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# Changing Lives

## Penn Central Conference



February 2011

www.pccucc.org

### **What Do You Think Of When You think of OCWM?**

If you asked some members of your local congregation what Our Church's Wider Mission is, what would they say? Or would they say they don't know. Do you know what OCWM is and all that it helps do to change lives for our Penn Central Conference members, clergy and those who are our neighbors near and far?

This new publication will be sent out six times a year to all of our churches, clergy and those who have signed up for news updates to help educate and provide a resource for you to use in your local churches.

- ◆ Did you know that the Penn Central Conference Resource Center has over 1500 resources that you can use because of OCWM? We have studies that can be borrowed for your Sunday School class or mid-week group. We have youth ministry resources that help you plan get-togethers and retreats. We have 16 topics of resources and lots of curriculum samples.
- ◆ Did you know that we have a treasurer's handbook available to help our local church treasurers? We offer that resource and others to help your church with planned giving, estate planning, annual campaigns. And we have a wonderful stewardship ministry team whose members are willing to come out and meet

with a local church's finance committee or consistory.

- ◆ Did you know that we have a youth ministry team made up of both adults and youth who plan events such as "Teens Together", retreats at Hartman Center and ways to involve youth at annual meeting and regional and national youth events. Not only does this touch the lives of the youth and advisors who attend the events but the youth on the team are developing valuable leadership skills. Under the direction of a new chairperson, Rev. Fred Young, the team is looking for ways to include more of our youth in activities and events.
- ◆ Did you know that many of our small churches are coming together quarterly to discuss ideas of revitalization and what the future holds for them? They have had presentations from our vitality consultant, Paul Nickerson, how to improve the use of audio/video in worship and will be meeting in February to talk with our Disaster Response Resource Consultant, Jim Fowler, on planning a joint mission trip.

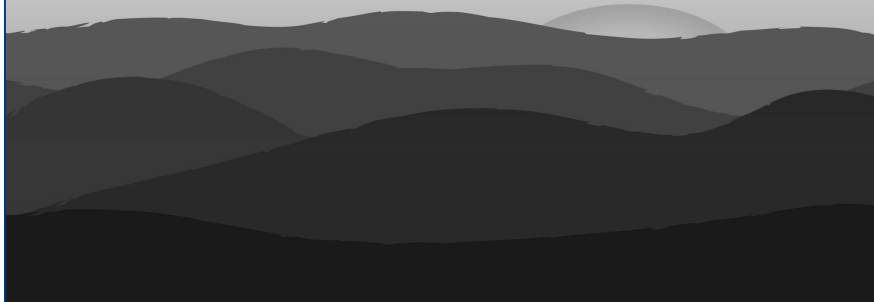
Our business is changing lives through our diverse ministries in the 204 congregations in Penn Central Conference. OCWM makes that happen.

### **What are your stories? How is your local church changing lives?**

Have you started or changed something in your church that seems to be attracting new people to your worship service. Did you purchase a new resource or curriculum that is bringing new meaning to those in your church school or study? How are you changing lives in your part of Penn Central Conference? We want to hear from you and feature these stories in this publication "Changing Lives. We will also be selecting several to feature at this year's annual meeting in video. Contact Brenda Waleff, Director of Communications with your stories and ideas. [bwaleff@pccucc.org](mailto:bwaleff@pccucc.org) or 717-652-1560.

### **Missions Around the Mountain**

**UCC - Harrisburg Association**



*Missions Around the Mountain* is a new ministry of the Penn Central Conference's Harrisburg Association. It has been developed to allow members of the Harrisburg Association's 17 congregations a hands on opportunity to help change lives.

Their first opportunity is to help a 24-year old, single parent is raising two children without assistance in a Highspire trailer park. She works full and overtime at a fast food chain and struggles to meet her expenses. On December 2, the furnace broke and will cost \$1700

to replace it. She is using space heaters for warmth.

The trailer needs some winterizing, like caulking around the windows and door. Even though the roof has been repaired, it is still leaking. Some of the ceiling will need to be replaced. The outside badly needs to be repainted this spring. She will be very grateful for any help.

She has attended Shared Ministry since she was a child. They have helped furnish her trailer but do not have the resources and skills necessary to help with the heater and roof situations. In the next few months, individuals and groups from Harrisburg Association churches will provide their time, talents and money to change lives.

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### **The Conference Staff Are There When You Need Them**

People are what changes lives and Our Church's Wider Mission pays for your conference staff to be available to you five days a week 8:30am-4pm plus visits and meetings to your local churches. Let's lift up two people who have changed a lot of lives in Penn Central Conference. Two members of our staff team have been part of th staff for over 10 years.



Brenda Waleff is our Communications Director. Brenda will be commissioned January 16 as the first Commissioned Minister of Communications in the United Church of Christ. That's because she truly understands what she does to be a ministry. Brenda helps us keep up with each other through our Penn Central Connections, our PCC Quarterly Bulletin and through our Monthly Mailing. She maintains our website and sends us Constant Contact notices about events and happenings. But she does so much more. She teaches other people how to do communications and hospitality. She's been an active part of our Congregational Vitality programs. She helps congregations get ads onto television and radio. She maintains our resource center. She coordinates our annual meeting She even preaches on occasion!



Janice Mountain is our Profiles Secretary and Receptionist. She works Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 until 3. Every time a congregation receives profiles from us to help them select a new pastor, Janice is part of that process. She keeps track of the profiles that are sent to us, and gets them to our staff as well as to search committees. Janice also helps us get our Monthly Mailing hard copies out, and other mailings as well.

Brenda and Janice are just two of our conference staff. What would happen if we didn't have them? Your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission help us to have a gracious and effective team in our office and beyond.