

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
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**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!**

## The Epistle

is a monthly publication of St. Paul's UCC.

***Comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcome!***

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ITEMS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS MAR 15!**

Worship: Sunday – 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:15

*Childcare available at the 10:30 service*

### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor . . . . . John J. Ward-Diorio  
Administrative Assistant . . . . . Terry Shaner  
Director of Educational Ministries . . . . . Jonneke A. Dundore  
Director of Music . . . . . Eric R. Dundore  
Choristers' Director . . . . . Jonneke A. Dundore  
Organist . . . . . Sarah A. Myers  
Assistant Organist . . . . . Patrice G. Miller  
Sexton . . . . . Michael W. Hatz  
Consistory President . . . . . Kevin B. Allison

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: [stpaulstaff@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulstaff@verizon.net)  
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# The Epistle

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 2009



As we turn the calendar to April, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are right there waiting for us. We have traveled most of our Lenten journeys. If you are like most people, you were able to accomplish some of what you set out to do, but not all of it. Perhaps you were not able to pray everyday. Perhaps you did not do as many walking meditations as you planned. Perhaps you did not read as much as you hoped. Perhaps you did not undertake that fast you were planning to try. Perhaps you were not able to reach out to others as much as you wished. That's okay. The point of taking on new spiritual disciplines for Lent is to try. Each discipline, each activity, each practice is intended to bring us closer to God and help us develop a clearer understanding of what God is calling us to do. In whatever way we were able to do that, we are further along than we were before Lent began.

As we turn our attention to Holy Week and Easter, I would urge us to focus our attention to as great extent as possible. As we remember, mourn and celebrate the last week of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, there are many lessons to be learned in what went on. Jesus acted in both concrete and symbolic ways, and as such, there is always much more to learn. Try reading the last parts of each of the Gospels. Note how they are both similar and different as they tell of this crucial time. Keep praying and meditating, and listening for God speaking to us in this time and place. If you are able, try attending one of the special Worship Services. Our Sunday Worship Services have special music and other unique aspects to them, and the Maundy Thursday Service and Easter Sunrise Service offer unique ways we can gather as a community to remember, mourn and celebrate. Being a disciple, a Christian, a follower of Jesus' words and way in the world, has both individual and communal aspects to it. During this Holy Season let us engage in both. Our relationship with God, with each other and with the world will be deepened.

There is a temptation, because we are dealing with Jesus' suffering and death, to keep a distance from what is going on. Death for the most part, is a topic we avoid. It is no accident that Christian calendar seeks to force us to pay attention to death this time of year. The celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter is and should be just that, a wonder and joyous occasion for celebration. However, if we ignore the fact that Jesus had to die before he was resurrected, we run the danger of missing some of what is most powerful in this part of Jesus' life. We fear death because it is mysterious, we do not know what lies beyond it. The fear of death has influenced humanity in negative ways since we realized what happened to us all. Jesus' death and resurrection is God's way of telling us, showing us, that we can put that fear aside, that new life awaits us all. There will be mourning and sadness, but there is not an end to our existence. And what is true at the end of our physical lives is also true throughout our lives. There are times in our lives that we must "die" to what has been. We must let go of what was, having been shaped and moved by a person, occupation, practice, addiction, whatever, but now in order to find new life, the life God created us to live, we must die to that part that is holding us back.

None of us is exactly who and what God created us to be. We can move closer to God's "goal" for us, and we must do some dying and being resurrected to get there. In order for that to happen, we must learn to trust God's promise of Resurrection to us, right here, right now. One of the best ways this is done, is to remember, mourn and celebrate that Jesus has walked this path before us, and will accompany us on our journeys.

May we each and all have a blessed Easter,  
John



Beginning with Palm Sunday there will be a great

deal going on at St. Paul's. Some of it will be familiar, some of it newer. Please check the website ([www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)) for updates. If you have any questions, please give me (Rev. John) a call 766-7931 or email me [revjohnwd@verizon.net](mailto:revjohnwd@verizon.net). Thanks.

**PALM SUNDAY, April 5:** We will have two Services at our regular times. However we will not be serving Holy Communion as is our custom on the first Sunday of each month. Our choirs have been preparing special music that we will all enjoy. We will be distributing palms and palm crosses. The teens will be rehearsing for Sunrise Service during the Sunday School time.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 9:** We will begin by gathering in the Fellowship Hall at **6:30 PM**. We will share some time together as well as food: fruit and nuts. We will also celebrate The Sacrament of Holy Communion there. We will then move to the Sanctuary for the Order of Tenebrae which is Latin for *shadows*. Lessons involving Jesus' betrayal, trial and desertion of the disciples are read and candles extinguished. I know this is later in the evening, but children and young people are welcome at both parts of this Worship Service. Some people find this Service one of the most meaningful of the year.

**GOOD FRIDAY, April 10:** We will not be having a Service here this year. I urge you to find a Service near where you work or at another church if you would like to spend specific time in prayer and meditation on this holy day.

**HOLY SATURDAY, April 11:** We will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt** here at the church or on the church grounds at **10:00 AM**. All young people of any age are invited to either search (12 or under) or help with the hunt (13 and up). It will be held rain or shine. Bring a Friend! If you have any questions, please call Joan Moyer at 766-3325 or email [joanmoyer@msn.com](mailto:joanmoyer@msn.com).

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, April 12:** This year the Service will be at **Simpson Park Pavilion**. We will begin at **6:00 AM**. Our youth will be taking a major part in the leadership of this

Service, along with a few others of us. The following are directions because it is still not on MapQuest. The park is in Upper Allen Township, 4.5 miles from St. Paul's where the Yellow Breeches meets South York Rd. From Mechanicsburg, take South Market St. (Route 114) to where it intersects with Lisburn Road, at the bottom of the steep hill in Bowmansdale, continue straight through intersection (do not turn left onto RT 114 Lisburn Rd), you are now on South York Rd. Go under the railroad overpass and immediately make a left into Simpson Park's parking lot. The Pavilion is up the path on your right. Thanks to Art Williams for his scouting.

**EASTER SERVICES, April 12:** We will have Services at both **8:15 and 10:30 AM**. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both Services. We will serve a breakfast open to all between the two Services. There will be special music and lots of wonderful color and smells in the Sanctuary.

We hope to see you during one or more of these times of worship. It is important that we gather together during this Holy Season and remember, and look forward to the promise of new life, in this life and in the life to come.

Peace, John



Everyone is invited to **Easter Morning Breakfast** – No time for breakfast before or after sunrise services or early church? Did the Easter rabbit get you off schedule? Then join us at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall for our annual Easter Morning Breakfast. You are asked to sign-up on the bulletin board in the common area outside the church office and bring a delectable offering to share. We are looking for **Hot stuff** (casseroles, breakfast meats) or **Fruits/Pastries**. Drinks and place settings will be provided. Ovens will be available to cook or warm hot items during early church. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Scott at 737-3139.



**THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:**  
**Maime Alfono (Paula Boyer's mother); Kevin Allison; Rev. Ken Arthur (friend of Tom Stone);**

**Walter Amtower; Peggy Baum; Pam Boland** (mother of Pam MacKinnon); **Eleanor Boreck** (friend of Phyllis Hershey); **Charles Breon** (step-father of Sue Miller); **Mary Jane Chipriano; David Chronister** (father of Ron Chronister); **Kevin Clancy** (neighbor of Chronister's); **Cleason Cromer; Ellie Deeble** (great-granddaughter of Jean Myers); **Bob Diorio** (Rev. John's uncle); **Jackie Diorio** (Rev. John's mother); **John Diorio** (Rev. John's father); **Jacque Drager; Linda Figueroa** (friend of Tom Stone); **Abby Freeland** (daughter of Assistant Principal at MASH); **Susan Gabriel; Lester Gerber; Belva Gill** (Franklin Roth's sister); **Nancy Girard** (sister of Belva Garman); **Bob Gladwin; Liane Gladwin; Lucy Goodridge** (Betsy Rushong's sister); **Tom Grammer; Ryan Greenawalt** (son of a friend of Dave and Jane Hall's); **Shirley Harmon** (friend of Melba & Herb Bomberger); **Phyllis Hershey; Travis Hessom; Sue Higgins** (friend of Anna Thompson); **Dorothy Hildebeitel** (mother-in-law of friend of Anna Thompson); **Rev. Jim Hughes** (pastor in Greencastle); **Mary Kathryn Hunt** (mother of Kimberly Leonard); **Brian Keefer** (high-school classmate of Christy Aumiller); **Caleb Kilgore** (brother of a co-worker of Colleen Eichman's husband); **Rev. and Mrs. George Klinefelter** (former pastor of St. Paul's); **Mae Kozlowski** (cousin of Phyllis Hershey); **Kelly MacCarthy** (Rev. John's niece); **Connie Madden** (friend of Brenda Kern's); **Glenn Mauder** (Sue Miller's uncle); **Betty Mihmet; Clyde & Treva Miller; Mel Miller; Sandra Miller; Dory Milletics; Lynn Mosher** (sister of co-worker of Brenda Kern); **Jean Myers; Margueritte Myers** (Sarah's mother); **Patricia Nalepka** (Jon Nalepka's mother); **Nancy** (friend of the Chronister family); **Ann Patch** (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); **Dave Petko** (former co-worker of Tim Kern); **Tim Powell Family** (friends of Victoria Velez); **Doris Rhoads** (Jack Rhoads' mother); **Rhoda Rupp; Candice Rush** (friend of Phyllis Hershey); **Don and Peggy Seiler; Linda Shea; Gail Siemons; Mary Smith** (Herb Sutton's sister); **Rena Smith; Lester Starner; Clarence Steck; Tom Stone & his family** (son of Tom and Cindy Stone); **Alex Szeles** (friend of Jean and Willard Jones); **Leah van Olden; Judy Ward** (Sue Ward-Diorio's mother); **Maurinda Wingard** (friend of Kathy Aumiller).

**Please keep the office informed if there is anyone who should be added to or removed from the prayer list.**

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

02 William Cashman

19 Tyler Steck

Taylor Garman	20 Megan Kern
Margaret Wightman	Jean Mogel
06 Mary Jane Chipriano	Lauren Paulus
08 Edward Chambers	Xavier Sufrin
09 Scott Stada	21 Tim Wagner
10 Joanne Miller	22 William Crouse
Susan Yentzer	Barton Miller
11 Rebecca Drazba	Herbert Sutton
Jennifer McCorkel	23 Alan Steck
Kim Pirtle	Victoria Velez
Peter Watson	24 Jordan Thompson
William Yentzer	25 Sarah Murphy
12 Julia Patton	Lester Starner
14 Eleanor Witt	27 Todd Ritter
15 Samantha Siemons	28 Danielle Baker
16 Herbert Bomberger	Ronald Gabriel
Jim Paulus	Nicholas Nase
17 Heather Allison	30 Krista Bensel
19 Thomas Stavely	Allison Moyer

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

08	Grace and Jacque Drager
10	Rhonda and Douglas Jacobsen
19	Shirley and Gregory Knox
23	Mary Runkle
24	Jennifer and Michael McCorkel
27	Gail and Roland Parthree



## April

- 05 - 10:30 – Chancel Choir & Choristers
- 09 - 7:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service – Chancel Choir
- 12 - 8:15 – Youth Choir
- 10:30 – Chancel Choir
- 19 - 10:30 – Choristers
- 26 - 8:15 – Chancel Choir
- 10:30 – Youth Choir

## APRIL LECTIONARY TEXTS

<b>05 Palm Sunday</b>	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Mark 11:1-11
<b>12 Easter</b>	Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	John 20:1-18
<b>19 Second Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts 4:32-35	1 John 1:1-2:2
	Psalm 133	John 20:19-31
<b>26 Third Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts 3:12-19	1 John 3:1-7
	Psalm 4	Luke 24:36b-48

## APRIL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

### ACOLYTES

05	8:15	Kevin Rudisill	10:30	Matt Paulus
12	8:15	Julie Scott	10:30	Kevin MacKinnon
19	8:15	Aaron Miller	10:30	Beth Pirtle
26	8:15		10:30	Katelyn Chamberlain

**GREETERS**

05	8:15	Gail and Roland Parthree
	10:30	Tracy and Jeff Nye
12	8:15	Mary Louise Miller and Joanne Miller
	10:30	Kimberli and Jonathan Nalepka
19	8:15	Patty and Dave Scott
	10:30	Christal Pike-Nase and Jonathan Nase
26	8:15	Connie and Herb Sutton
	10:30	Karen and Kevin Allison

**LECTORS**

05	8:15	Mike Gray
	10:30	Betsy Rushong
12	8:15	Eric Dundore
	10:30	Jane Hall
19	8:15	Doug Jacobsen
	10:30	Amy Paulus
26	8:15	Richard Bensel
	10:30	Patrice Miller

**USHERS**

**Head Usher: Kathy Williams**

05	8:15	Art and Kathy Williams
	10:30	Bill and Deb Cashman
		Dennis and Bonnie Plymette
09		Consistory
12		Consistory
19	8:15	Doug and Rhonda Jacobsen
	10:30	Craig and Jen Martek
		Kathy and Mike Aumiller
29	8:15	Dick and Cindy Bensel
	10:30	Dave and Patty Scott
		Jim and Kim Pirtle

**FLOWER DELIVERY**

05	Pat Cleland
12	Pat Cleland
19	Colleen Eichman
26	Jim and Joan Quick

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

09	Don and Kay Coldren, Gail and Jim Siemons, Donna and Don Sponsler, Eleanor Witt
12	Kay Coldren, Gay Miller and Donna Sterner

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,  
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.  
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,  
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

'Go into the world and tell them it's true  
That I love them all - Just like I love U.'

So many great people are spelled with a U,  
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,  
He'd like them to know, But it all starts with U.

Will YOU pass it on.

When Jesus died on the cross he was thinking of  
You!



**A Reflection – passed on to us by Herb Bomberger -**

**THE U IN JESUS**

**CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS – March 17, 2009**  
**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Dave Hall and approved as presented.

**Pastor's Report:** Spiritual Practices & Sacred Conversations on Race Sessions went well and were well attended; Youth Activities have continued including the 30 hour famine and Youth Sunday; The Worship committee is now up and has met for the first time; Rev. John has attended numerous activities within the committee. **Old Business:** Media Campaign - Shirley Keith Knox reported that we are again participating, with a number of other churches, in the radio and TV ads for the Lenten season. The cost to the church is \$400. 4 Our Churches Campaign – a group of four consistory members volunteered to form a committee to establish an overall plan of how we want to go about setting this up within our church. Lay and Youth Delegates – Shirley circulated the job description for these positions and reported that we now have all of the delegates: Shirley Keith-Knox; alternate: Dennis Plymette; Youth Delegate: Audrey Runkle; alternates: Katelyn Chamberlin and Chelsey Wirth. Allysa Boyer is also a National Youth Delegate. Commitment Ceremonies – Rev. John has received a request from a same sex couple to perform a commitment ceremony in our church. It was discussed and prayed about and motion was made and passed that the pastor of our church be permitted, and encouraged, to perform a non-legal, religious commitment ceremony for any couple, regardless of the gender or genders of the couple requesting such a ceremony. **New Business** – Envelopes – there is still a few 2009 church envelopes that have not been picked up. Several members took envelopes to deliver and others were left to be distributed at church. Barb Casner's letter about vacation pay owed – discussion regarding this letter and current leave policy. Contrary to our leave policy but due to extenuating circumstances, it was decided to pay her the full amount. Interfaith Event - preliminary discussion of inviting other Mechanicsburg churches to a discussion on the Psalms. This event may occur on Tuesday night, May 12. Open and Affirming Event – will take place at St. Paul's on May 2 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. We will be inviting other churches to learn more about becoming O and A. Communion – concern was expressed whether or not we should continue with Intinction Communion or just have Pew Communion. This issue has been discussed with the Worship Committee. Consistory will have a teaching session before their next meeting to develop a protocol for communion. **The next regular meeting of consistory will take place on Tuesday April 21 at 7 PM with the communion training to occur from 6:00-7:00 PM.**

## TREASURER'S CORNER

In an effort to keep the congregation informed about the ongoing status of current finances I am instituting a series of short Epistle articles to be issued monthly or at least bi-monthly. This first article recaps the first two month's activity for fiscal 2009.

The year began with a very small reserve due to large outlays at the end of 2008 which satisfied all benevolence commitments for 2008. With this small reserve, some shifting of funds, and committed giving receipts we were able to survive the month of January. Since then committed giving by our membership and friends have exceeded budget expectations by approximately \$ 3,000. At the same time expenses have exceeded the budgeted amount by almost the same amount. As many of you are aware we recently had a water softener malfunction which used a tremendous amount of water over a short period of time (280,000 gal.). United Water has been most generous with the terms to satisfy this bill by giving us a leak credit which amounted to almost ½ of the charges and working out payment terms to satisfy the remainder over a several month period. We were also faced with an unanticipated bill of over \$ 4,000 for repairs and maintenance to our heating system dating for service from November 2008. Terms have also been agreed upon with the heating contractor for payment of this obligation. In a committed effort to keep benevolence payments current during the fiscal year so we are not faced with large outlays at the end of 2009 an effort is being made to satisfy those obligations in a timely manner. Currently all benevolence payments for January have been satisfied and most of those for February have been processed.

Your continuing commitment of pledges and gifts to the church is greatly appreciated and allows us as a congregation to run our physical plant, pay our salaried personnel in a timely manner, and continue the ongoing internal and outreach programs that we have so graciously adopted as part of our Christian mission.

Remember to keep your commitments for 2009 current and thank you for your continuing support to Saint Paul's.

Dave Hall, Treasurer



**Weekly Contributions of food** - The requests for food at the Food Pantries have significantly

increased during these difficult economic times. Thank you for your continued efforts in this ministry. **Ecumenical Food Pantry Help!** – All canned, boxed and bagged foods are needed and greatly appreciated. Please place donations near the display case in the common area. Donations are picked up the first Tuesday of each month, taken to Messiah Lutheran church in Harrisburg and gotten ready for distribution. **New Hope Ministries** – every donation (cash and food) that New Hope Ministries receives through April 30<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for a proportionate share of a \$1 Million Challenge Grant offered through the Feinstein Foundation. In addition, local businesses are multiplying your gift through challenge gifts of their own. Please see posted in the common area by the New Hope drop-off for additional information on this drive.

**NEW DIGS MINISTRY** - The Adult II Sunday School Class **thanks** all who participated in the recent drive to collect items for this ministry. A large variety of kitchen utensils, small appliances, sheets, and towels just to mention a few things were collected and transported to the New Digs headquarters. New Digs sends its heartfelt thanks for your participation in their efforts. It is anticipated that these collections will occur on a quarterly basis with the next drive scheduled for June 2009. A definite date will be announced prior to the event.

**St. Paul's UCC in Mechanicsburg's Adult II Sunday School Class** has been recently made aware of the project to refurbish the cabins at Hartman Center. As some of you may know, the Mercersburg Association has been given the task of raising money to renovate one cabin at our church camp in Milroy. Each Association in the Conference has been challenged to raise \$17,000 to make the much needed renovations to the cabins. Our Sunday School class at St. Paul's has decided to encourage members to go to Hartman Center for the work days in May. Those workers are seeking sponsorships for the volunteer work they will be doing from church members who are not able or available to help with the work themselves. These sponsorships/donations will then be put toward the fund to renovate the Mercersburg Association's cabin. We are hoping to raise \$1,000 to put toward the cabin. We will be challenging the other churches in the Association to each raise \$1,000. While we know that this goal is a stretch for some of the smaller churches in the Association, we are hopeful that some of the larger churches may raise more money to be put toward other, smaller churches goals. If we raise in excess of \$17,000, the extra funds would be donated to the

Hartman Center for other renovations, or be added to the 4-Our-Churches Campaign to build the new "green" multi-purpose building on the Hartman campus. Please prayerfully consider donating to a member of the Adult II Sunday School Class who will be collecting donations this spring after church services. Look specifically for Mike Aumiller or Art Williams who will be strutting their "tool belts" for Hartman Center. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the common area.

Looking for a hands-on mission project in the Harrisburg area? Consider volunteering for National Rebuilding Day through the local affiliate, Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg. RTGH's goal is to provide a warm, safe and dry environment for low income homeowners. Typical work includes repairing and/or installing railings, smoke alarms, steps, gutters, handicapped ramps, etc. Volunteers should be comfortable using tools but major plumbing and electrical work is done by licensed volunteers. This year's work day is **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. Can we make it an all St. Paul's Team? Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the common area. Any questions please see Ron Flory.



**St. Paul's UCC – A Red Cross Shelter** – You may or may not know that our church is a certified shelter as of 2007. We only provide the facility for use if called upon, the Red Cross provides the staff. However, due to the many lessons learned from Katrina, the American Red Cross's current strategy is to train a support team from each certified facility to provide backup. We are asked to provide a team of ten for training on Saturday, May 30 in Harrisburg. The training will be held from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. There is no charge. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the commons, which also includes the agenda. If you have any questions, please contact Herb Bomberger at 432-4228. This training will enable you to help in any shelter, not just St. Paul's.

**THANK YOU NOTES:** - We have received thank you notes from the following for donations that were sent from St. Paul's. Cumberland County Habitat for Humanity - \$167.86; The Interfaith Alliance of PA - \$25.00; New Hope Ministries – Food Donations 85 lbs 1/20/09 & 77 lbs 2/25/09.



We are planning a work day on **Saturday, April**

**4 starting at 8:30 am.** On this day, we will clean up all of the branches that have come down during the winter and any other general cleanup. If you can help, please call Don Coldren at 697-1927.



St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** - the monthly meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> of

April, the second Tuesday of the month, at 1 PM in the church parlor. New prayer shawls will be blessed in worship on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. So far 64 shawls have been completed and all except 13 have been given to someone needing the comfort that is given with this gift. On Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of April when new shawls will be blessed, shawls will again be placed in the pews for anyone wishing to have one for themselves or for someone else who could benefit from this gift. Just remember to place one beige card in the offering plate or turn into the office so we can record the recipient of the gift. There are 3 shawls that have been placed in the parlor closet without a name of the person creating the shawl. Please let Martha Keith know if you or someone you know has completed this shawl in order for this to be recorded. Any questions, please call Martha Keith at 258-0591.

**POLLYANNAS MEETING** – will be held 1 pm on Tuesday, April 28 at Bonnie Plymette's house. We will be having the Mystery Auction. Please bring your item(s) in a brown paper bag. Any questions, call Bonnie at 697-2938.

**Antique Cars** – On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Gettysburg Antique Auto Club will be arriving in our church parking lot at approximately 2:00 in the afternoon. Our church members are invited to see the cars and to talk to the owners. We will be serving our famous "Chicken Pot Pie Dinner" to them at 2:30. You are welcome to view the cars while the members of the Auto Club are enjoying their dinner. This is the Parish Ministries Spring Fund Raiser for the kitchen.



**ATTENTION SUMMER CAMPERS!** Registration forms and brochures for Hartman Center summer church camp are available in the commons area. St. Paul's

will pay 25% of the registration fee on a first come first served basis. Just send in your money to Hartman Center and let the church office know how much you paid. If the finds are still available, you will be reimbursed for 25 % of the total cost. In these troubled economic times, church camp is quite a bargain, especially at a 25% discount! See Jonneke Dundore if you have any questions.



**.GIANT GIFT CARDS –** Thank you from the youth for your purchases of Giant gift cards. You are helping us to earn a weekend camping trip at Knoebel's Grove in June. We really appreciate your continued support!



**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SENATORS BASEBALL OUTING**

Save the date! The Youth Fellowship Senators Baseball outing has been changed to Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is welcome! More information will be available in the coming months, both in the Epistle and the Youth Bulletin

Board.

**ST. PAUL'S HUNGRY YOUTH** thank you for donating to the 30 Hour Famine. 15 youth fasted February 27 and 28 for 30 hours to empathize with those who experience hunger on a regular basis. \$461 was raised (thank you!). \$300 is being sent to World Vision to feed the hungry in other countries. \$161 was donated to New Hope Ministries. In addition to fasting, the youth learned about world hunger, made popsicle stick crosses, walked a labyrinth, volunteered at St. Francis of Assisi's Soup Kitchen, prayed for hunger to be solved, and also played games, watched videos and enjoyed each other's company. Thank you for supporting the youth of this church!



**Thank You** to Marilyn Aust for taking care of the potted planters outside the Church. The flowers are beautiful. If you look outside the handicapped entrance, you will see that Mr. and Mrs. Bunny had their little one.

**Join St. Paul's Tour de Cure cycling team to help fight diabetes!**

Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death by disease in the U.S. Diabetes is a chronic disease that has **no cure**. Diabetes is becoming the new

American health epidemic of the century. Consider these facts:

- More than 23 million Americans have diabetes—including more than five million (nearly one-quarter) who don't even know it.
- An additional 57 million people have pre-diabetes, putting them at great risk for developing type 2 diabetes.
- If present trends continue, one out of every three Americans born in the year 2000 will develop diabetes.
- More than \$174 billion direct and indirect healthcare costs are attributed to diabetes (2007 statistics).

### **How can you help?**

St Paul's is forming a team to participate in the 2009 Tour de Cure for the American Diabetes Association, which will be held on Saturday, May 30 in Boiling Springs. Whether you are a beginner or avid cyclist, there is a route for you. Road routes from a 25K (15.6 miles) to a 100K (62.5 miles) will be supported with rest stops, SAGS and communications. There will also be a 9K (5.6 mile) family ride for the young ones to participate. Join our team, then contact family and friends and invite them to join in on the fun or to sponsor you.

If you don't have a bicycle, there will also be a spin-a-thon in the Boiling Springs High School gymnasium. There will be 25 spin bikes and motivated instructors to lead 1 hour classes.

If you're more of the adventurous mountain biking crowd, there will also be a mountain bike challenge near Pine Grove Furnace, separate from the road event.

When you have completed your ride or spin session, a hot meal, music, and a massage will be provided.

**To join St Paul's team or make a contribution you can go to either of the following links:**

<http://main.diabetes.org/goto/craig.martek>

<http://main.diabetes.org/goto/st.pauls.ucc>

### **How Else to Get Involved**

If you are unable to ride in this event or if you just want to help, there are many volunteer opportunities available. We are looking for both morning and afternoon teams of volunteers. To learn more about volunteering or to learn other ways that you can

help, please contact Craig Martek (432-1572 (h) or 514-6560 (c)) or call Tim Rodin at 1-888-diabetes ext 4617. Currently there are 9 members on the team, but we could use lots more. There is still plenty of time left for people to join or contribute. Please see sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Common.

### **CALLING ALL FRIENDS OF HARTMAN CENTER**

- the annual Lee Lawhead Memorial Golf Tournament, which benefits the Hartman Center, is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> at Deer Valley Golf Course in Hummelstown, PA. This golf outing is to raise funds for camper scholarships, for building and grounds upkeep, for future building plans and for remodeling of older buildings, such as cabins, to help with handicap accessibility. The Hartman Center is looking for persons to sign up to golf or sponsoring a hole or donating a prize either to the thank you gift bag that is given to each golfer or a team prize. For more details, see the information on the table in the commons area.



On July 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mechanicsburg Sportsmen Association is having their annual Fishing Derby at their fish nursery along Sinclair Road. On this day, about 40 to 50 physically impaired individuals from three nursing homes in the Carlisle Area, come to Fish. Help is needed for this event that starts at 8 am with set up. The group from the nursing homes start fishing at 9 am with a break at 11:30 for a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, dessert and drinks and then back to the fishing. Anyone who is interested in attending the derby is more than welcome. Help is needed assisting the group from the nursing homes, cleaning fish or come to watch. We are usually done by 3 or 4 pm. It is all free. Any questions, please call Pat Eakin at 766-3448 or Glenn Kline at 766-6841.

## OPEN AND EXPLORING – AN INTRODUCTION TO INCLUSIVENESS IN THE CHURCH -

Saturday, May 2, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg

Sponsored by CPONA, Penn Central Conference's Open and Affirming Workgroup

### Join us for the following discussion topics:

- "Sexual Ethics and the New Testament: What about ONA?" – Dr. Greg Carey
- "What's ONA Got to Do with Being Inclusive?" – A panel of folks affected by their church's ONA position will share their ONA experiences
- Network with ONA Churches and those considering this journey

Featured Speaker: Dr. Greg Carey, Grace UCC, Lancaster

"Sexual Ethics and the New Testament: What about ONA?" - Greg Carey is Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary, where he has taught since 1999. A graduate of Rhodes College and Vanderbilt University (PhD, 1996), Greg has taught at Rhodes College and Winthrop University. The father of two spectacular young women, Greg is an active lay member of Grace United Church of Christ in Lancaster. Among his other professional responsibilities, Greg serves as a contributing editor of *Out in Scripture* ([www.hrc.org/scripture](http://www.hrc.org/scripture)), an online LGBT-friendly commentary. Greg's most recent book is *Sinners: Jesus and His Earliest Followers*, from Baylor University Press.

### Refreshments provided!

RSVP or Questions? Contact Shirley Keith Knox at (717-697-6946 or [skeithknox@comcast.net](mailto:skeithknox@comcast.net))  
For directions, go to [www.saintpauls-mech.org](http://www.saintpauls-mech.org)



## UPCOMING PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA EVENTS

### PRIDE BREAKFAST RETURNS -

Saturday April 18th, 2009 from 9am until 11am at MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson St, Harrisburg, PA. Join Pride Festival of Central PA for the return of the annual Pride Breakfast. This year's breakfast will be Saturday April 18, 2009 from 9 AM to 11 AM at MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg. Board and committee members will be at the breakfast to provide information and answer questions about the 2009 Pride Festival which will be held July 24-26. Applications for both vendor/exhibitor booths at the festival and parade participation will be available at the breakfast. These applications may also be found online at [www.harrisburgpride.org](http://www.harrisburgpride.org). In addition to obtaining applications, people can also stock up on Pride items such as rainbow flags, magnets, key chains, and t-shirts. A free will donation will be taken to cover the cost of the breakfast and help to raise funds for this year's pride festival.

**Pride Dine Out** - Pride Festival of Central PA Dine Out will be Tuesday, May 12th from 5pm until 9pm at participating Central PA restaurants. Please visit our website for details.

**Pride Festival Mixer** - Saturday May 30th, 2009 from 9pm until 12mid at Liquid 891, 891 Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg, PA. Please join the Pride Festival of Central PA for an evening of enjoyable entertainment and refreshments and learn how you or your group can become involved in this year's exciting weekend of Pride activities. Show your pride by purchasing Pride Souvenirs or Pride T-Shirts and participate in our basket raffle. A cover will be charged.

**2009 Pride Festival of Central PA - Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>** - A weekend event consisting of Friday Night's Voices United Concert, Saturday's PrideFest Unity Parade and PrideFest, and Sunday's Spirits United Service. The Pride Festival of Central PA promotes awareness of and showcases organizations available to the GLBT and Straight Ally community, provides a safe environment for people of the GLBT and Straight Ally community to celebrate their diversity, and supports local economic growth by partnering with the community and attracting individuals to Central Pennsylvania. Please be sure to visit our website for up to the minute details concerning the locations, hours, and admission prices of all these events.

