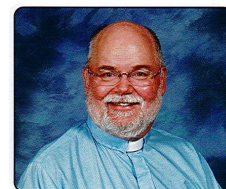
**April 6 (Good Friday):** The Fredericksburg Ministerium will once again hold a Tenebrae Service at St. John's Lutheran, Fredericksburg. The service will begin at 7pm.

**April 8 (Easter):** Christ is risen! Alleluia! We will celebrate the good news of Christ resurrection with two services:

**The Sunrise Service** will be held at 6:30am at Cedar Hill Cemetery. After the service, everyone is invited to return to the social hall for a continental breakfast. In case of rain, we will worship in the sanctuary.

**The Easter Communion Service** will be held at 10:30am. The senior choir will present some glorious music as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion in the pews.

**April 15 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter):** This is the day of the annual pulpit exchange throughout the Lebanon Association. The Rev. Len Knighton, pastor of Hill UCC, Cleona and broadcaster on WLBR, will be at St. John's. Pastor Chris will be preaching at Christ UCC, Annville.



Leonard Knighton

**April 22 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter):** Our confirmands and their mentors will lead us in worship, which they have planned together. They will help us to explore what it means that Christ is present with us.

**April 29 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter):** This is always known as "Shepherd Sunday". Jesus calls himself "the good shepherd", which reminds us that our relationship with Christ is similar to a shepherd's relationship with their sheep.

### April Scriptures

#### April 1

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 11:1-11

#### April 8

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
I Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

#### April 15

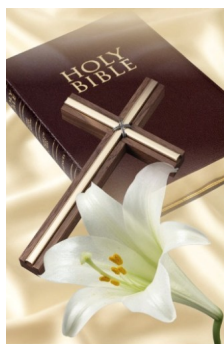
Acts 4:32-35  
I John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

#### April 22

I John 3:1-7  
Luke 24: 36b-48

#### April 29

Psalm 23  
I John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18



### April Musical Offering Schedule is:

Apr. 1 – Palm Sunday	Sr. Choir
"Enter He Triumphantly"	
Apr. 5 – Maundy Thursday	Sr. Choir
"Eat This Bread, Drink This Wine"	
Apr. 8 – Easter Sunday	Sr. Choir
"Early in the Morning on Easter Day"	
"Hallelujah Chorus"	
Apr. 15 – Wendy Dorsey & Gary Trautman	
Apr. 22 –	Hand Bells
Apr. 29 –	St. John's Quartet

# Happy Birthday to: April Celebrations

6 Rev. Drew Morris  
6 Jordan Seltzer  
6 Aidan Zechman  
7 Sheila Fox  
7 Pat Ziegler  
8 Cathy Rentschler  
9 Keith Gingrich  
11 Ken Mohn

11 Steve Zechman  
12 Andrew Fegan  
13 Erika Flanick  
13 Josh Stoltz  
15 Christine Lutz  
16 Wayne Rentschler  
18 Wade Tyrpin  
18 Zachary Baynard

20 Becky Martin  
20 Leah Stoltz  
20 Sharon Hibshman  
20 Kayla Benfer  
26 Rick Rudy  
30 Russell Schott  
30 Peter Hevel

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

9 Peggy & Charles Wike  
12 Kathryn & Elbie Myers  
14 Linda & Mark Tyrpin

18 Betty & Vernon Schriver  
21 Kim & Jarrod Kapp  
27 Linda & Mike Nace



# Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

### April Lay Readers

April 1 Marc Griffiths  
April 8 Regina Engler  
April 15 Wendy Dorsey  
April 22 Paul Smith  
April 29 Robin Getz



### April Acolytes

April 1 Kayla Benfer  
April 8 Austin Zechman  
April 15 Nick Benfer  
April 22 Noah Gingrich  
April 29 Andrew Eberhart

### April Flowers

April 1 Pastor Rankin  
April 8 Bob & Missy Seltzer  
April 15 Priscilla Rentschler  
April 22 Al & Millie Schriver  
April 29 Karen Light

### April Bulletins

April 1 Pastor Rankin  
April 8 Arlene Walmer  
April 15 Open  
April 22 Al & Millie Schriver  
April 29 Karen Light

### February/March Attendance

February 26- 88  
March 4-82  
March 11 - 65  
March 18- 62

### March Deacon

Angela Michael

### March Coffee Host

April 1 & 8 Missy Daub & Donnette Quairoli  
April 15 & 22 Cookie & Connie Martin  
April 29 Open

**Sign-Up Sheets:** Please remember to look for the sign-up sheets for flowers, bulletins and coffee host. **We are in need of coffee hosts for April 29, October 21 & 28 and the month of December as well as flower sponsors for August 26 & September 2 and bulletin sponsors for April 15, June 10 and July 1!!**

## Consistory News,

By Robin Getz

The February meeting for Consistory was very productive. We reviewed many items that have been ongoing for some time and worked on ways to prioritize and streamline those items in order to be more productive in completing them in a timely manner. Specifically, we shared a goal's list for 2012 with items that need our attention, whether it be building repairs, program adjustments, educational opportunities or betterment of communication efforts to our members and the community at large. It is important not only for our committees to make recommendations to us, but for us to have things referred to them to assist in working through in a positive manner. One detail was that we noted was that many committees are working diligently on getting positive things planned for the church, but we are falling short at get-

ting the word out to the congregation and the community. Amy Zechman was gracious enough to agree to work as our public relations/marketing person. Hopefully we will soon see the fruits of her efforts.

We were pleased to discover that within the next month we should finally be ready to launch our first official website. Please offer kudos to Angela Michaels for all of her efforts. Her ability to focus on the many details required will result in a website we can all be proud of. Please make sure you complete the forms completed if you wish **NOT** to have your photo included at any time in the future.

We received bids concerning the parking lot lighting that we discussed for the first time at our last meeting. Although the bids are to be shared with our neighbors for consideration, we already know that what was quoted will not quite meet our needs. We will need to reevaluate our needs and have it quoted accord-

ingly in order to reach a position where we can proceed with the remedy.

We reviewed all of the many activities that are scheduled throughout the month of March. We encourage everyone to keep an eye to those schedules as there are very many exciting things we all have to look forward to.

We also had a special meeting to go over details concerning the basement renovations. I am happy to report that the nursery repairs are underway. Hopefully in the very near future we will have it available again for our use. We continue to thank all of those who have offered to pray for us during our meetings offering us the additional strength and wisdom necessary in our future considerations.

May the work of our minds, hands and hearts shine like a light here at St. John's. Blessings to all!

## Lunch with the Pastor

Since the spring season is right around the corner, it is time for us to begin our next round of lunches with Pastor Rankin. If you have never joined us, then let's explain the routine. We gather from noon-1pm to share some food and fellowship. All you need to do is bring a sandwich (some folks bring a salad instead!) and the pastor will provide other food. Here is the list of our dates for the next few months: **April 3, May 1 and June 12.**

Hope you can join us for a great time of fun, food, & fellowship!

## Consistory Prayer Partners

We will once again be looking for folks to pray for our Consistory members on the day of their meetings. Look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



## Congregational Life, By Ginny Knapp

Do you remember our "famous" Birthday Socials of the past? Well, we're going to have another one on Saturday, **May 19!** Julie Ditzler and Wendy Dorsey are lining up the performances and you can bet, they'll be different.

All we need is a few ladies to sponsor the monthly tables. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the social hall for your convenience. Please

select your month. You will be responsible for the food and birthday cake or cupcakes.

Our "Green Party", held Saturday, March 17 was a blast! Terry Knapp came with no green but since he came from the golf course, we thought he had enough of the greens for one day. Though few in number, the fellowship was priceless.

## From the Christian Education Corner,

By Angie Michael

By the time you read this the crime scene clean up crew will have erased all traces of CSI: St. John's from the social hall; this youth event was led and organized by Joe and Julie Ditzler.

You may remember that we had previously planned to attend Sight & Sound's Jonah musical for the March youth event; unfortunately, tickets we were sold out for the dates we had scheduled, and we thought it best to possibly revisit the musical event at another time.

Here are some events that we have to look forward to in the month of April: on Easter (April 8) we will host another egg hunt on the lawn that will be followed

by a special Jelly Bean program lead by Julie Ditzler in the social hall. These will be intergenerational events during Christian Connection, and we hope everyone will come out and join us.

And don't forget to bring a friend! On **April 22** the confirmands will lead the worship service that they have prepared with the guidance of Pastor Chris, Robin Getz and Louise Walmer.

Following church on **April 22**, Donnette Quairola will take the youth to lunch and a movie.

The committee is hard at work with plans for the return of the Tuesday evening programs in July that will lead up to National Night Out in August. This year

the venture is undertaken by the Christian Education Committee who is planning the programming while the Congregational Life Committee organizes the refreshments for these events. We are also planning for the return of the intergenerational Christian Connection this summer which will kick off the last Sunday in June and continue through the summer. Please stay tuned for more details regarding these programs.

I also want to thank the generous donors who gave scraps of fabric and yarn for an upcoming children's Christian Connection workshop. The kids will be using these donations to dress tiny puppets for a lesson on Lydia in May.

## Children's Christian Connection Workshop Schedule

During the month of April children will learn about the story of the last supper.

Scripture: Luke 22: 7-23 and/or Mark 14 12-26

**April 1:** Craft: Children will make a lunch box tag and learn about the significance of communion in our church. Teacher: Melissa Daub

**April 8 (Easter):** Hallelujah, the Lord is risen today! Join us on the lawn for an Easter egg hunt; afterward there will be a special jelly bean program in the social hall hosted by Julie Ditzler!

**April 15:** Cooking & Food: Children will participate in a mini passover meal, similar to the one Jesus shared with his disciples before his betrayal and crucifixion. Teacher: Dena Eberhart

**April 22:** Video: Children will view an animated film that dramatizes Mark's account of the last supper. Teacher: Robin Getz

**April 29:** Drama: Children will learn about the disciples who were with Jesus at the last supper and will create a real life last supper picture. Teacher: Melissa Seltzer

## New Bible Study Curriculum

On March 28, we began a new series for our weekly Bible study and will continue with it in April. We are using the Kaleidoscope video series produced by the United Church of Christ and Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1989. The title of our study will be "God, Where Are You?: Suffering and Faith". The video leader will be Dr. Richard Vieth, Professor Emeritus of Theology at Lancaster Seminary. Please join us every Wednesday from noon-1pm.



## Music & Worship, By Louise Walmer

The Music and Worship Committee met on Thurs., Feb. 23. We were pleased to have Sharon Hibshman join our committee.

Since each Wednesday evening Lenten Service had a theme, the committee decided that we would use visional objects for each week's theme. The objects would be placed in the front of the sanctuary

for the Lenten Service then as a reminder of the worship experience we will move them to a window sill until Easter. The weekly themes were: Stewardship, Prayer, Hospitality (Welcoming), Worship, and Sharing the Faith. Please take a look at the window sills and see if you know which theme they represent.

Pastor Chris asked that members of the committee assist the Confir-

mation Class to prepare their worship service that is scheduled for April 22.

Our worship service on Sunday, June 3 (Trinity Sunday) will be Music Day and Laity Sunday for 2012 will be celebrated on June 10. The next Music and Worship Committee meeting is set for Mon., May 7 at 7pm. Sharon agreed to have devotions.

## Sr. Choir

**The Sr. Choir will NOT have choir rehearsals on Wed., April 11 and Wed., April 18.**

We can call it our Spring Break! Regular rehearsals will resume on Wednesday nights at 7pm beginning Wed. April 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Easter Morning Activities

**April 8**, Easter morning, will be a busy day at St. John's.

After our Easter sunrise service at **6:30am**, everyone is invited to a continental breakfast in the church social hall. This is sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee. At **9:00 am**, we will have our second annual Easter egg hunt on the front lawn of the church. Once the egg hunt is over, we will come inside for an Easter program for everyone, young and old! Both of these activities are being coordinated by Julie Ditzler & Noah Gingrich. We will be done in time for our Easter communion service at **10:30am**. Please spread the word to your family and friends about these wonderful activities to celebrate Christ's resurrection!



## MISSIONS NEWS

### One Great Hour of Sharing Report

Thanks to the generosity of our church members and friends of the congregation, we received \$1,130 for One Great Hour of Sharing. There is joy in sharing our resources with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need. Remember, when a disaster strikes, you are there immediately through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

### Missions Luncheon

We will have our annual lasagna dinner after church on **April 29** (we will be done in time for those to attend Pastor Lynn's ordination). This is a free meal, but we will receive donations to support anyone from St. John's who wants to attend camp at Hartman Center. There will soon be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board! If you have any questions, speak to a member of the Missions Committee.

## *Fundraising Committee is hard at work*

The Fundraising Committee will be hosting the following events in the upcoming months, an R&K sub and pretzel sandwich sale on **April 27th** in conjunction with the Women's Fellowship Flea Market; The Mother's Day Bazaar on **May 5th** 9am to 2pm and A Friendly's Night in June (date to be determined). Hope to see everyone at these events and as always thank you all for your continued support.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, **April 15** following worship. Anyone interested in joining the Fundraising Committee is welcome to attend this meeting.

## Budget & Stewardship Committee

While our chairman, Neal Grimes, is vacationing in Florida, Wendy Dorsey will be the acting chair. The committee did not meet in March, but will meet on **April 19 at 7pm**. Listed below are the February figures as well as the year to date figures. If you have any questions, speak to a member of the committee.

The second thing we want to share with you this month is the result of a recent study done by the committee. We decided to look at the levels of giving in our offering envelopes (also known as giving units) for 2011, which you will see in the chart below. There are a few explanations that we would like to share with you. First, you will see that 64 giving units gave the church somewhere between \$0 and \$52. This equals to 45% of the giving units in the congregation. We realize that this includes newly confirmed members, college students, and homebound members. Secondly, you will notice that our offering range goes over \$9,000. This is the case because of a large gift that we received last year. The range may not be as high in 2012.

So what does this mean? Well, this gives us an accurate account of our giving patterns and therefore calls us to be better educators no stewardship. It also serves as a challenge for us to look at our spiritual lives and what we can offer to God. In the old E&R hymnal, there is an offertory response that reads: **All things come of Thee, O Lord: and of Thine own have we given Thee**. May these words serve as a reminder to us that our money and other resources are a gift from God and we must offer them back to God!

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please speak to a member of the committee or the pastor.

Our weekly budget offering are projected to be **\$2,250**. In the month of February we averaged **\$3,045.57**.

### *February 2012 Figures*

### *Year to Date*

Offerings (4 weeks)

<b>Envelopes</b>	\$12,080.29
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$102.00
<b>Other Income</b>	\$46.04
<b>Insurance Claim</b>	\$4,528.65
<b>Fundraising</b>	\$237.50

<b>Envelopes</b>	\$21,803.29
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$266.00
<b>Other Income</b>	\$124.25
<b>Insurance Claim</b>	\$4,528.65
<b>Fundraising</b>	\$164.50*

\*YTD Amount decreased due to an expense in January.

<b>Total Income</b>	\$16,994.48
<b>Expenses</b>	(\$6,980.43)
<b>February Surplus</b>	\$10,014.05

<b>Total Income</b>	\$26,886.69
<b>Expenses</b>	(\$13,922.12)
<b>Y.T.D. Surplus</b>	\$8,435.92

2011 Offering Ranges	
Offering Range	# of Giving Units
\$0.00 - \$52.00	64
\$53.00 - \$500.00	27
\$501.00 - \$1,000.00	17
\$1,001.00 - \$2,000.00	13
\$2,001.00 - \$4,000.00	15
\$4,001.00 - \$9,220.00	6
<b>Total # of Giving Units</b>	<b>142</b>

## St. John's Fellowship, By Robin Getz

Meeting opened with a covered dish social. Stephanie Warlow presented a slide presentation to those in attendance about her trip to Africa in which she climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Women's Fellowship had provided sponsorship money to her for the trip. The proceeds helped orphaned children that are HIV

positive. Her accounts were humbling and she reminded us that the work of God is everywhere and ever going. We then moved into the business portion of the meeting. I presided as the facilitator during the business meeting. There was an attempt to structure the committee by nominating officers to serve for

this new group which led to much discussion. There was uncertainty expressed as to the exact direction this group is going. It was agreed that the next joint "Fellowship Group" meeting will be held **April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.**

Those in attendance were asked to think about the vision of the group for discussion at the next meeting.

## Flea Market & Avon Sale

The semi annual flea market and bake sale is scheduled for **April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.** So let us help you get started with your Spring cleaning. Check all those drawers, cupboards and closets for an

items you would like to donate. The flea market is scheduled for April 27 and April 28. Donations may be dropped off on Thursday April 26 or during the secretary's hours. April 27 we will also be serving lunch the menu is home-made soup, barbecues, hot dogs with our without sauerkraut and

assorted beverages.

The Avon Sale is underway all orders and money are due **April 15<sup>th</sup>.** **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** is the delivery date. Please see one of the ladies from fellowship group to place your orders.

## THANK YOU...

....to Aleta Babe, Pat Ziegler, Wendy Dorsey, Gary Trautman, Arlene & Louise Walmer, Julie Ditzler, Ginny Knapp, Barb Miller, and Peggy Mohn for providing our Lenten suppers.

...to Anne Hambrick-Stowe & Donnette Quairol for chaperoning the confirmation retreat.

...to Angela Michael who is working hard on a church website, which will debut some time in April.

...to Pastor Herb & Sharon Hibshman for providing a luncheon for one of our new member classes.

...to Regina Engler, Gary Trautman, Jerry & Peggy Mohn for assembling our 2012 directories. ( Thanks to Brenda Good and Priscilla Dearweatcher for arriving late.)

To Our Church Family,

Much appreciation to everyone for your thoughts, prayers and all the sympathy cards you sent. Thank you for the food, visits and phone calls. Also thank you to the Women's Fellowship and church members who helped at the luncheon.

We express our love and sincere thank you to Pastor Chris, all our relatives and friends for their kindness and support during our trying time.

Sincerely,  
The Elbert Myers Family

## Men's Breakfast

Five men met on March 11 for our monthly breakfast. The low attendance was probably due to turning our clocks ahead. We will not meet next month due to Easter. However, we are making plans for our annual Mother's Day breakfast, which will be held on **May 13 at 9am.** Terry Knapp is organizing the kitchen crew and we plan to use members of our church for a musical program. Look for more information in the weekly bulletins and in the May Voice. In the meantime, mark your calendars for the breakfast on May 13.



Dear St. John's Members & Friends,

The Rudy family would like to thank you for all the cards, kind words of sympathy and prayers in the death of their brother Ralph. Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated.

Thanks again,  
Arlene  
For the Rudy Family



## Evangelism Members Needed

Pastor Chris is looking for people to serve on the Evangelism Committee. This committee is responsible for the National Night Out Community party in August. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please speak to the pastor. Our next meeting will be **April 30th at 6pm**. Hope to see you there.

The 2012 Directory is finished. You can find them on the card table at the bottom of the sanctuary steps.

## News From the Wider Church

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR UCC HOME AUXILIARY

It is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of The UCC Homes Auxiliary membership drive. Let us try to make this the best one yet. The cost of an annual membership is \$4.00 and the sustaining membership is \$35 per individual. The sustaining membership is a special way to support our communities with their unbudgeted items for their residents. If you would like to participate in the membership drive please see Peggy Mohn by **May 20<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you to all who have supported the Auxiliary membership drive.

### Ordination Service for Pastor Lynn Wetzel

We have received the wonderful news that Lynn Wetzel has been called to be the chaplain at Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf. Lynn served as our seminarian from 2009-2010 and was our supply pastor in 2010 while Pastor Chris was on sabbatical. She will now be ordained on April 29 at St. Thomas UCC, Lingelstown at 3pm. Dr. Lee Barrett, Professor of Theology at Lancaster Seminary, will be the preacher. Pastor Chris will be participating in the service and would like to have a group from St. John's attend the service. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the social hall.



### Hartman Center Brochures

We received the 2012 summer camp brochures for Hartman Center. They can be found on the large table outside of the sanctuary. Pastor Chris will be leading the CSI Camp (grades 6-8) from **June 24<sup>th</sup> June 30<sup>th</sup>**. There are camps for children, youth and adults (yes even for the people over 70!). Speak to the pastor if you are interested or in need of financial assistance!!

### One Great Hour of Flood Relief Concert

The Lebanon Association recently held a concert to support One Great Hour of Sharing. This was in response to gifts that some of the folk in the Lebanon Association received after the flooding in the fall. We received over \$1,200 at this concert!

### Inauguration of Lancaster Seminary President

Dr. Carol Lytch will be inaugurated as the new president of Lancaster Theological Seminary at the end of this month. There are events to celebrate this occasion on **April 27** and the culmination to the celebration will be the inauguration at 11am on **April 28**. Pastor Chris is serving on the planning committee. You can speak with him if you have any questions.

### Lebanon Association News

The Rev. Linda Lauman, who served as our interim pastor in 2004, has been called to be the interim pastor at Grace UCC, Lebanon. We continue to hold the following churches who are in the search process: Grace UCC, Lebanon; Tabor UCC, Lebanon; Elias UCC, Newmanstown, and Trinity UCC, Tulpehocken.



## News About Our Members

On March 11, we welcomed Anne Hambrick-Stowe & Scott Benfer as members of St. John's. We want to introduce them and their families with you. This month you will meet Anne, Zachary, & Rachel. Next month we will learn more about Scott and his children, Kayla & Nick.



Zachary, Rachel, and I are excited to officially become a part of the St. John's family! It has been fun getting to know so many of you and being included in programs at the church since we started coming last summer, and we look forward to the new experiences and relationships in the future! This spring Zach will turn 5 and Rachel will turn 3. Zach is a typical boy – not much beats running around outside, racing cars, making belief with superheroes, and anything sports related. Rachel Sunshine defi-

nately has an eye and love for sparkly, glittery, pink, girly fashion and twirls, but also enjoys riding her tricycle, climbing and sliding on the jungle gym, and playing with Zach. Before staying home with the kids, I taught middle school math in Baltimore. One thing that always makes me happy is being outside in warm weather lying by the pool! One of the most unique things about me is my middle name -- Pilgrim. I love my middle name because it is a reminder to me that I am constantly on a pilgrimage through life. While Chris and I knew of each other since junior high and through summer camp at Hartman Center, our reconnection and new relationship as adults has been the most unexpected, but definitely most welcome and loving change in my life. And now, obviously because

of him, Zach, Rachel and I have been connected with a new church family; we have been so graciously embraced into the life of St. John's, and for that I am grateful!

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *Anne, Zachary, & Rachel have been a part of our congregation since the early summer. Anne is already involved in the life of our church. The one thing that she did not tell you about herself is that both of her parents are ordained UCC pastors and her grandfathers, who are now deceased, were ordained ministers in the UCC. She has been involved in the church since a child and we are delighted that she has chosen St. John's as her new spiritual home.*

*Congratulations are extended to Josh & Crystal Stoltz on the birth of their son, Noah Alexander Stoltz, on March 5. May God bless Josh, Crystal, Noah and the rest of their family as they enjoy this blessing from God.*



## Holly Humor...

### The Big Book of Church Jokes

+++

"We welcome all denominations here," said the pastor before praying for the offering. "Especially tens and twenties!"

+++

A pastor made an announcement as the ushers carried offering plates to the front of the sanctuary: "I would like to remind you that what you are about to give is tax deductible, cannot be taken with you, and the Bible says is a root of all evil."

+++

"Were you a good girl at church today?" a grandmother asked her young relative.

"Oh yes," the girl replied. "When a nice man offered me a whole plate of money, I said, 'No, thank you.'"

+++

The Sunday school teacher carefully explained why it's important for everyone to put their "tithes and offerings" in the plate every Sunday. At offering time, following his teacher's instructions, one seven-year-old boy removed his clip-on tie and placed it in the plate.



## From Robin's Nest to Yours

By: Robin L. Getz



Every other month I try to provide to you a message that will cause you to ponder a bit. To think about where you are in your Christian journey of life and in some cases to challenge you to be the best you possibly can be where your Christian faith is concerned.

Easter is our somber time of the Christian year when we must again relive the heartbreak that Mary surely must have felt with the crucifixion of her Son, Jesus Christ. It is such a polar opposite, from an emotional standpoint, where you are seeing our world go from the cold grey color of the winter season, to seeing the explosion of color as spring regenerates our landscape. But in all actuality I guess the difference isn't all that great, because with Easter we as Christians are given the color of Jesus' blood to give us the greatest gift of all and with that the opportunity to regenerate our Christian beliefs and faith.

When I was little it really didn't take much to entertain me or get me excited. I remember from a very early age just the sight of a baby animal was one of the greatest joys for me where my early memories are concerned. As you all know, our home abutted the Shirk farm so there were those occasions when I witnessed a new calf join the field of heifers. How cute it was when it took its first steps. Any baby animal was a magnet for me (and to a degree still is) probably because of the sheer miracle of seeing a new life begin and flourish. My mom always thought I missed my calling as I had veterinarian written all over me at a young age. I probably would have pursued that profession if it wouldn't have required all of the additional schooling (and money) in order to achieve that degree. But in the meantime I was more than content to nurse injured animals to the best of my ability. Feed them and nurture them until they were old enough or well enough to take care of themselves and to just enjoy whatever God had to

offer or would provide to me as long as it was his will.

I remember one time an uptown neighbor had a collie that gave birth to six puppies. I was at her house almost every day looking at those puppies and talking to them and wishing one of them could be mine. I knew that it might not happen, but it didn't stop me from visiting and wishing. I watched them grow into very strong and independent puppies who loved to play and discover all that the world had to offer. To my joy I was in my element by being able to play with them until they would get so tired they would just roll over and take a nap. Finally when the puppies were old enough I went for my fiftieth or so visit and there in a box was my absolute favorite puppy. I was almost in tears as I knew it was a very good, strong and smart puppy. So in all reality it was no surprise to see that my puppy had been chosen to go to its first official home being the top of the litter. I could barely hide my devastation that I would never see Carmel again. I could feel my heart sink and my lip quiver and knew that I needed to leave before I would embarrass myself with a full fledge cry fest. When I got up to leave I was handed the box and told to enjoy my new puppy. I absolutely squealed with excitement and started on my way home. About halfway there I began to think about what my mom and dad would say when I got there with this endearing little puppy. I mean, it wasn't as if it was going to be a surprise for them since that is all that I talked about for an eternity. The closer to home I got the slower I began to walk. What if I could not keep the best puppy in the whole wide world?

I finally made it to the door, grabbed the puppy out of the box and set the box at the side of the porch. I took a deep breath and went in the door with the biggest smile on my face and excitedly said to my mom, "You will never guess what followed me home?????" Anyone who is familiar with the layout of our house knows that the door led directly into the kitchen and the kitchen was surrounded by windows on three of the four walls. Not to be too graphic but quite frankly, a bird couldn't take a poop in flight without my mother noticing and I am sure many of you know exactly what I am talking about.

So here I am. Standing just inside the kitchen door, holding this puppy with four big paws and there is my mom looking back at four very large and very sad eyes. The moment of truth had arrived and I was very surprised that she looked me straight in the eye and told me to put the puppy back in the box that it used to follow me home and take it right back to where it came from. I was surprised that this decision didn't even require a consultation with my dad. So I did exactly what I was told and cried the entire time until the puppy was back where it came from. Shortly after that I went to visit and Carmel, the best of the batch was indeed gone to someone who was able to keep her. And I was able to recover by recognizing the great time I did have with her in my life. Even though she wasn't mine completely, in our minds we were forever connected. She looked forward to my visits as much as I did. But much too soon those visits ended and I had to accept that she would never cross my path again.

By now I am quite certain you are all wondering exactly how this relates to Easter. Well I am ready to tell you how the one is absolutely related to the other. In fact I will go one step further and challenge each of you to take your Christian Faith (Carmel) and allow it to rejuvenate itself (the birth of a puppy) and you personally are charged with taking good care of it so that it can flourish. Never ever forget to feed it, water it, and take it potty to get rid of all of the bad stuff that it holds inside. Go for a walk and enjoy sharing it with your friends and neighbors. For heaven's sake share it with a stranger for that matter. After all I have never met anyone who wasn't happy to meet a puppy. Make sure you visit your veterinarian (Church) regularly to make sure it maintains a clean bill of health. Even puppies enjoy when you sing to them and read (the Bible) to them and even a prayer to two will never hurt during their growth and development. And whatever you do, never, ever put it in a box and take it back where it came from.

May the Love of God and his son Jesus Christ always keep you safe and continue to make you feel wanted during this Easter Season.

# April 2012

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

<b>1</b> 8:30am Circle Time 9am CC 10:30am Worship-communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Noon-1:00pm Lunch W/Pastor	<b>4</b> Noon-1pm Prayer & Bible 7:00pm Choir & AA Mtg.	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Good Friday Svc @ St. John Lutheran	<b>7</b> Holy Saturday
<b>8</b> 6:30am Sunrise Svc 9:00am CC-Egg Hunt 10:30am Worship-Easter Sunday Communion	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Noon-1pm Prayer & Bible 6:00pm Mission 7:00pm AA Mtg.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30am Circle Time 9am CC 10:30am Worship-Fundraising & C.E. Meetings following	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00pm St. John's Fellowship	<b>18</b> Noon-1pm Prayer & Bible 7:00pm AA Mtg.	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Budget Mtg.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30am Circle Time 9am CC 10:30am Worship-Youth Event Following worship Dine & Donate @ Esther's	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Noon-1pm Prayer & Bible 7:00pm Choir & AA Mtg.	<b>26</b> Drop Off Women's Fellowship Flea Market 9:30am UCC Home Annual Meeting @ Annville	<b>27</b> 8:00am to 6:00pm Women's Fellowship Flea Market & Bake Sale R&K Sub Sale	<b>28</b> 8:00am to 11:00pm Women's Fellowship Flea Market & Bake Sale R&K Sub Sale
<b>29</b> 8:30am Circle Time 9am CC 10:30am Worship-Lasagna Dinner following worship	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Evangelism Meeting 7:00pm Consistory Mtg.					

## Schedule of Events

- 3rd Lunch w/Pastor
- 5th Maundy Thursday Service
- 6th Good Friday Service @ St. John's Lutheran
- 8th Sunrise Service; Egg Hunt; Easter
- 11th Mission Meeting
- 15th Fundraising Committee & Christian Ed meeting
- 17th St. John's Fellowship
- 19th Budget Meeting
- 22nd Youth Event following worship
- 26th Drop Off Women's Flea-Market; UCC Home Annual Meeting
- 27th Women's Flea-Market; Bake Sale'; Sub Sale
- 28th Women's Flea-Market; Bake Sale'; Sub Sale
- 30th Evangelism; Consistory Meeting
- Every Sunday 8:30am Circle Time, 9am Christian Connection, 10:30am Worship
- Every Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study; Sr. Choir; AA Meeting



## St. John's United Church of Christ, 141

---

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

«Salutation» «First Name» «Middle Name» «Last  
Name» «Name Ext»  
«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  
Po Box 87  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026  
  
Phone # 717-865-7222  
Pastors Home # 717-274-1770  
Pastors Cell# 717-575-0286  
E-mail stjohnsucc@comcast.net

### Church Staff

Rev. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor  
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist  
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director  
Mrs. Michelle R. Rhoads, 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