

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

United Churches of Lycoming County

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Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Executive Director and Editor

*Issued mid-monthly, September through May. Items marked with an asterix may be of special interest to your congregation.
Deadline to submit articles - First of each month.*

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ANNUAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

We gathered around tables at St. Michael's Lutheran Church to celebrate the ministry that we do together all year and to get to know each other better. The meal and hospitality of St. Michael's congregation certainly was a blessing to celebrate, and we were honored to be part of events of their 175th year of ministry in our county!

Two Ecumenical Service Awards were presented this year to celebrate the ministry of individuals in our midst.

- Gerry Fausnaught was honored for her lifelong work to uplift justice, understanding and hope as she embraces our community in all of its wonderful diversity. She is an active member of First United Methodist Church, Williamsport, has established and developed their youth mentoring and tutoring program, and volunteers for Mothers of Pre-Schoolers and Family Promise. She shares her musical ability freely, leading the Chancel Choir for over forty years and being part of the Gatehouse Singers. Children and youth are an important part of her life as a former Teacher and Principal and also involved in Little League and Foster Parents, as well as involvement in multiculturalism, arts and all sorts of educational opportunities. She continues to be

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*The Staff, Officers
and Board Members
of United Churches
hope that you
and those for whom you pray
experience many blessings
during your Advent and
Christmas journey.*



*May we all be open to receive anew
the love, joy, peace and hope
that only He can bring,
at Christmas and every day of the year.*

E-Mail Newsletter: Our United Churches News is now available via e-mail. If you'd like to receive your newsletter this way, please contact Gwen at uclc@sunlink.net.

Visit us at the following web site - [www:uclc.org](http://www.uclc.org)

CAMPUS MINISTRY ***Sharon Comini, Coordinator,**Contact at: 419-5376 or ucm@uclc.org

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....The semester is done, final exams are finished and thanks to St. John Lutheran Church, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Giant, Weis, and personal donations, UCM was able to hand out about 125 study bags for the students at Penn College. I always look forward to handing out the study bags each semester. I love to see students' faces when I tell them it's a free gift. "Free?" they ask. "Sure I'll take it if it's free." It's a small way to share Christ's love with the students and let them know that someone is thinking about them while they study for and take their finals.

On December 3rd and 4th, students with UCM helped to serve dinner for their production of "A Christmas Carol". Special thanks to Lutheran Shared Ministry and everyone involved in the dinner and production. If you baked a cake, served dinner, washed dishes, sewed costumes, painted scenery, participated in or attended the performance, we thank you and appreciate it. Thanks to you Bernadette Jones for all your hard work and endless enthusiasm. The monies raised from this dinner will help fund our Spring break mission trip. We are teaming up with The Center for Student Missions and will be heading to Washington, DC to work with Miriam's Kitchen, DC Central Kitchen, The Boys and Girls Club, and Food and Friends to serve the poor and homeless. If you know any students at Penn College that might be interested in joining us for this worthwhile mission opportunity, please let us know.

We are planning a soup sale for the end of January to continue to raise money for our trip. Do you have a special recipe for a really great soup? Are you looking for a way to help UCM? I think you know where I am going with this. That's right. If you would like to donate some soup for the students to sell, we would certainly appreciate it. There is nothing better than a hot bowl of soup to get rid of the chill on a cold, snowy day. Also know that your soup will help us feed others.

We will be starting our Faith Talks back up on January 10. Pastors, if you are interested in leading a Faith Talk or Bible study for the spring semester, please let me know.

As we look to the Christmas season, let's take some time to think of the "free gifts" that constantly surround us. The gift of family and the blessings we receive every day, the gift of a warm smile, or a hug, or that phone call to let us know people care are the gifts that are priceless. In the hustle and bustle of this season, let us never forget the biggest gift of all, the gift of Jesus' birth, and the wonderful "free gift" of salvation that God promises to us. May you all

have a Merry Christmas and be filled with God's amazing blessings throughout the New Year.

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHESES*

Join us from 12 to 1 p.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm, ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30 p.m. No reservations are necessary. (Call Gwen at 419-1464 to check for snow cancellation.)

DECEMBER:

- 15- **Mr. Jay Miller**, Assistant Construction Engineer, and **Mr. David Wise**, Construction Manager, PennDOT, "*The Arch Street Bridge Construction Project*"
- 22- **Revs. Aden Wertz, Kevin Brophy and Gwen Bernstine**, Area Pastors, "*It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Christmas*"
- 29- **No Lunch Scheduled - Happy Holidays**

JANUARY:

- 5- "*Pedestrian Bingo*", provided courtesy of **The Community Traffic Safety Project**
- 12- **Ms. Peggy Reichenbach**, Executive Director of Big Brother, Big Sisters of the Central Susquehanna Valley, "*Partnering with Children and Youth Here in Lycoming County*"
- 19- **Revs. Danesta Whaley and Gwen Bernstine**, President and Executive Director of United Churches of Lycoming Cty., "*Getting To Know Each Other Better During this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*"
- 26- **Rev. Tom Reeder, Rector**, Christ Episcopal Church, Williamsport, "*Making a Difference in Our Community - One Church - One Meal - at a Time.*"

This is a ministry that everyone in our congregations and community is welcome to participate in. Make plans to join us and you're welcome to bring a friend!

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?

The number is 322-5762.

It's available 24 hours a day.



Devotions are three minutes or less, change weekdays and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God." The devotionalists this fall include:

12/13-19 Rev. Danesta Whaley 12/20-26 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner
12/27-1/2 - Rev. Gwen Bernstine 1/3-9 Revs. Jim & Kathy Behrens
1/10-16 Rev. Kathleen Ehram

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

J. Morris Smith, Th. D.,
Contact at: 322-8568

THIS THING OF GOD

When prophets peered into the mystery, they disclosed what they saw as signs to be made known, signs of the salvation that would come from God's Anointed One.

At Christmas time we are privileged to peer into that sacred space, made for sheltering sheep, but sanctified by God, revealing the redeeming of the race. Angels saw and what they saw was cause for ethereal celebration. Who could they tell, who would hear, who would respond in faith? Only those whose lives are detached from the things of this world have eyes to see and ears to hear, whose souls are unveiled, whose minds are uncluttered, and most of all, whose hearts are simple. This is called "holy poverty".

The angels found poor shepherds near, the poorest of the poor, guarding their sheep in the night from the dangers of the dark. These shepherds were a simple folk single in resolve, so they will hear and they will go and they will see and they will celebrate.

Suddenly in the darkness of the shepherd's field light flashed from the sky! Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord...in the refulgence of glory, the good news was proclaimed: the Light that cannot be overcome, the promised Light to all who dwell in darkness, had come!

And this shall be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. So that they would know Him, these destitute in body, soul, and spirit would find an infant wrapped in swaddling cloth, and lying in a manger. They were given a sign.

In that frightful epiphany, the host of heaven then filled the sky and burst out their joy, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.

When the angels went away, the shepherds said to one another, Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this THING that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us. With ears to hear and eyes to see, the poor respond in faith. There is more than just a baby born, there is this thing (rhema) of God, this thing...what the angel said.

The Word (logos) Mary had received, had taken place, had become flesh. The mystery that patriarchs signed, that prophets saw, that priests had ritualized, that the angel had proclaimed...IT had taken place. This was That, indeed, the Thing of God!

So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in a manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. There, signed in humble grotto's lair, lying in manger stone, swaddled with the cloth, was the Salvation of God... the Balm for death's cold sting.

Did they see IT? Did they see the SIGN? Did they see more than just an infant wrapped and lying in the stone? Did they peer into mystery by which salvation is wrought? These, the poor and simple, unhindered by the mundane and profane, glorified and praised God for what they had heard and seen... this Thing. Would they hear in future years of a new birth secured by this Holy One who had died on a cross, was wrapped in a cloth and laid in a tomb, and then was raised from the dead by the Glory of His Father, the First-born from the dead?

Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. She reflected (sumballo) on what she had heard when the shepherd retold the story. Did she see the Thing signed that holy night? Would she remember this joyous scene when she wrapped Him in swaddling bands and placed Him in this borrowed manger and then when once again she would wrap Him in a linen shroud and place Him in a borrowed tomb?

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for what they had heard and seen, just as IT had been told to them. The mystery had been signed... who will believe as they believed? When Peter entered the borrowed crypt, and saw the cloth lying there, folded neatly on the stone, did he believe? Did he know what he would tell the world?

During this Holy Season, we are beckoned to look into the mystery once again and see the SIGN. It is our privilege to stand in the torn and worn sandals of holy poverty, to clear our hearts of all that would distract, to leave our means unattended and hasten to see the Salvation of God... see this THING OF GOD, the mystery once hidden, but now made known, signed by this Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger... Christ in you, the hope of glory!

POVERTY - A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE**from our Christian Social Concerns Committee****And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.******(Luke 2:12)*** In Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph used the manger because the family was homeless in Bethlehem. We do not need to wait for Christmas to find the Christ child. God is present in the lives of the children and families whom we encounter in our communities, churches, food pantries, and homeless programs. What sign are we being to them not only at this season but throughout the year?**Lycoming County Unemployment Rate Remains High:**

The preliminary rate of unemployment for Lycoming County (Williamsport Metropolitan Statistical Area) for September 2010 was 8.1%. Although this rate is lower than last year (9%), the long-term effects of high unemployment are evident in the increased numbers coming to Shepherd of the Streets and area food pantries. Family Promise, which provides food and shelter to homeless families, is experiencing a constant need.

Child Nutrition: The **Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act** was passed in early December. This legislation will help reduce child hunger by:

- Investing \$4.5 billion in child nutrition programs over 10 years.
- Better connecting eligible children with free and reduced-price school meals.
- Expanding the after-school supper program nationwide.
- Authorizing grants to retain summer food program sponsors and improve and expand breakfast programs.

While the new legislation provides some expansion of school-based food programs and increased eligibility, this costs will be offset by cutting funds for food stamps (SNAP) during the next five years. Protecting funds for food stamps will need attention in the near future.

United Nations Millennium Development Goals – Recent Update:

In late September, the United Nations reported on the status of efforts to eradicate poverty in the world. The report was mixed with some gains made especially in China and India. However, the global dimension of the economic downturn is adversely affecting the poorest countries more than the industrialized nations of the West including the United States. Furthermore, the wealthiest countries are not meeting the pledges they made to help those less fortunate. For more information visit www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010.

Our Common Interest: Eradicating Hunger and Malnutrition Globally: 2011 will be a time of opportunity to achieve lasting progress against global hunger and mal-

nutrition. For the United States, it is a time to renew its own commitment to this goal and strengthen its partnerships with other countries to accomplish it. **Feed the Future**, a bold new U.S. government initiative, will significantly increase investments in improving the productivity and livelihoods of smallholder farmers—a sorely neglected area of U.S. development assistance, yet one that can pay off directly in fewer hungry and malnourished people. U.S. investments must focus on improving dietary quality for all children. ***And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant . . . (Luke 2:12)***

FOOD PANTRY **Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 322-1657*

Our United Churches Food Pantry provides a three day supply of food to many in need in our community. This November we helped 119 households, including 232 adults, 128 children, and 59 elderly, totaling 419 people. The numbers tell the tale: we have more persons in need each month, and since this was a holiday month, we missed a serving day that would have made the numbers higher. That being said, the unemployment rate in Williamsport reflects itself in the total people we served.

Your generosity humbles me. We had more than enough food to give folks to make up for the thanksgiving baskets that they had gotten in previous years. The only thing missing was the turkey and that's ok. Most everyone found a way to take care of that. There were numerous organizations and churches that actually served a full holiday meal. So the report this month is all good, thanks to you and your caring hearts. The items we continue to need are..

<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Tea Bags</i>	<i>Cocoa</i>
<i>Canned Fruit</i>	<i>Ramen Noodles</i>	<i>Spaghetti Sauce</i>
<i>Mac-n-cheese</i>	<i>Cake Mix/Frosting</i>	<i>Chunky Soup</i>
<i>Pasta</i>	<i>Noodles</i>	<i>Jello</i>

Your donations are best brought Monday mornings from 9:30 - Noon. Persons needing food should call and leave their name and number on the answering machine to make an appointment to receive food on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 - 3 and at other times by appointment.

November was a month for giving thanks for the reliable, wonderful volunteers who keep us going and for all the giving people who donate so that we are able to pass the blessings along. So, from all of us at the Food Pantry and the people who are blessed by your loving hearts, we wish you and your families a safe and happy celebration of the birth of our Lord and the bringing in of the year 2011 !!!

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ANNUAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

open to the ways God leads her to show compassion and caring commitment to the people of Williamsport, including her current activities as a member of City Council. She has provided visionary leadership to United Churches and The Center this year through the Amazing Grace Tour and in the process given the community a way to learn more about our history and each other.

- Rev. Detlef Huckfeldt was honored for his vision as a pastor and servant both as the pastor of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, in his work to develop Campus Ministry through United Churches at Penn College of Technology. He encourages a passion for missions, traveling to Liberia, working with refugees, and reaching out wherever he finds a need. He reaches out to youth through the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA's Youth Ministry, is a Camp Pastor at Camp Mount Luther each year, and has developed ecumenical programming for youth through United Churches. He witnesses to the German Lutheran tradition and ministries while helping us to take a fresh look at our American traditions and ministries.

The story of the ministry of United Churches must bring a sparkle to Jesus' eye and a smile to his mouth as we reach out with his love to our community... feeding the hungry (over 2,000 households this year got an emergency supply of food), helping those in need (almost 5,000 were helped this year through our Shepherd Ministry), bringing hope to those in prison, and helping people draw closer to God as we go out to nursing homes and assisted living centers (we do over 800 services each year). The ability to share news about our life in a newsletter like this is something to celebrate.

Our Financial report shows that we have had to enact program cuts of 20% less staff hours in order to find a supportable bottom line for our congregations at this time. This means that ministries that were open on Fridays have not been open on Fridays since June. A 2011 budget of \$146,646.26 was approved.

Getting to know you was the order of the evening. We began with some small group sharing about ourselves and our congregations. People were invited to tell their new friends things they would like people to pray for their congregation. And each person was invited to take information about a local church or two home with them and pray for them throughout the year.

More news from the assembly next month.

CREATION CORNER

from our *Christian Social Concerns Committee*

Faith & the Environment:

Winter 2011 Viewings, web-sites and Books

By the time you read this the 2010 UN Climate Change conference in Cancun, Mexico will have concluded.

- For available, accessible and replicable solutions to the challenge of climate change, see the following web site: <http://www.unep.org/unite/30ways>.
- For statements and actions regarding religion and climate change, see <http://fore.research.yale.edu/climate-change>.
- In Connecticut 200 congregations announced their efforts to implement energy-saving strategies; see www.irejn.org.

FILMS/DVDs/IMAGES/MUSIC

- Portraying the diverse movement of American religious environmental activists is a dvd at www.renewalproject.net. Also, how commitment to the environment has affected one's experience of faith.
- From the Humane Society of the United States (www.humanesociety.org) "**Eating Mercifully: Christian Perspectives on Factory Farming**" dvd & study guides. Also "**Animal Protection Ministries**" study guide.
- Music c.d., "A Garden Once Again: Songs in Celebration of Creation" by Kathleen Deignan, CND. www.scholaministries.org/recordings/a-garden-once-again-songs-in-celebration-of-creation/

BOOKS

Note: Some books may be available in paperback, audio and/or kindle editions.

- *The Body of God: An Ecological Theology*. Sallie McFague.
- *A Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-Based Decisions*. Katharine Hayhoe and Andrew Farley.
- *A Communion of Subjects: Animals in Religion, Science, and Ethics*. Edited by Paul Waldau and Kimberly Patton.
- *Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future*. Bron Taylor
- *Diversity and Dominion: Dialogues in Ecology, Ethics and Ecology*. Edited by Kyle S. VanHoutan and Michael S. Northcott.
- *Earth-Wise: A Biblical Response to Environmental Issues*. Calvin B. DeWitt.
- *The Environment and Christian Ethics*. Michael S. Northcott.

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- **Green Guide Families: The Complete Reference for Eco-Friendly Parents.** Catherine Zandonella.
- **The Green Hour: A Daily Dose of Nature for Happier, Healthier, Smarter Kids.** Todd Christopher (of the NWF's Green Hour).
- **Green Intelligence: Creating Environments that Protect Human Health.** John Wargo.
- **Green Mama: The Guilt-Free Guide to Helping You and Your Kids Save the Planet.** Tracey Bianchi.
- **Green Sisters: A Spiritual Ecology.** Sarah McFarland Taylor.
- **Holy Dogs and Asses: Animals in the Christian Tradition.** Laura Hobgood-Oster.
- **I Love Dirt: 52 Activities to Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonders of Nature.** Jennifer Ward, with foreword by Richard Louv.
- **Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril.** Edited by Kathleen Jean Moore & Michael P. Nelson.
- **Natural Saints: How People of Faith are Working to Save God's Earth.** Mallory McDuff.
- **Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on our Children.** Philip and Alice Shabecoff.
- **Reimagining Global Prosperity.** The Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, www.iccr.org.
- **Religion and the Environment, volumes I-IV.** Edited by Roger S. Gottlieb.
- **Rooted in the Earth: Reclaiming the African American Environmental Heritage.** Dianne Glave.
- **The Sacred Universe: Earth Spirituality and Religion in the Twenty-First Century.** Thomas Berry.
- **Saving God's Green Earth: Rediscovering the Church's Responsibility to Environmental Stewardship.** Tri Robinson.
- **The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science and the Ecology of Wonder.** William P. Brown.
- **Stewardship of Creation: What Catholics Should Know About Church Teaching on the Environment.** Marie I. George.
- **Walden** (150th anniversary edition). Henry David Thoreau, with foreword by Terry Tempest Williams.
- **Whole Child: Developing Mind, Body and Spirit Through Outdoor Play.** www.nwf.org/New...

JOURNAL

- Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture and Ecology. See www.brill.nl/wo

Note: A citation was omitted from the November column about the "Christian Faith and the Earth" project. It is "Reflections on Sustainable Theological Education: A Tribute to David Rhoads" by Rosemary Radford Ruether, in *Currents in Theology and Mission* 37:2 (April 2010), pp.99-104.

CLASSIFIEDS

Electric Organ Needs New Home: The Williamsport Home apartments has an electric Conn organ that does work. Would any of our area churches be able to benefit from an organ. We are searching for a new home for the organ. It is in our Edgewood (A) building activities room and unfortunately need to free up the space. Contact Denise Bower, Associate Director, The Williamsport Home, call 570-322-2763.

SAFETY REMINDER*

Below is a reminder to your congregation to drive safely this holiday season. We would appreciate you placing this information in one of your December bulletins.

As you are rushing about this holiday season, please remember that the time spent in your vehicle is time to be spent focused on driving.

If you talk on the cell phone or text, tune the radio, reach for things on the dash, seat or floor, fix your hair, eat, drink, smoke, or argue when you drive, then you are driving distracted.

Driving demands your full attention. If you do anything that takes your focus from the drive, pull over, or do it BEFORE or AFTER you drive.

And always buckle up. It's your best defense against distracted, drowsy or impaired drivers.

-This information is provided by
the Community Traffic Safety Project.

Souper Bowl Sunday is one way to help our United Churches Food Pantry, or another pantry in our area, to have more food to give to people in need. It is an effort to glorify God and care for "the least of these" by each worshiper giving a can of food or the cost of a can of food (\$1) on Super Bowl Sunday (February 6, 2011). Groups call 1-800-358-7687 on the day of the game (between noon and 5 p.m.) to report the amount collect, then send your funds/food to the charity of your choice. Reporting your collection enables the full impact of this simple act of caring to be determined and announced. In 2010 the grand total generated was \$10,115,710 by 12,957 groups. Be part of a modern day miracle by getting your church on board. More information go to: www.souperbowl.org.

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY

Rev. Danesta Whaley, Council Director - 326-6868

This Little Light of Mine, I'm Going to Let it Shine!

That is what we are to do dear friends. Not just at this wonderful time of the year when we celebrate our Savior's birth and celebrate with family and friends, but we are to be shining brightly for all to see 365 days a year!

Our volunteers continue to let their light shine brightly every week as they go into the area prisons to shine a light into the darkness. I know for a certainty and from practical experience that there are days and times that we might sense our light isn't shining, but as we continue to be diligent and available to HIM, even though we don't 'feel' anything, we can know that the Holy Spirit is doing HIS work through us!

Recently, one of our volunteers was asked by an inmate, "what do you see in me since I have made some changes and the commitment to follow the Lord?"

The response was immediate, "I see the light of Christ in your life!" This statement came easily for the volunteer; however, several months prior, this was not the case.

Week after week after week of just continuing had paid off... another life beginning the change and taking the steps toward a new life. It takes teamwork.

Everything you do for the Kingdom counts! Never underestimate the smallest detail. Yes, even LOVE in a Christmas stocking! We are so grateful for the precious women who gave of their time and talents to make 50 Christmas stockings for the children's program for Bridge Haven and S.C.I. Muncy. Our in-house manager has been giving out the stockings to those families with children who come to stay at the hospitality house at Yokefellow Center. Also, stockings were delivered to Muncy Prison for the children who come to visit their mothers at the visitor's center. Chapplain Reitz of Muncy extends her appreciation to all as well!

Thank you for letting your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven! Merry Christmas and let's ALL shine brighter in the New Year!

*United Churches
is your church
e-x-t-e-n-d-e-d
in ministry!*

OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Caregiving: A 75 Minute Telephone Workshop for Family Caregivers and Friends will be presented by the American Cancer Society, South Atlantic Division. The presenter will be Julia Bucher, RN, Phd. Check online for the latest topics, dates and times at www.cancer.org/sacaregiver workshops or call 1-800-966-3586. These telephone workshops are offered to anyone caring for a loved one with cancer. Participation is free and no phone charges apply. Please register for the workshop date and time that best suits your schedule. After you have registered you will receive additional information.

Singers Needed: The Williamsport Civic Chorus is looking for singers for their April presentation of Bach's St. John Passion which will be held on Palm Sunday in the afternoon. All singers, high school age and older, are invited. Music will be provided and dues are reasonable. Rehearsals begin on Monday, January 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Market St., Williamsport. Please use the rear door on the Mulberry St. side. Parking is free.

Drivers Needed: Everyday there are cancer patients in our community in need of a ride to a medical facility for treatment. You can help save a life by volunteering your time as a driver. To become a volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society you must:

- Own a safe and reliable vehicle
- Have a current, valid drivers license
- Have proof of adequate automobile insurance
- Have a good driving record
- Attend a Road to Recovery volunteer training.

Contact Karen Maurer at the Am. Cancer Soc. 326-4149 x 3003 for more information about how to help someone along the road to recovery.

Military Addresses Needed: The American Red Cross is requesting names and addresses of people from our area who are in the military and would like to have letters from home...and don't get many. Addresses of military personnel can be sent directly to Deborah Steinbacher at our local American Red Cross office here. Her e-mail is dsteinbacher@ncpa-redcross.org. Albright LIFE will be writing letters to the military people, and the letters will be mailed back to the ARW for screening purposes and then go on to the military persons.

2011 RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS / HOLIDAYS CALENDAR

This listing, though selective and incomplete, highlights religious feasts, festivals and other observances. It is offered with the hope that awareness will be fostered special days celebrated by other Christian Traditions and some celebrations of other Faiths present in our community.

KEY: (PC) Protestant Christians, (RC) Roman Catholic Christians, (OC) Orthodox Christians, (C) Christians [All], (E) Ecumenical. Other religions in our area - (M) Muslim, (J) Judaism (I) Interfaith (N) National

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1 - New Year's Day --	2 - Meeting of Christ in the Temple OC	4 - World Day of Prayer (CWU) E
6 - Epiphany/Theophony C	6 - Souper Bowl Sunday E	6 - Transfiguration C
9 - Baptism of Jesus C	6 - Four Chaplains Sunday C+J	7 - Great Lent Begins OC
17 Martin Luther King Holiday E	14-20 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week I	8 - Shrove Tuesday C
18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity E		9 - Ash Wednesday C
		13 - County Wide Lenten Service E
		20 - Purim J
		25 - Annunciation of Virgin Mary RC
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
17 - Palm Sunday C	1 - Yom HaSho'ah J	2 - Ascension of Christ C
19 - Passover (Pesach) Begins J	5 - National Day of Prayer I-USA	8-9 - Shavout J
21 - Maundy Thursday C	6 - May Friendship Day (CWU) E	12 - Pentecost C
22 - Good (Holy) Friday C		19 - United Churches Sunday (Trinity Sun) C
24 - Easter C		19 - All Saints Day OC
26 - Passover (Pesach) ends J		23 - Corpus Christi RC
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
4 - Independence Day N	1 - Ramadan expected to Begin M	8 - Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary C
	6 - Transfiguration OC	14 - Holy Cross Day RC+OC
	9 - Tish B'Av J	29-30 - Rosh Hashanah J
	15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary RC+OC	
	31 - Eid al Fitr - Ramadan Ends M	
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
2 - World Communion Sunday E	1 - All Saints Day PC+RC	1 - World AIDS Day I
8 - Yom Kippur J	4 - World Community Day Pgm E	6 - St. Nicholas Day OC
9 - Laity Sunday E	7-9 - PA Pastors Conference E	8 - Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary RC
9 - CROP Walk I	13 - Stewardship Sunday E	19 - Last Sunday of Advent C
13-19 - Sukkot J	15 - Advent Begins OC	21-28 - Chanukkah J
	20 - Christ the King PC+RC	25 - Christmas C
	21 - Entry of the Theotokos OC	26-1/1 - Kwanzaa --
	24 - Thanksgiving I - USA	28 - The Holy Innocents C
	26 - Hijj - New Year M	31 - Watch Night C
	27 - Advent Begins RC+PC	

NOTE: Celebrations of the Jewish holydays begin at sundown of the preceding day, and end at sundown on the holyday.