

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717/766-7931

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September

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!

Sunday Worship Service - 9/04 9:00 AM.

9/11 Rally Day Sunday School start 9:15 AM, Worship @ 10:30 AM

Starting 9/18 Sunday Services @ 8:15 & 10:30 AM, Sunday School @ 9:15

Childcare available @ second service.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor John J. Ward-Diorio
Administrative Assistant Terry Shaner
Interim Dir of Christian Ed/Youth Advisor Allyssa Boyer
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
Pastor Emeritus The Rev. Dr. Thomas Herrold

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net
Phone: 717/766-7931 John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net
FAX: 717/766-7374 Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@verizon.net
Web Address: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Enjoy those last days of Summer. As you are reading this I may well still be on vacation and I can say, even before I begin my time away, I am very grateful for the time off and the rest.

My hope is we can all move into the fall recharged and ready to go. Peace, John



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

**New Members'
Meetings and
Reception of New
Members**

We will have two meetings for those people interested in becoming members of our congregation. Both meetings will occur after our late Sunday Worship Service; the first on September 25th and the second on October 2nd. This is your chance to gather together and ask questions, receive materials, and learn more about St. Paul's and the United Church of Christ. You only need to attend one of these meetings. We will be receiving New Members on Sunday October 30th during the 10:30 Worship Service. If you have any questions please see, call and/or email Rev. John. Thank you.

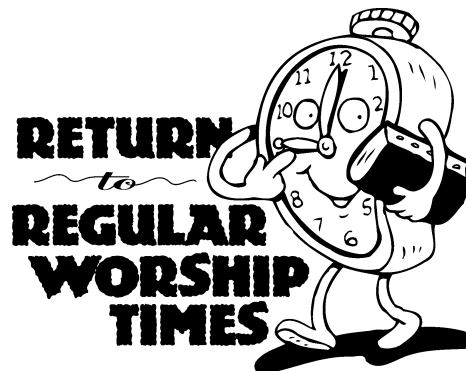


Thanks go out to the Rev. Anna Thompson, Allyssa Boyer and the Rev. Glenn Schultz for preaching while Rev. John has been away on vacation. **Thanks also to the Rev. Anna Thompson and the Rev. Herb Bomberger** for providing emergency pastoral coverage during this period.



PRAYERS FOR PEACE

This September 11, 2011 will be ten years since the attacks that awful Tuesday morning. We are going to gather people at 8:45 AM around the Peace Poll here at St. Paul's. We will offer prayers for peace, both spoken aloud and silent, and sing of our hope for peace throughout the world. All are invited. That Sunday is Rally Day, so there is just one Service at 10:30 AM and Sunday School activities do not begin until 9:15 AM. Let us join together and share our hope and offer our prayers that peace indeed might come to the whole world. If you have any questions, please speak with Rev. John or any member of the Worship Committee. Thank you



**Sunday,
September
18th back to
8:15 and
10:30 am
Worship
Services,
Sunday
School at
9:15 am.**



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER: Darlene & Mitch Adams; Mayme Alfano (Paula Boyer); Kimberly Alleman (Anna Thompson); Carol Allen (Wirth MomMom); Kevin Allison; Dee Bachman (Murphy); Mr. Beam (Zach Davinroy's HR Teacher);

Peggy Baum; Barbara Bell (Patty Scott's mom); Lisa Benoist (Dave Ritter relative); Mary Bensel (Dick's mother); Betsy (Friend of Dar Murphy); Bill & Bob (Susan Gabriel); Geoffrey Biringner (friend of Velez's); Pamela Bower (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); John & Karen Bradshaw (Gabriel); Betty & Charles Breon (Sue Miller); Virginia Brown (Joy Perry); Julia Bulger (Heather Miller's Grandmother); Sandy Buhrman (friend of Kathy Williams); Michaela Bushey (friend of Sara Weaver); Joanne & Janine Campbell (relative of Kevin Allison's co-worker); Kathy & Cassidy Carlis (friend of Jean & Willard Jones); Christ Lutheran Church; Ruth Chronister (Ron's Mother); Kevin Clancy (neighbor of Chronister's); Clement (Peg Wightman Neighbor); Shannon Collins (Donna and Ron Chronister's niece); Kevin, Bill & Pauline Conwell & Family (Rev. John); The Corman Family (Alburger friends); Catherine Cotton (Cheryl's grandmother); Cleason Cromer; Alice and Bill Crouse; Ellie Deeble (great-granddaughter of Jean Myers); Instituto Dela Toro (friend of Velez's); Bill Dietz (friend of Chronisters); Jacque & Grace Drager; Lou Donneway (friend of Mike and Kathy Aumiller); Edna Dreibelbis (Anna Burn's mother); Duane (Brian Medkeff-Rose); Duriske Family (Katelyn Chamberlain's Uncle and Family); Pat Eakin; Stewart Emery (Sandi Ritter-Butz's father); Kathy Eppley (friend of Stone Family); John Fernbaugh (friend Joan Shearer); Fenton Fox; Ferdinand Fromholz (Allison Co-Worker); Debbie and Joe Gartland; Heather Geraghty (Linda Alburger's niece); Nancy Girard (sister of Belva Garman); Bob & Liane Gladwin; Lynn Goldstine (Friend of Stones); Shirley & Tom Grammer; Richard Gray; Jane & Dave Hall; Ron Hannon (friend of Tom Stone); Ellen Harling (mother of Kevin Allison's co-worker); Colin Hayes & Family (MacKinnon Friends); Paul Heaney, Sr. (Dar Murphy's dad); Bob Heisler; Clay Henry (Mike Aumiller BIL); Phyllis Hershey; Greg Holley (Sue Miller); Addison Holl (Becky Thompson); Galen Holtzapple (Rick's brother); Rick Holtzapple; Homeless Family; Houck Family (friend of Rick Ayers); Mary Hunter (Mary Louise Miller's cousin); Betty Hyde; Joe (Dar Murphy's brother); Dan Jones (Jean and Willard's son); Jean and Willard Jones & daughter Sue Worley; Julia (Rick Holtzapple's daughter); Connie & Bob Kayer (Kris Amtower's parents); Brian Keefer (high-school classmate of Christy Aumiller); Nancy Keith (Martha and Gene's daughter); Steven Keith (Martha and Gene's son); Megan Kern; Kevin (brother of co-worker of Susan Gabriel); Sandy Kline & Family of Keith Brown; Rev. George Klinefelter (former pastor of St. Paul's); Shirley Knisely; Doug Knox (Greg's dad); Emily Koontz (great niece of Donna & Bud Sponsler);

Mateusz Kott & Family (Moyer); Carrie Kramer (Rochelle Rhoads grandmother); Lynn Lawler (Peg Wightman's cousin); Madison Lewis (Runkle); Rev. Fred Lewis (Medkeff-Rose); Josette & Ron Lindahl (Elizabeth Miller); Casey Little (Gabriel); Cindy Long (Sue Mullin); Barbara Lumby (Betsy Rushong); Bob Madden (Kern); Marla (Shawna Simpson); Kim Martin (Leann Davinroy); Jerry McCartney (Jen Martek's dad); Brian McIntyre (Missy Gates); Shawn McClintic (friend of Brian Medkeff-Rose); Melodie (colleague of Randy Murphy's); Charles Milroy; Alice & Larry Miller (Rev. John neighbor from NJ); Ryan Miller (Patrice and Greg Miller's son); Treva Miller; Steve Mitchell; Charles Mowery (Betsy Rushog son-in-law); Ally, Erin, Joan & Ernie Moyer; Tyler, Hayden & Stacy Mustico (Layne Thompson's cousin); Jean Myers; Patricia Nalepka (Jon Nalepka); Nancy (Chronister); Nancy (Dave Ritter sister); Jonathan Nase; Judy Null (Sarah Myer's cousin); Virginia O'Connell (Elizabeth Miller's aunt); Josh Oxford (friend of Sara Weaver); Pap (Chelsey Wirth's Grandfather); Julia Paroda & Family (Gates Family); Ann Patch (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); Al Perreault & Family (Murphy); Donna Perry (Friend of Lois Ritter); Kristen Pike (sister-in-law of Christal Pike-Nase & Jonathan Nase); Mel Pike (Friend of Tom & Cindy Stone); Christal Pike-Nase & Family; Rev. Yvonne Rey; Emily Rieger & Bill & Alice Grove (Patrice Miller); Sandi Ritter-Butz; Lynn & Bea Row (Sue Miller's parents); Tom Row (Sue's brother); Candice Rush (friend of Phyllis Hershey); Samantha (Elizabeth Miller's niece); John Scott; Joyce Sealover (Connie Sutton SIL); Don and Peggy Seiler; Grace Sennett (Linda Alburger's Grandmother); Zachary Shade & Family (Ward-Diorio); Pete & Linda Shea; Tom Shrawder (friend of Kathy & Mike Aumiller); Rev. Thomas C. & Lorna Simcox (Brenda Kern); Gracie Simpson; Clara Sizemore (Bill's mom); James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Sue Stada; Clyde Strock (Becca Strock's grandfather); Kent Strock (Becca's Dad); Alex Szeles (friend of Jean and Willard Jones); Tamara (friend of Rachele Rhoads); Tashana Taylor (V. Velez); Dave Thomas (friend of Julie Scott); Stu Tompkins (co-worker of Kevin Allison); Bob & Carol Torpey (Kathy Aumiller cousin); Phoenix, Eric, Shannon Trout & Miller Family; Al & Deloris Tucker Sr. (friend of Kevin Allison); Debra Ulrich (friend of Dot and Jim Kinzer); Rosalie Utley (Paula Boyer's cousin); Leah van Olden; Judy Ward (Sue's mom); Pete Ward (Sue's brother); Doris Washam (Sandy Kline's sister); Wayne & Sandy (Friends of Kinzers); Keith Weaver & Family (Elizabeth Miller); Brian Wickard (brother of co-worker of Leann Davinroy); Lucas Wissinger (Elizabeth Miller Friend); Ruth Wrightstone; Ruth Wunderly (friend of Bonnie Plymette's daughter); Angie Young & Family (friend of co-worker of Becky Lingenfelter)

Please notify Rev. John or the Church Office about any additions or deletions to the above list.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

GREETERS

9/04 9:00 Donna & Ron Chronister
9/11 10:30 Patrice & Gregory Miller
9/18 8:15 Joan & Ernie Miller
10:30 Bonnie & Dennis Plymette
9/25 8:15 Belva & Leo Garman
10:30 Chris & David Grice

LECTORS

9/04 9:00 Allyssa Boyer
9/11 10:30 Kathy Williams
9/18 8:15 Ron Chronister
10:30 Kathy Aumiller
9/25 8:15 Mike Gray
10:30 Rick Ayers

USHERS

Sept Head Usher: Randy Murphy

ACOLYTES

9/04 9:00 Cassidy Westbrook
9/11 10:30 Amy MacKinnon
9/18 8:15 Slater Ward-Diorio
10:30 Kevin MacKinnon
9/25 10:30

FLOWER DELIVERY

9/04 Terry & Gene Shaner
9/11 Tim, Leann & Zach Davinroy
9/18 Darryl & Winnie Wentz
9/25 Mary Runkle

COMMUNION PREP

9/04 Terry & Gene Shaner

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

4 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14 Romans 13:8-14
Psalm 149 Matthew 18:15-20

11 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 Romans 14:1-12
Psalm 114 Matthew 18:21-35

18 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 Philippians 1:21-30
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Matthew 20:1-16

25 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7 Philippians 2:1-13
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Matthew 21:23-32

September Birthdays & Anniversaries



01 Lucas Kern	17 Cleason Cromer
Sam Kiner	18 David Grice
Tom Milletics	Craig Hershey
Dennis Plymette	Jacquelyn Kreitzer
02 Joan Quick	Anita Miller
Becky Thompson	19 Lee Jackson
04 Tim Kern	21 Scott Gates
05 Jo Ann Paulus	Patti Watson
Audrey Runkle	22 Fred Briggs
06 Charles M. Miller	23 Laura Dye
07 Tina Bowers-Paris	24 Janet Wotring
Joseph Eichman	25 Joseph Cawley
12 Pam MacKinnon	Leroy Miller Jr.
Ryan Mullin	27 Colleen Eichman
13 Mike Aumiller	Grant Jacobsen
Leonard Graff	28 Lindsey Costello
14 Ron Flory	Donna Sponsler
Justin Steck	29 JoAnn Grubbs
15 Robert Gladwin	30 Craig Martek
Kelly Wentz	



02 Brenda and Robert Gossard
03 Jennifer and Craig Martek
06 Missy and Scott Gates
08 Lori and Brian Foust
09 Sue and Dayne Miller
09 Devon and LeRoy Miller III
10 Catherine and Brandon Thomas
10 Mary and Donald Laughery
11 Martha and Gene Keith
12 Linda Till
13 Joan and Ernie Moyer
17 Rita and James Smithson
21 Jennifer and Thomas Sheaffer
23 Norma Jane and John McMillan Jr.
25 Susan and Ronald Gabriel

Make Music a
Part of Your Life



Come one - Come ALL!! Our Choirs at St. Paul's will be starting their new season on Wednesday, September 7th. We want **YOU** to be a part of the festivities. Consider the Wednesday evening schedule and how you might fit into our musical fun and frolic:

Hand Chimes = 6:00 to 6:30 pm in the Choir room (Rm.5)

Youth Choir (grades 6-12) = 6:30 to 7:15 pm in the sanctuary

Chancel Choir (post HS thru more mature ages) = 7:15 to 8:30 in the sanctuary

The **Hand Chimes** group is going to begin its fourth season at St. Paul's. Right now we have openings for 3 new ringers to fill the spaces left when our graduating seniors waved goodbye to us in June. Musical talent is certainly not necessary to be a part of this group – but time commitment will be. Everyone who plays a Hand Chime will have to be at each rehearsal in order for this to work. Each plays their own chimes and missing chimes leave holes in the sound. Mark Dundore is going to be the Chime Director this coming year – he's much nicer than his father. Consider filling our 3 spots this year.

The **Youth and Chancel Choirs** will be presenting service music each Sunday during the church year. As a singer we know that you will be there when you can be to add your voice to our group. This year we will be presenting the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* with a chamber orchestra and soloists on Sunday, Dec. 18th. If you have ever wanted to sing this music – now is the perfect time to come and join us as a full-time member or for just the *Messiah* rehearsal time each week. Talk to Eric Dundore if you are interested in participating.

CHORISTERS



Choristers will begin practice on **Sunday September 18** at 9:00 – 9:15 before Sunday School. All children in Kindergarten – Grade 5 are invited to participate.

We usually sing one Sunday per month during

the Children's Message time. All practices are held in the Choir room (5). Come join us! Contact Jonneke Dundore at 766-2601 with any questions.

Please consider being in one of our choirs this year! Singing is so positive for the soul, challenges the mind, and energizes the body. It also allows those who sing and those who hear us to move closer to a worshipful experience every Sunday morning. Please consider sharing your energy and willingness to grow with us. You don't have to be a great singer in order to participate – just have an open heart and mind. You will be so glad you did this and you will gather with such wonderful folks on Wednesdays and Sundays!

Eric Dundore, Director of Music – edundore@mbgsd.org or 766-2601(home) or 460-8301 (cell)



- 11 - 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 18 - 8:15 am Youth Choir
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 25 - 10:30 am Chancel, Youth, Choristers & Hand Chimes

Our **THANK YOU** goes out to ALL who provided the special music during worship this Summer!

Consistory Highlights – June 21, 2011 –

Treasurer's Report – Income for the month was \$27,324.66, total expenses \$30,200.86. Year-to-date Income minus expenses equals \$16,761.75; this is \$18,964.75 better than budget. 1st Qtr Dues to OCWM, UCC Homes and Mercersburg Association was made. Landscaping and Grounds is over budget due to the removal of six trees for a total of \$3,800. Suggestion was made that the treasurer's report has a section for operational /budget line items and a separate section for special offerings /contributions. **Stewardship Report** – **Kathy Williams** - Dine out at Isaac's was well attended. **Property Committee** – **Dick Bensel** – getting estimates to replace carpeting in 3 rooms and the office. MLC will be paying for the carpeting in two of the rooms. We will be paying for the installation. Thanks to Ed Thorn for getting the down spout cleared out and the A/C system ready

for the summer; Floyd Gouse for grounds maintenance and Dave Scott for replacing burned out lights. **Old Business – Web Site – Rick Ayers** – We need to understand our resources (skill and talent) to plan build and maintain web site. A couple of members have offered to help, are there others? Suggestion to look at other UCC churches' websites to get ideas. **Sound/Lighting** – Got one quote so far, waiting for the second one. **New Business – PCC Annual Meeting** – Dennis Plymette thought the conference was very valuable. One of the trainings suggested that all churches should have an independent audit performed each year. Dennis will follow up with the finance committee. **Consistory Resignation** – Sue Williams has resigned her position due to personal scheduling conflicts. Need to find someone to replace Sue for the remainder of her two year term. The next regular meeting of Consistory will be held on Tuesday, July 19 at 7 PM. Meeting adjointed at 9:45 pm.

Consistory Highlights – July 19, 2011 –

Treasurer's Report – Income for the month was \$20,689.30, total expenses \$23,731.31. Year-to-date Income minus expenses equals \$13,719.74; this is \$11,781.80 better than budget. **Stewardship Council – Kathy Williams** – committee will meet August 24th to plan the gala. **Christian Ed – Randy Murphy** – VBS was very successful. **Property Committee – Dick Bensel – Don Wood submitted report:** Cost to replace carpeting in 3 classrooms and office is \$5,050. MLC will pay \$1,730 of this and St Paul's share will be \$3,320.00 Future costs to consider: Reseal the parking lot \$3,800, Paint the lines and re-do the handicap spaces - \$950, Install a roof coating over the main flat roof of the church \$4,600 (would add 10-15 years to the life. Thanks to Dave Scott, Ed Thorn, Gene Keith and Floyd Gouse for their continued work around the church. Thanks also to Eric Dundore and Brenda Kern for helping with some of the outside painting. **Pastor's Report** – VBS was fantastic. Special thanks to Shawna Simpson, Allyssa Boyer, Jonne Dundore, Deb Cashman and all who helped. Allyssa Boyer submitted a report on her experience at General Synod. John will ask her to email copies to consistory. **Old Business** – Received two proposals – they were both similar in cost. Rick Ayers and Eric Dundore met with both companies and recommend A/V Solutions. Eric has worked with them in the past and they are very professional and offer very good customer service. Motion made and approved to have AV to do the work. A congregational meeting needs to be scheduled for approval of an expenditure of this

amount. It requires a two week notice. First announcement of the meeting will be this coming Sunday. The next regular meeting of Consistory will be held on Tuesday, August 16 at 7 PM. Meeting adjointed at 7:45 pm.

“St. Paul's UCC aims to be a fully accessible congregation. Folks having an issue related to accessibility in the church building or a church program should contact the church office or contact a head usher on Sunday mornings.”

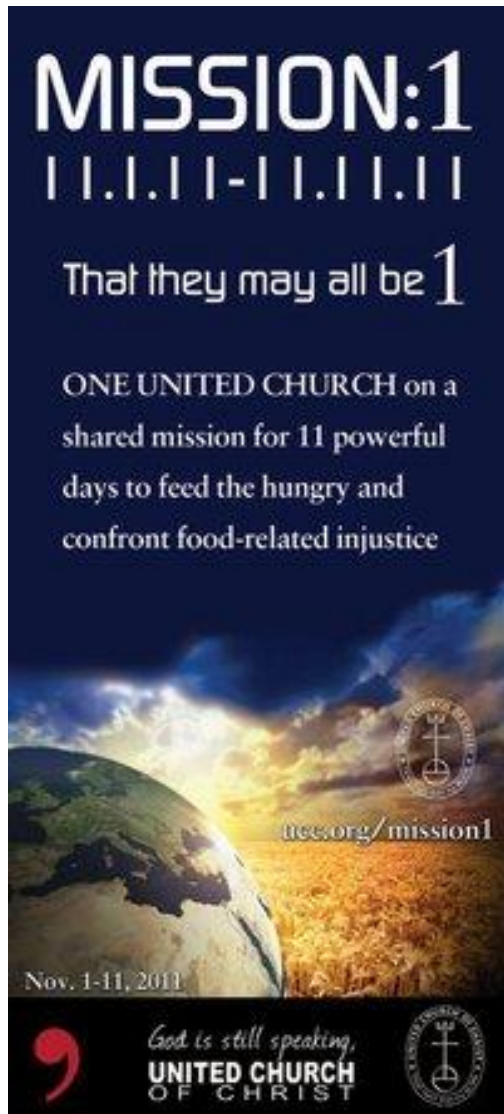
Neighbors in Need

Imagine a World without VIOLENCE...Imagine a World without Discrimination and Oppression...Imagine a World without Hunger...Imagine a World without Poverty. Your gifts to Neighbors in Need help in these areas and much more!
Our Neighbors in Need offering will be collected on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

How are your dollars used? NIN supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. NIN also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on Indian reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Neighbors in Need offerings help make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously.

Get Ready for Mission 1



- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 DOLLARS for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively

benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign.

DURING THE FIRST 11 DAYS of NOVEMBER, an online tote board at ucc.org will tally our collective count of foodstuffs, donations and letters - information we'll update and celebrate in real time together. And throughout the 11 days, the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries will organize church-member delegations to meet with Members of Congress to bring attention to our church's concern about hunger at home and abroad.

Most importantly, our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer "that they may all be 1" will become a focused, concerted mission emphasis across the whole United Church of Christ to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues through sermons, seminars and conversations; to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world; to raise money for hunger-action purposes; and to share bread - and tuna, and peanut butter, and vegetables, and cereal - with our neighbors in need.

St. Paul's is organizing our church's strategy. Ideas, contact Allyssa Boyer, Shirley Keith Knox or Kathy Aumiller.

The world needs the distinct values, vision and voice of the United Church of Christ – Continuing Testament. Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.

This is MISSION: 1.



Calling all students 5th grade and up. Would you like to be trained as an acolyte? Contact Pam MacKinnon at 796-1064, or email p.mackinnon@yahoo.com

28th General Synod of the United Church of Christ



28th GENERAL SYNOD
July 1-5, 2011 • Tampa, Fla.

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Delegates and visitors started converging at the Tampa Convention Center in Florida on Friday, July 1st. This included Allyssa Boyer, Delegate; Martha Keith, Gene Keith and Shirley Keith Knox, Visitors. What a difference it makes in how you understand the greater UCC when you see thousands of UCCers together in one room. We are African American, White, Samoan, Hawaiian, straight, gay, lesbian, transgendered, young, old, older still. The Greater UCC is a very diverse denomination. This is just part of our collective experience.

General Synod began on Friday, July 1st with *Educational Intensives*. These educational events gave delegates and visitors an opportunity to have an in depth look at issues that were to be decided in Synod resolutions. Throughout the Synod, delegates and visitors heard from the candidates for the Associate General Minister, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, and Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries as delegates prepared to elect these three new officers of the church.

Saturday, or **Sun Coast Saturday** featured several speakers and workshops. The day

opened with a hymn sing and a performance by the wonderful brother group "Nuttin But Stringz" and the amazing story of their journey out of poverty. We continued to hear a number of inspirational speakers and attend educational and application workshops focused on youth, technology, finance, worship, spirituality, leadership, justice and the arts. We joined together again on Saturday evening for a global music festival and to say goodbye to three outgoing Collegium Officers.

On Sunday morning, delegates focused deliberation and recommended action on resolutions and other business items and on Sunday afternoon, we welcomed members of local churches from Florida and the community to a community wide worship service. **On Sunday evening**, delegates and visitors attended hearings related to the nominating committee, budget and financial issues, and proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws related to unified governance. In addition were opportunities for dialogue with the candidates for the Associate General Minister and the Executives for Wider Church and Local Church Ministries.



discipleship.

Also on Sunday, Martha Keith was recognized at the Honored Lay Women's Celebration Luncheon. This honor recognizes the gifts of lay women in the church. The luncheon was a grand celebration to a woman of great faith and

Monday featured an address from the General Minister and President and conversation about the future as well as the ongoing business of the General Synod and the consideration of resolutions.

Proposed Resolutions and Other Formal Motions for General Synod 28

The following resolutions and other items of business have been considered by delegates

to the Twenty-eighth General Synod. All of the resolutions or other items of business adopted by Twenty-eighth General Synod are being forwarded to the appropriate ministry or agency of the Church for implementation. In the case of the Synod-approved amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, the documents are now being prepared for presentation to the Conferences for ratification as required of ¶s 74 and 75 of the Constitution (2010 ed.). Final versions of the resolutions and other business items will be found within the body of the Minutes of the Twenty-eighth General Synod following approval by the Executive Council.

On Actions of Hostility Against Islam
A Resolution of Witness — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

U.S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear
Test Ban Treaty
A Resolution of Witness — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

A Resolution to Form a Theological
Commission *Renamed 'A Resolution to Form a
Theological Forum'*
A Prudential Resolution — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

A Covenant for Church Youth Ministries
A Prudential Resolution — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

The Right of LBGT Parents to Adopt and Raise
Children
A Resolution of Witness — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

Putting Our Money Where Our Values Are
*Renamed 'Putting Our Money Where Our
Values Are: Evaluating Church Financial
Relationships'*
A Resolution of Witness — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

Affirming Health Care Coverage For Clergy
Families *Renamed 'Affirming Health Care
Coverage For United Church of Christ
Authorized Ministers and Their Families'*

A Resolution of Witness — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

Resolution for Mindful and Faithful Eating
A Resolution of Witness — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

In Support of Effective and Constructive
Peacemaking Between Palestinians and
Israelis Through Positive Investment in
Palestine. A Resolution of Witness — Tabled
by the Twenty-eighth General Synod

In Support of the Release of Puerto Rican
Political Prisoners. A Resolution of Witness —
Adopted by the Twenty-eighth General Synod

Supporting International Human Rights Related
to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.
A Resolution of Witness — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod.

A Call for a Reflection and Advocacy on Behalf
of the Democratic Republic of Congo. A
Resolution of Witness — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of
Baptism. A Formal Motion — Adopted by the
Twenty-eighth General Synod

Constitution and Bylaws Revisions

Amendments to the Constitution Related to
Governance. Adopted by the Twenty-eighth
General Synod

Amendments to the Bylaws Related to
Governance.
Adopted by the Twenty-eighth General Synod

Amendment to the Bylaws Related to the
Frequency of Synod. Defeated by the Twenty-
eighth Synod.

**General Synod 28 closing
worship: Transform what's
possible**



The Rev. Elizabeth Mitchell Clement preaches at the UCC's General Synod 28 closing worship service, July 5, 2011. (photo Scott Griessel)

What can become in us, and our very particular gifts, what in us can become a spring to well up, because we know the gift of God, the free love of God in Christ Jesus? I wonder what I will have to do—I wonder what you will have to do—to make the next conversation a spring of water gushing up to save the life of somebody?

As the final chords of music ended, and their echoes faded in the hall, General Synod delegates began their journey home, to become springs of water gushing up for a world pleading, "Give me Jesus."

*Elizabeth Mitchell Clement is an ordained minister in the Georgia South Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ. She and her family are members of the **First Congregational Church UCC in Atlanta, Ga.***

General Synod featured many speakers. Among them:

The Rev. Elizabeth Mitchell Clement invoked the hope of enslaved Africans rehearsed in spirituals and the transformative power of speech with Jesus in her sermon, delivered at the closing worship of General Synod 28 in Tampa - July 5, 2011. Though the power of a song or a conversation to change lives strains the imagination of a high-tech world, she said, these held and embodied refreshment and transformation.

With Synod ending and the time to return home at hand, Clement asked the key question, what is possible? "The question itself is much more powerful than any of the answers we might propose at this moment," and she left the worshipers with four of them:

What is possible when we put our life together as God's people, and care for covenant with God and each other, ahead of everything else?

What is possible when we put aside fear, blame and scarcity in favor of holding the life-giving tension that is in diversity and difference, in refreshment and transformation, in what is and what is possible in God's own imagination?

LEONARD PITTS JR. is an American commentator, journalist, novelist and UCC member. He won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2004. He is the author of the novel *Before I Forget*, a story of a faded soul singer whose early-onset Alzheimer's compels him to reconnect with his father and son. His column runs every Sunday and Wednesday in the Miami Herald. *Forward From This Moment*, a collection of his columns, was released in 2009. On Sept. 11, 2001, he wrote a column on the terrorist attacks that received a huge response from readers who deluged him with more than 26,000 e-mails. It was posted on the Internet, chain-letter style.



MIGUEL DE LA TORRE was born in Cuba months before the Castro Revolution and came to the U.S. with his family when he was 6 months old. De La Torre's early childhood was marked by a spiritual hybridity based on his

Catholic and Santeria faiths and up-bringing. At 19, he began a real estate company that proved to be financially successful, but in his 20s, dissolved the company to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning an M. Div. degree. He earned a doctorate from Temple University in social ethics and currently is a professor at the School of Theology in Denver. He specializes in applying a social scientific approach to Latino/a religiosity within this country, liberation theologies in the Caribbean and Latin America, and postmodern/postcolonial social theory.



NUTTIN' BUT STRINGZ, a finalist and crowd favorite on the hit television show America's Got Talent, consists of brothers Damien and Tourie Escobar who both play violin. The musicians from Jamaica, Queens, play a blend of classical music, hip-hop, jazz and R&B.

Submitted by Shirley Keith Knox, Allyssa Boyer, Gene and Martha Keith.

REPORT ON GENERAL SYNOD 28: Imagine What's Possible - Tampa, Florida, July 1-5, 2011 - **By Allyssa Boyer, Penn Central Conference Delegate**

i. ABSTRACT: This report includes descriptions of the program, agenda, and business of the United Church of Christ's 28th General Synod. I have tried to be as concise as possible. If you have any further questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to St. Paul's UCC for giving me this incredible, life-changing opportunity.

Also, it is important to remember the UCC's policy on polity. The General Synod is the governing body of the UCC. The Executive Council acts on the Synod's behalf in the Synod's absence. The General Synod speaks to Local Churches, never for Local Churches,

and is made up of delegates from Local Churches. As stated in our Constitution and Bylaws "The basic unit of the life and organization of the United Church of Christ is the Local Church. And though actions by, or decisions or advice emanating from, the General Synod, a Conference or an Association, should be held in the highest regard by every Local Church; the autonomy of the Local Church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in the Constitution and the Bylaws of the UCC shall destroy or limit the right of each Local Church to continue to operate in the way customary to it."

Although it is my hope that this report will be read and prayerfully considered in its entirety, I recognize that most of us do not have the time (or the inclination) to read all 17 pages of this report. Therefore, if you are only planning on reading a portion, I recommend the following: Section II-D (pp. 3-6) on the workshops I attended; Section III-A (pp. 7-8) on the committee I served on; Sections IV-B and IV-C (pp.10-12) on the Unified Governance amendment to our Constitution and Bylaws; and Sections V-A and V-B (pp. 13-14) on the other resolutions deliberated on by the General Synod.

To read Allyssa's full report, please go to our Church Website at www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

HELP NEEDED – Dan Blacker is assisting an elderly woman who sold her sewing business in Mechanicsburg and relocated to Florida. He currently has the leftover items from her shop in storage that he is hoping to sell for her at the Youth Group Yard Sale. He is looking for someone to transport the items from the storage to St. Paul's on Saturday morning Sept 3rd in time for set up for the Yard Sale that starts at 8 AM. If you can assist Dan in his efforts to help this woman, please call him at 795-2989 or his cell 686-2732.

St. Paul's Yoga Club Celebrates One Year of Fellowship!

It's hard to believe that the members of St. Paul's Yoga Club have been "breathing and flowing" for an entire year!! Our very first "Vinyasa Flow" class was held on September 7, 2010 and some of our members have attended almost every class! This summer we added "Chair Yoga" to our offerings and have had a solid class of attendees. Some of the students have begun to take BOTH classes, getting TWO nights of yoga per week. Ann Boyer commented that while she's able to meet the challenge of the "up and down" style Vinyasa class, she appreciates the slower pace of the Chair class because she gets to really focus in on the feel and form for each pose. No matter which class you choose, you'll always find options that will fit your own personal needs.

If you'd like to come see what these classes are all about, please come join us! Our Chair Yoga class is held every Monday night (except for holidays) from 6:30-7:30pm in Room 11/12. The Chair Yoga class is FREE for all participants. Our Vinyasa Flow classes are held on Tuesday nights from 6:30-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The cost for this class is a suggested donation of \$5 with 20% donated to St. Paul's UCC. If you'd like to participate in this class, but cannot pay \$5, come anyway! You will not find a more inviting and warm group of students than those who practice with St. Paul's Yoga Club. I feel extremely blessed to have been able to work with each of our members over the past year and I look forward to continuing our yoga journey together.

****You should always consult your physician before beginning a new exercise program****

Namaste!

Becky Thompson

Adult 2 Sunday School Class – Fall 2011

The Adult 2 class meets in Fellowship Hall. Our study usually involves critical issues of faith that impact our daily Christian living and discipleship. We are a very informal group and are ALWAYS welcome to new members and

visitors. Lite refreshments are shared during the class meeting. For additional information, contact Shirley Keith Knox at skeithknox@comcast.net or at 717.697-6946.

Weekly Calendar	Topic	Class Facilitator
September 11, 2011	All meet in Fellowship Hall and then to class.	
September 18, 2011	Christ, Creeds and Life	Dr. Douglas Jacobsen
September 25, 2011	Christ, Creeds and Life	Dr. Douglas Jacobsen
October 2, 2011	Christ, Creeds and Life	Dr. Douglas Jacobsen
October 9, 2011	Christ, Creeds and Life	Dr. Douglas Jacobsen
October 16, 2011	Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy	Shirley Keith Knox
October 23, 2011	Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy	Colleen Eichman
October 30, 2011	Presentation: What Does it Mean to Be Part of a Welcoming Church? Panelists: Katelyn Chamberlin, Chelsey Wirth, Dannika DiVerio	Shirley Keith Knox
November 6, 2011	Poverty in the U.S.	Shirley Keith Knox
November 13, 2011	The Hidden Rules of Poverty	Shirley Keith Knox
November 20, 2011	Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy	Kathy and Art Williams
November 27, 2011	Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended	Shirley Keith Knox

	Tragedy	
December 4, 2011	Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy	Shirley Keith Knox
December 11, 2011	Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy	Shirley Keith Knox
December 18, 2011	Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy	Shirley Keith Knox

while recounting a moment in history, telling a sociological story, and exploring theological issues. In the fall of 2006, following the murders of Amish school children by a gunman, how did the Amish manage to forgive the murdered, extend grace to his family so quickly and authentically? Making it clear that the answer involves no quick fix but an integrated, disciplined pattern of life – a pattern altogether upstream to the flow of American culture – the authors invite us to ask not just how to forgive but how we should live. IN our era of mass violence and the derangement from which it comes, no question could be more timely. “Amish Grace tells a story of forgiveness informed by deep faith, rooted in a rich history, and practiced in real life. In an American society that often resorts to revenge, it is a powerful example of the better way taught by Jesus.” Jim Wallis, author and president, Sojourners/Call to Renewal. Amish Grace was written by Donald B. Kraybill, Steven M. Nolt, and David L. Weaver-Zercher

Christ, Creeds and Life: Conversations about the Center of Our Faith

is written with the goal of helping to spark meaningful discussion about the life and significance of Jesus Christ who is the central focus of our faith. As Christians, we sometimes get so caught up in other activities – either the many time consuming activities of daily life or the sometimes equally overwhelming busyness of church related projects and programs – that we lose sight of Christ. The purpose of this book is to help us refocus our attention on Jesus as the founder and sustainer of our faith. As the name of our denomination, United Church of Christ, claims, we are part of the body of Christ – the Christian church. We need to know Jesus Christ in order to live as his disciples. Four basic questions drive this book: 1) Who is this person, Jesus, on whom our faith is built? 2) What does it mean to identify ourselves as Christ’s followers? 3) What do the historic documents of the UCC say about who Christ is? 4) What relevance does Jesus have for us today? *Christ, Creeds and Life* is edited by Anne T. Thayer and Douglas Jacobsen. We know him as Jake and he as graciously agreed to lead our class discussion on this thought provoking book. Jake is Distinguished Professor of Church History and Theology at Messiah College and author of other written materials.

Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy

is one of those rare books that inspire deep personal reflection



MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW! Join us on **Sunday, August 28th** as we prepare for a new school year and bid summer a fond farewell. Bring your book bags, backpacks and briefcases to worship for a special back-to-school blessing during the children’s sermon. After the service, come to Fellowship Hall for an Ice Cream Social. Ice cream before lunch? Hey, it’s only once a year!



YARD SALE!!! Don’t throw that good stuff out! The Youth Group of St. Paul’s is again sponsoring the annual **St. Paul’s UCC Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 3rd** on the church parking lot from **8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Church members

may rent a space for \$10, non-members' cost is \$15 (includes table for first 30 spaces) OR you may donate your items to the Youth Fellowship space for them to sell. NOTE: No computers, monitors or printers please!! Donations (*marked, please*) can be placed on the designated space on the stage in Fellowship Hall during the month of August. All proceeds will benefit St. Paul's youth program and a local mission project. **To reserve your space, please call Terry at the church office, 766-7931, or contact Joan Moyer at 766-3325 or joanmoyer@msn.com**

Note to Youth: Please plan to come to the church Friday evening September 3rd at **8:00 PM** to help set up. We'll have a lock-in that evening (food, friends, movies!) so you can be ready to go by 6:00 Saturday morning. Questions? – Call Joan Moyer at 766-3325 or joanmoyer@msn.com.



RALLY DAY is Sunday, September 11. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to ring-in the new Sunday School Year! Although we know that you can't wait for autumn and Sunday School, this Rally

Day we'll look back at all of the fun we had during the summer at Hartman Center. Come and sing camp songs, play a camp game and imagine you're sitting around the campfire. There might even be s'mores! Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the commons to bring a snack food to share. We can't wait to see you there!

ST. PAUL'S YOUTH GROUP will start another great year filled with learning, service, friendship, and tons of fun! If you are in the 6th through 12th grade, take a break from all of that homework and join us on Sunday, September 11 from 6:00-7:30 p.m., pizza and drinks will be provided. Bring a friend if you like, all are welcome! If you have questions, contact **Alllyssa Boyer** at 717-798-4541 or allyssaboyer@verizon.net.



THE MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY GATHERING will meet for the first time this fall at 7:00 PM on **Monday, September 12**. Please join us in the Parlor at **St. Paul's** as we share in fellowship. We will be continuing our study from last year - Moments That Take Your Breath Away. No need to have been with us last year as each week is a new topic. The group meets the second and fourth Monday evenings of the month for about an hour and a half. We'd love to have you join us! Please feel free to contact Anna (766-5626) with any questions



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held during the 9:15 Sunday School hour on September 18th, the first Sunday in September with 2 services. We will be meeting in the Parlor. The Shawls will be blessed at both services on Sunday, September 25th.

The **Pollyanna's** "Pay Your Own Way" annual luncheon will be held on **Tuesday September 27, 11:30 am at Snappers** in Mechanicsburg. Please RSVP Mary Louise Miller at 766-6615. This is open to all women of the church. Pollyanna's is a primarily social group that meets once a month on a Tuesday afternoon. New faces are always welcome.



**2011 BAZAAR—ONE DAY ONLY!!
FRI. OCT 7TH!!!**

It will be a busy day filled with crafts, baked goods, flea market, and of course, our famous chicken pot pie! Pot Pie will be served on Friday from 11 am - 7pm, Take Out meals and quart Pot Pie Sales will be available while supplies last.

Now is the time to get some projects in line. Everyone has a talent we can use! **Lots of help is needed to continue the success of this event - SCHEDULE THAT VACATION DAY NOW SO YOU CAN HELP!** Our event has a history of being one of the best in the area. Those who have helped with this event in the past have commented about the great fellowship enjoyed by all.

General Chairpersons: Linda Alburger & Dar Murphy. Please contact Linda at 649-1301 or Dar at 571-4731 with any questions or ideas you may have. **Dishwashers and a crew to clean up the Kitchen after the bazaar are needed.** If you can help, please let Linda and Dar know.

Need some ideas on what you can do – talk with one of the chairpersons:

Kitchen: Joann Paulus (432-3916) & Joanne Miller (697-9620)
Bodies needed here – keep the dates open, we'll need your helping hands getting the food ready for the Bazaar and on the day of the Bazaar with the preparation! **Cooks are needed – if you can help – please let Joann know.**

Dining Room/Kitchen: Mary Runkle (766-7577) & Terry Shaner (697-8329)
Lots of help needed to set up, serve and clean up the tables the day of the bazaar in the dining room. **Can't help the day of the bazaar?** We also need help on Thursday evening wrapping silverware and setting the tables. **Please see signup sheet on the bulletin board in the commons or let Mary or Terry know if you can help!**

Country Cupboard (Bake Sale/Food sale):
Jane Hall (697-2087) & Sue Miller (795-1875)
Lots of baked goods, candies, jellies, etc needed here. Bring in your goodies the Thursday evening before the bazaar (October 6th) or early Friday morning. **Help is needed the day of the bazaar if you can help, please see signup sheet on the bulletin board.**

Country Gifts & Crafts: Anita Miller (766-7850), Susan Thorn (737-0672), Betty Olsen (697-5621), Patty Scott (737-3139), Carol Rhoads (697-3539)

Help is needed the day of the bazaar – please call Betty Olsen if you can help out! Putting out a plea now, donations of crafts are needed for the Bazaar. Some suggestions of crafts to make are: Knitted or Crocheted items, ornaments, handmade decorations, Wreaths, holiday themed items (Halloween, Fall, Thanksgiving & Christmas), pillows, etc. In making a craft, please remember to keep it so we can price it reasonably. While people do buy the crafts, they tend to look for items that are not real expensive. **If you would be willing to donate a craft, do some sewing of crafts or have ideas of crafts that you have seen at other craft fairs, please let one of our craft chairs know.**

Flea Market: Becky Thompson(761-3127) & Dale Thorpe (766-0321)

Help is needed Thursday evening October 6th to sort, price and set up the items to be sold and the day of the Bazaar. Please let Becky know if you can help! Go through your things this summer and get them ready to bring in starting Sunday 9/11 – please place your items on the stage. In the past, we have gotten substantial donations and people coming to the Bazaar line up early to check the flea market out. At the end of the day we attempt to take any items that have not sold to Salvation Army, etc. Please go over your items before bringing in to ensure they are clean and usable. No computers, monitors or clothes, please.

Clean up: Property Committee – Don & Merikay Wood (761-3036.)

Let them know if you can help put the church back in order after the Bazaar.

Help us get the word out about the Bazaar! ***Flyers are available on the table in the common area; please stop by and pick up some to distribute. Ask your local stores and businesses if you can put one up on their bulletin board or windows! It helps a lot.***

If you can't help at the bazaar, please plan to stop by on the day of the bazaar to check out the flea market, crafts and baked goods that are offered. And don't forget to stop by for lunch or dinner in the dining room. **Your patronage would be greatly appreciated!**

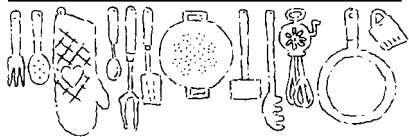
On **October 8, 2011**, **St. Paul's** will be a sponsor for this year's **Out of the Darkness community walk** by the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**. This event is held annually with thousands of participants nationwide. The money raised will provide suicide prevention services and train volunteers to provide after care and peer support to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

As a sponsor, we will have advertising and vendor space at the event, giving us an opportunity to reach out to some of the most wounded members of our community, and to send the message that "Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

WALK TO SAVE LIVES...

If you would like to walk in this event with St. Paul's team, to raise awareness, raise funds, and decrease stigma for all who have been touched by suicide, please contact Allyssa Boyer. To volunteer to work at the vendor booth at this event, or for further information, contact Tina Bowers-Paris at 717-645-9622 or tinabowersparis@gmail.com

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



Time to Clean Up! - Are you missing a container? Did you have an event recently that you used the Kitchen? Please stop by and check out the counter across from the coffee pot. There are containers that have been left from prior events. If it is yours – please take it

with you. We are getting ready for the Bazaar and need the space to work at. Thanks



Kylah Nicole Miller who was born at 9:15 am on Thursday June 23rd. Kylah was 7 lbs 14.5 oz and 19 inches long.

Our congratulations go out to the proud parents: Heather and Brandon Miller; Big brother Landyn; Grandparents: Sue and Dayne Miller, Great Grandmother Treva Miller & Aunt and Uncle: Shannon and Eric Trout.



Phoenix Lynn Trout who was born at 5:45 am on Monday June 27th. Phoenix was 4 lbs 10 oz and 18 and half inches long.

Our congratulations go out to the proud parents: Shannon and Eric Trout, Grandparents: Sue and Dayne Miller, Great Grandmother Treva Miller & Aunt and Uncle: Heather and Brandon Miller.



Dear Church Family,

Eric, Phoenix and I would like to say Thank You to everybody for all the caring and kindness that

has been shown to us. The cards, prayers, and visits from the people of the church were fabulous. Thanks also to Judy Aumiller and all the "Chefs" that made it possible for us to have food for the month of July. I can't speak for everyone, but I know that I feel that if it wasn't for the wonderful church family, we (Eric, Phoenix and I) would have never been able to get through this rough and long, and stressful time in our lives. We are ever so grateful for everyone who helped us through. Thanks again so much for all you have done for us! Love in Christ, The Trout's (Eric, Shannon and Phoenix)

My St. Paul's Family,

Thank you all so very, very much for your thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers, absolutely yummy meals, and transportation during my recent surgery. It was nice to know I wasn't alone. Sincerely Sandi Ritter-Butz

Our Thanks go out to **Don & Merikay Wood** who stripped the old wax and put new wax on the floor in the Sacristy. Check out how good it looks and be sure and pass your thanks on to them the next time you see them.

Thanks also to **Don & Merikay** for taking care of the sexton duties inside and to **Dave Scott** who took care of the mowing while Mike was on vacation.

Church Directory Update:

Megan Kern – chg in Apt#
New # Apt 3221

St. Paul's PRIDE Celebration a BIG HIT!

This year was no exception! St. Paul's UCC was front and center in this year's Central PA PRIDE celebration. In case you missed any of the activities, here is a brief rundown of the events!

A celebration of PRIDE and St. Paul's 8th year as an ONA congregation of the United Church of Christ was held on July 15th. Even though it was the end of the week, folks arrived ready to eat and PARTY! D. J. music was provided by Chuck Shultz and he had most everyone rockin to the oldies and shakin their bootie! Boxes were handed out for the St. Paul's "Mini PRIDE Parade" and the planning and fun started.

Saturday, July 30th was the PRIDE Festival along Riverfront Park in Harrisburg and as usual, St. Paul's was there. We handed out church brochures and ice pops - yes, it was hot! It is always amazing the number of folks (gay and straight) that attend PRIDE and share their amazement that a church is there. We talked to many folks looking for a welcoming congregation and some from the Mechanicsburg area.

Sunday morning, July 31st was the unveiling of the PRIDE Parade Floats. And WOW! They were absolutely fantastic. All represented the theme of ONA and PRIDE. A "map" of the real parade route was provided and each float was placed along the route for display. This year's GRAND MARSHALL, Consistory President

Kevin Allison made a major decision when he announced that each float received FIRST PLACE in the Best Overall Float Award. They were just too good to pick one! What creativity we have in this church. And I hear folks really had a great time designing and building each float.

The close of each PRIDE is an Interfaith Service. On Sunday evening, we hosted the "Spirits United Interfaith Service" service at our church. Rev. John, Rev. Brian Medkeff-Rose and Shirley Keith Knox participated in the service. We were honored to be this year's host and to welcome other faith groups into our sanctuary. "The Colors of Grace" was the theme and Rev. John provided the Reflection. The Native American, Hindu, Spiritual Humanism, Jewish, Buddhist traditions were all recognized. Food was served and folks were amazed at the "Mini PRIDE Parade" that was on display during the fellowship time. This year's service was the best attended Interfaith service.

And that's not all! It was suggested that the PRIDE floats be auctioned off to raise money for Common Roads, the local GLBT youth group. Pictures of each float will be posted on the PRIDE website. **In addition, Rev. John and St. Paul's was recognized in the CHEERS section of the Patriot News on Saturday, August 6th – see below article:**

Readers' Turn

Robert Shaffer of Mechanicsburg wrote "CHEERS to Rev. John Ward-Diorio and St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Mechanicsburg for hosting an interfaith service on behalf of central Pa.'s gay and lesbian pride celebration. Spiritual leaders or choirs from other churches and faith traditions also participated: Temple Beth Shalom, MCC of the Spirit, Blue Mountain Lotus Society, Spiritual Humanists and Silent Witness Peacekeepers Alliance. The theme — 'Celebrating diversity with the grace of unity' — was very appropriate."

Thanks to everyone that made this year's festivities the best ever!