

# UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

**United Churches of Lycoming County**

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701

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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.*

Volume XXVIII Number 4

April 12, 2011

*Church Women United's.....*

## **MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY \***

***Mrs. Regina Gross, President***

**T**he theme for May Friendship Day 2011 is "The Key to Living our Friendship with Each Other". It is the celebration where we focus on Church Women United and each unit's strengths and involvements. This celebration will be held Friday, May 6 at Montoursville Presbyterian Church with a luncheon at noon and celebratory program at 1:15.

The lunch will cost \$7.50 per person. Reservations are needed by April 23<sup>rd</sup> and must be pre-paid. Send checks payable to Church Women United. Mail to: May Friendship Day, Diane Casella, 407 Allen Street, Montoursville, PA 17754.

There will be an ingathering of items for the United Churches Food Pantry (a list of items most needed can be found on page 4) and pre-cut Christmas stockings will be available. This celebration will also feature the Fellowship of the least coin.

## **CWS BLANKET AND KIT COLLECTION\***

**T**he new and good used blankets and kits you have been getting ready should be brought to First United Methodist Church, Williamsport. Remember to use the door by the fountain at the point of Market and Packer Streets. The church will be open between 9 a.m. and Noon on Saturday, May 7 to accept and record your donations. Copies of instructions and supplies are still available at our office as are the blanket envelopes and inserts.

Offerings for transportation to a disaster site is \$2 per Blanket, School, Baby and Health Kits and \$3 for Emergency Clean-up Buckets. They can be delivered at that time or sent to the office of United Churches, 202 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Wmspt. PA 17701 Your assembling of the kits is only the first step in getting them where they can help so much. The kits are taken to Harrisburg where they are then transported to the Church World Service (CWS) Center in New Windsor Maryland where they are sorted and packed for shipment anywhere in the world. The money you donate assures that they reach disaster destinations when needed.

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

September 20, 2011 is our....

**1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL UNITED CHURCHES  
GOLF TOURNAMENT \***

**W**e continue to look for golfers, sponsors, and items we can give as door prizes for our upcoming golf tournament. Once again, this can be the largest single fund raiser we have this year to contribute to the goal of \$45,000 for the 2011 UCLC commitment. Yet, it will only work if you help us.

Pastors, we need you to assign a contact person and have that person get in touch with Ken Weiss at [kweiss1213@hotmail.com](mailto:kweiss1213@hotmail.com) or 323-6325. We are also looking for a special item (a nice piece of jewelry or a special painting) that we can raffle off at our tournament. If you have someone in your church who would be willing to donate such an item, please let us know.

Sponsorships are starting to come in. Sanders Mortuary has agreed to be our tournament sponsor. Thrivent Financial has also agreed to a major sponsorship. We are still looking for Prize Sponsors (\$200 each) as well as Hole sponsors (\$100 each) and we are starting to collect church sponsorships (\$50 each). We also need door prizes, snacks, hot dogs, buns, soda, and bottles of water.

It is a best ball tournament, which makes it fun for even those of us who don't play very well. Start talking it up and send us your reservation for a foursome. We can only accept the first 50 or so foursomes so don't be too late.

**WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES\***

**J**oin 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.

**APRIL:**

**LENTEN SERIES: The Dramatic Silences**

- 13- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Executive Dir, United Churches "*The Silence of Jesus At the Table*", Mt. 26:20-22  
20- **Dr. J. Morris Smith**, Shepherd of the Street "*Of the Threefold Hour*", Luke 23:44-45a  
27- **Rev. David Fishel**, Chaplain, Susquehanna Health System, "*The Susquehanna: Secrets from the Past*"

**MAY**

- 4 - **Rev. Mabel Kainyande and Mr. J. T. Cole**, Sierra Leon, "*Partnering in Ministry in West Africa*"  
11- To Be Announced  
18- **Rev. Kevin and Mrs. Irene Brophy**, Pastor,

Salladasburg United Methodist Church, "*Paul in Greece*"

25- **Rev. Aden Wertz**, Pastor, Pine Street United Methodist Church, "*The Music of Aden*"

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.



**D**evotions 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:

- |          |                       |         |                          |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 4/11-17  | Rev. Nessie Whaley    | 4/18-24 | Rev. Gwen Bernstine      |
| 4/25-5/1 | Rev. Kathleen Ehram   | 5/2-8   | Revs Jim & Kathy Behrens |
| 5/9-15   | Rev. Dorothy Anderson | 5/16-22 | Rev. Kathleen Ehram      |

*Listen today and tell others about this ministry!*

***Our Second Annual....***

**AMAZING GRACE TOUR**

**Saturday August 6, 2011**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**J**oin us in visiting some of our beautiful houses of worship this year. Included in each tour will be music, architecture, stained glass windows, history and refreshments. The Williamsport Houses of Worship included in the 2011 tour are:

- St. Boniface Catholic Church
- New Covenant United Church of Christ
- St. Mark Lutheran Church
- The Salvation Army
- Holy Cross Orthodox Church

The cost per ticket will again be \$10 and the proceeds will go to the Salvation Army and to our United Churches' Shepherd of the Street Ministry.

Reserve the first Saturday in August in your calendar and enjoy learning more about our wonderful churches! For more information contact Gwen at United Churches, 322-1110 or [uclc@sunlink.net](mailto:uclc@sunlink.net) or any of the committee, Gerry Fausnaught - Chair, Melodie Russell, Jackie Thomas.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY \*****Sharon Comini, Coordinator,**Contact at : 419-5376 or [ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org)***Seeing our Nation's Capitol Through the Eyes of a Servant***

**A**fter all the fundraisers and preparation, we finally left for our mission trip to Washington D.C. thinking we would prepare meals in soup kitchens and sort food at the Food Bank. However, God had other plans for us. What we did in two days took us out of our comfort zone, challenged us and in the end, made us smile, because we knew it was all worth it, and in some small way, we helped to make things happen.

We got started on Sunday night right after we arrived. Our coordinators took us on a prayer tour of the city. We stopped at "The Children of Mine Youth Center," where we prayed for Mrs. Hannah Hawkins and her work with the inner city youth who come to the center. We drove through the affluent Adams Morgan community where black and white come together, live in unity and where diversity is celebrated. We prayed in the impoverished community of Anacostia where housing projects are being renovated. You would think that would be a good thing, but the renovations raise the prices so much that residents can not afford to live there anymore. At the end of our prayer tour, we drove up to an overlook where we could see the entire city. Even in the pouring rain, we not only saw our nation's beautiful capital, we also saw a city of hope, where people cared enough to want to make a difference.



On Monday, we went to "A Wider Circle." This organization gives furniture and small household appliances to those who need it. The program was started by a man who was delivering a meal to a family. When he walked in their apartment, there was no couch, no beds, and no table to eat the meal he had delivered. He decided to do something about it and "A Wider Circle was born." We thoroughly cleaned the furniture in the showroom. What struck me the most was that people were on a waiting list for months. After waiting so long, the day staff helped them choose their furniture, and we helped them load it onto trucks, was truly a happy day for them. It brought me joy to know that I had a small part in helping them with their furniture, when the day before, they were sleeping on the floor.

Later that afternoon, we worked with elementary school students at an after-school program located in an apartment building. Meneta Wyatt, the director, truly has a heart for these kids. She treats them as her own. For three hours we helped the students with homework and played with them in the small, grassy area outside the apartment complex. The

kids' smiles were contagious and they really enjoyed having our undivided attention. Meneta was grateful for our help and playing with the kids made the afternoon so worthwhile.

Tuesday, we worked with an organization called "Community Group Homes" raking and cleaning an elderly woman's yard. After all the leaves and branches were cleared we found the first signs we'd seen of spring. There were flowers blooming everywhere! By the time we finished, her yard looked terrific and spring had definitely arrived.

Our biggest challenge came Tuesday afternoon when we did an activity called the "Urban Plunge." There were four of us in a group. We were given \$2 each and bus tickets with enough money on them to get us to and from our destination. We had to feed our group and a homeless person with the \$8 we had. We also had to have enough money left over to buy a pair of socks to give to someone. Once we were there, we had to talk with the homeless to find out many things; where to find a cheap meal, where to sleep if we had to spend a night in the city, and where we could go if we were sick and didn't have any insurance. I was amazed at how friendly and helpful the homeless were to us. We got our meal at CVS. We were able to buy four cans of spaghetti and meatballs and the socks. We ate our dinner right out of the can at the park and I couldn't help but notice the looks that our group received from passersby. It was a very humbling experience and made me realize how difficult it would be to even spend one night on the streets.

It seemed fitting to end our Washington experience by attending the Ash Wednesday service at the National Cathedral. In the midst of the beauty of the cathedral, the ashes on our foreheads were a solemn reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Everything we have is because God chooses to provide for us, and it is our obligation to keep our hearts and minds fixed on his kingdom and serve those in need.

**"He has showed you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God. - Micah 6:8**

**M**ay Newsletter will be mailed May 11. All Information for that newsletter is needed by May 1, 2011. A vacation Bible School listing will also be in that edition. There will not be another edition until September.

### **POVERTY - A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE\***

*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**I** am the resurrection and the life. (John 11:25) As we prepare to celebrate Easter, what does the Resurrection of Jesus mean to us as individuals and collectively as the Christian community of Lycoming County? Does the Resurrection both inspire and challenge us to do more for those living in stressful economic conditions of hunger, food insecurity, unemployment, and underemployment? May our belief in the Resurrection energize us to do more in charity and justice for those living in poverty.

**Lycoming County Unemployment Rate Increased:** The preliminary rate of unemployment for Lycoming County (Williamsport Metropolitan Statistical Area) for January 2011 was 8.7%. This rate reveals a continuing increase each month since November, 2010.

**Poverty and the Environment - A Global Perspective:** A global perspective promotes the common good for all humanity. It also encourages us to seek a balanced and fair integration of human activity with the environment.

**Poverty and the Environment - Equitable Access and Fair Distribution:** The distribution of environmental benefits (and costs) is determined largely by public policies and government practices. Too often, public policies favor affluent people and regions, enriching a few powerful political and economic elites while passing disproportionately large social and environmental costs on to poor and disenfranchised populations. Even small changes in these policies can have a large effect on building the assets of the poor and reducing poverty. Source: World Resource Institute - [www.wri.org/project/equity-poverty-environment](http://www.wri.org/project/equity-poverty-environment).

**National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE) – Poverty:** NRPE offers a Climate Fairness Agenda. This policy framework begins with a series of goals for achieving environmental and economic fairness in any climate change legislation Congress might consider -- and then identifies a set of ideas specifically designed to advance them domestically and internationally. Among other things, our agenda calls for:

- **Priorities:** Making protecting people in poverty a central focus.
- **Resources:** Setting aside 40 percent of all new revenues generated by climate change legislation for programs aimed at shielding vulnerable populations from environmental dangers and limiting the economic burdens of new policies on low-income and working families at home and abroad.
- **Energy Relief:** Providing temporary rebates to Ameri-

can low-income and working families to offset any substantial rise in energy prices resulting from climate change legislation.

- **Evaluation:** Studying the particular impacts and consequences of climate change on vulnerable populations around the world and the effectiveness of specific relief efforts.
- **Preparation:** Promoting emergency and long-range planning and assistance to help vulnerable populations in our own country and abroad adapt to adverse climate impacts and climate change policy and to participate in mitigation efforts. Source: [www.nrpe.org](http://www.nrpe.org).

### **UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY \***

*Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 322-1657*

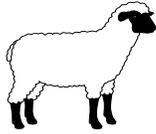
**O**ur Food Pantry provides a three day supply of food to many in need in our community. In March we assisted a total of 259 persons; 189 adults, 112 children and 58 elderly in 138 households.

This month we'd like to send out a huge 'Thank you' to the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts that did a food drive for us in March. Cub Scout Pack # 21 from Montoursville and Boy Scout Troop #12 from St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Williamsport have been doing this for a number of years and each year we're astounded at the amount of food that they gather! We never know what the weather will be like those middle weeks of March. We've had to shovel the driveway some years and some years we can wear t-shirts but the kids are faithful in remembering us with this project. It makes a difference for us to have this extra shot in the arm with donations to keep our clients food bags full.

Thanks to everyone involved in this endeavor. It's so important for young people to learn that we all need to help each other. This is not an easy world (He never promised us easy) and for us to make it, we need to know that we have friends and neighbors willing to lend us a hand when we're in need. Items we need at the Pantry:

<i>Jello</i>	<i>Tea Bags</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
<i>Oodles-of-Noodles</i>	<i>Chunky Soups</i>	<i>Sugar</i>
<i>Egg Noodles</i>	<i>Granola Bars</i>	<i>Spaghetti Sauce</i>
<i>Canned Fruits</i>	<i>Canned Veggies</i>	<i>Oatmeal Packets</i>
<i>Hamburger Helper</i>	<i>Cake Mix/Frosting</i>	<i>Canned Tuna</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.



## SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS\*

J. Morris Smith, Th. D.,

Contact at: 322-6538

### PRIMITIVEIZATION

**H**ow do you like that word? I cannot find it in the dictionary, and my computer spell check red-lines it, but I like it! It means a regression of a person or society to primitive, untamed, underdeveloped, undomesticated ways of existence. Tried and true standards of life in particular are so affected by it that life in general declines to levels that were heretofore considered primitive and erroneous.

It happens when truth is ignored for that which attracts the flesh, which titillates, captivates, and degenerates. It has always been around, but in my lifetime I began to notice it with acceptance of Darwinian evolutionary theory supplanting the necessity of God. "There is no God" led to a long line of trial and failure so that man becomes only the highest form of animal, the psyche accepts a lower estimate of mankind, civilization, and self. This lowering of expectations causes the devaluing of standards and truths by which one lives life. The lowering of standards means that one must intentionally ignore that which undergirds that value or virtue and makes it what it is. The tried and true is re-interpreted to say more than originally meant.

Abandonment of morality leads to ignorance of responsible behavior, personal and civil, cheapening life, so that living in the world overrides quality of life. Quantity replaces quality. Laws are changed to conform to a lower standard, which is written in weaker language. What was bad is no longer bad, having come into vogue by popular demand. Intentional abortion is no longer the taking of a life, children born out of wedlock no longer are "illegitimate", the family is ravaged by selfishness, divorce and remarriage or no marriage at all, and commitment is no longer required, leaving ruin and hopelessness as the environment for children to hack out meaning and purpose.

History is ignored or attacked and reformed to give meaning to the desired idealism, or worse, misinterpreted to give ideological confirmation to the current humanistic vogue. Moral values are no longer taught by example or precept, acquiescing to individual rights rather than the communal good. Words change their meaning to fit the crudeness of expression...bad is the new good, everything is relevant rather than anything absolute. Truth is what one believes it to be.

Fine arts are ignored in order to portray modern thought called "reality" (an elephant or chimpanzee can paint a picture that is accepted as art), virtual becomes as good as the real thing, music degenerates into a cacophony of simulated

noise, appealing to base primitive nature, producing gyrations and screams reminiscent of ancient witch doctors who, with such, could produce trance-like behavior and subjugation (it works). Education is ignored and no longer builds on what is true and right, or what has been learned, but is lowered to fit the aptitude of the progeny of such a culture. Skill gives way to mechanization and technology and is no longer prized. Professionalism is considered less important than pride, and integrity is overcome by greed. Good enough replaces excellence, throw-away replaces built-to-last, expeditiousness replaces care. Social behavior is no longer measured by what is best, but lowered to selfish so-called freedoms which are devoid of common courtesy, consideration for others, and the common good.

The devil and demons are given release from spiritual chains by spoofs and sarcasm, and attributed to archaic notions or given Latin labels and dignity. Sin is out of date, wrong is only what one thinks it is, Jesus was not the Son of God, but a good man who did good things, sacred scripture is not the inspired Word of God because it has mistakes and seeming inconsistencies, and it is stupid to believe anyone can be born of a virgin or abrogate sin by dying on a cross.

Lowering of standards and values leads to the lowering of expectations which leads to the lowering of abilities which leads to the devaluing of heritage, causing social, economic, aesthetic, domestic, and spiritual deterioration. That is what I mean by primitiveization, a process which engenders the deepest poverty. Like death, it is indifferent to rich or poor, wise or ignorant, strong or weak, fit or inept, prince or pauper. Like death it seeks to be at work early in life, and drags its destructive net with immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, rage, selfishness, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, sexual perversions, and is hindered only by truth, reality, and godliness. Its enemies are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is most afraid of love. It cannot abide in the presence of God.

## CREATION CORNER

*from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

### Stand For What You Stand On: Where We Live

As this is being written we are mindful of (1) our nation's worst coalfield disaster since 1970, a year ago, April 5, 2010, at the West Virginia Massey Energy Co. Upper Big Branch Mine; (2) the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power station explosion in the Ukraine, April 26, 1986; and (3) the most recent Tokyo Japan Electric Power Company Fukushima nuclear power complex catastrophe following an earthquake and tsunami there.

And of course the first anniversary of the 2010 BP (British Petroleum) oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico occurs this coming Easter weekend, and the world will focus on lessons learned from that tragic event.

This year that same weekend is Earth Day and Earth Day Sunday. Our April monthly column focus for that is not global, but instead is local: "Where Two or More are Gathered" ([www.nccecojustice.org/earthday](http://www.nccecojustice.org/earthday)), and raises up concerns we here are acquainted with, yet need to be reminded of so we may take action on behalf of all of creation.

As we "think globally" we also "act locally" in our Susquehanna River bio-region, especially the west branch of it, and more specifically along the various watersheds locally. Helping to steward water resources is an action that people of faith can do, and the Lycoming County PA Conservation District Watershed Notes e-newsletter ([www.lyco.org](http://www.lyco.org)) provides information about each of our nine local watershed associations (Loyalsock Creek, Lycoming Creek, Muncy Creek, Greater Nippenose Valley, Black Hole Creek, Pine Creek Preservation Association, Rose Valley/Mill Creek, Pine Creek Watershed Council, and Larry's Creek Watershed Association).

Other watershed efforts include Trout Unlimited (Susquehanna Chapter: [www.sqtu.org](http://www.sqtu.org)); Northcentral PA Conservancy ([www.npcweb.org](http://www.npcweb.org)); Otzinachson region of the PA Chapter of the Sierra Club ([www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson](http://www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson)); and the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies ([www.srhces.org](http://www.srhces.org)).

There is also, from the perspective of the humanities, the print and on-line "Watershed: The Journal of the Susquehanna" (see <http://org.bloomu.edu/watershed/index.html>). Also see "Water Stewards: A Toolkit for Congregational Care of Local Watersheds" ([www.nccecojustice.org/resources](http://www.nccecojustice.org/resources)).

Regarding watershed food issues, studies about "food miles" (the average number of miles it reportedly takes for

your dinner to get to your table), show that many factors determine whether a food item is "environmentally friendly." In order to shrink the fossil fuel (greenhouse gas emissions) in our diets, we need to consider not just what transportation accounts for, but also how food is produced. Eating lower on the food chain is key (switching from red meat and dairy products to chicken, fish, eggs, or a vegetable-based diet).

Eating locally also has its place, according to an article in the current March/April "E" magazine. "Local food builds community, poses smaller risk for food-borne contaminants and tastes better. It doesn't require refrigeration for long-distance hauling, and is often free from packaging waste."

Also, on watershed food issues, see the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture ([www.pa-safarming.org](http://www.pa-safarming.org)) and [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org) and other examples of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Simple ways to act on behalf of local food production include purchasing food at a farmer's market, hosting a church "bioregional meal" (food taken from no more than 25 miles away), or growing a "garden of eatin'" on church land.

One watershed air issue, that of the "perils of barrels", (pollution from backyard burner barrel burning) is being addressed by bans in some communities, and this "Creation Corner" column compiler can provide details on that subject (e-mail Michael Ochs, [billtownmike@yahoo.com](mailto:billtownmike@yahoo.com)). Carpooling can also help offset air pollution.

Bible study on water, food and air issues can be guided through environmental social statements of your church. For further aid in taking action, see <http://nccecojustice.org/takeaction/action.php>. For more information, contact [info@nccecojustice.org](mailto:info@nccecojustice.org), the Eco-Justice Program of the National Council of Churches.

Remember, a healthy watershed is harmonious with the needs of people, the land and natural resources. By giving back to our environment, by providing for the health of the soil, water, air, plants, and animals, we help to create a watershed that will sustain generations beyond ours. Watershed care guides help us in this our responsibility.

**United Churches**

**is your church**

**E-X-T-E-N-D-E-D**

**in Missions**

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES \***

**A**lzheimer's Seminar: Wednesday, April 27 Clay Jacobs from the Alzheimer's Association will lead a free seminar at Albright Life, 901 Memorial Avenue Wmspt. During the seminar (10-3) clergy, staff and volunteers will learn creative ways to minister to those individuals and their families and continue to feed them the bread of life. Call 322-5433 by 4/25 to register.

**C**aring for the Caregiver A morning seminar will be held on Wednesday, June 1 at Mater Dolorosa Parish Hall. The Keynote Speakers will be *Dr. Alexander Nesbitt, Barbara Natel and Rev. John Charnock*. This interactive training is designed to help you in providing care to the caregiver and will include community resources available. Registration and light breakfast will begin at 7:30 and the seminar will finish at noon. The cost is \$10. CEU's will be available for clergy, nurses and social workers. Register with United Churches at 322-1110 or [ucl@sunlink.net](mailto:ucl@sunlink.net).

**P**ennsylvania State Pastors' Conference theme will be "Practical and Practiced Awe: Reclaiming the Joy and Wonder of Our Call". It will feature the following keynote speakers...

- **Anabel C. Proffitt**, Associate Professor of Educational Ministries, Lancaster Theological Seminary; author of *The Sense of Wonder: Pathos and Play in Religious Education (forthcoming)*.
- **John A Berntsen**, Director of Student Services, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; author of *Cross-Shaped Leadership; On the Rough and Tumble of Parish Practice (Alban, 2008)*

Skilled leaders will present engaging workshops on a variety of topics aimed at enhancing pastoral ministry. You'll also be able to enjoy special interest luncheons, Worship, fellowship and so much more when we gather at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East. Reserve November 14-16, 2011 on your calendar and plan to attend.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**C**ruise to Bermuda this June 12-19: First Church of Christ (Disciples) still has room for anyone interested in cruising to Bermuda. A bus will pick them up at the church and bring them back after the cruise. They sail on the Celebrity Summit. Prices are lower than almost any other group cruise. The church is not making a cent on the cruise and there is no group leader getting their trip paid, so low prices can allow so more people could go. Contact Pastor Weiss at 323-6325 or [kweiss1213@hotmail.com](mailto:kweiss1213@hotmail.com) for more information.

**A**llen Organ needs a good home: Wood encased Allen organ, 2 keyboards with 5 octaves each, + chimes and bass pedals 2 1/2 octaves; numerous stops for pedal, swell, gen and great. Speakers are 50" high, 33" wide, 20" deep. Installed in the early 1990's. If interested, contact Fairlawn Community Church, 494-0414. Cost: donation.

**YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY**

*Rev. Danesta Whaley, Council Director - 326-6868*

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS FROM THE LORD!**

**W**hat are your expectations and from Whom? Ps. 62:5 declares "My soul waits silently from God above. For my expectation is from HIM."

Week after week, the Lord surprises us at Yokefellow as we anticipate with GREAT expectations that HIS hand is upon the ministry. A few of our Praise reports to share:

**From S.C.I. Muncy** - the volunteers continue to report increase in those they minister to on Thursdays. The women come and are expecting from the Lord as they share in a study about getting free from addictions. At least 40-50 women are in attendance to receive God's word and then to apply it to their lives. They are refreshed and encouraged as they not only desire the change from themselves but return back to their cells and invite others to attend!

**From Lycoming County Prison** - The volunteers also report an increase in the men and women who attend. From the Yokefellow study, 'eternal life' has been a topic and also the study of Psalm 23. A study of 'Certainty' (Knowing what you believe and why you believe it) has been a topic of our Tuesday study at the prison.'

**From Clinton County** - We expect new study groups to begin in May for both men and women. Our recent female volunteers who have been trained will oversee studies for the women. Please pray as these new studies get underway here. The chaplain welcomes us with open arms and is excited about these new study times.

Thank you for your support of this vital ministry! If you have questions/inquiries or desire to be part of the ministry, contact us. We are EXPECTING the Lord to lead you as you seek HIM.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY \*

### GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICES

12 Noon - 1:00 p.m.:

- Lighthouse Wesleyan Church, 220 High Street, Jersey Shore by the Jersey Shore Ministerium. A Cross Walk will process from Trinity United Methodist Church, 1407 Allegheny St., beginning at 11:30 a.m.

12 Noon - 1:30p.m.:

- Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Blvd, Wmspt., by the North East Cluster of Churches
- Calvary Church of the Nazarene by the Hepburn Lycoming Ministerium

12 Noon - 3:00 p.m.

- St. Marks Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Wmspt., by the Center City and West Forth Street Ministerium
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 120 South Main St., Hughesville, by the East Lycoming Ministerium

1:00-2:00 p.m.:

- St. Andrews Lutheran Church 201 South Main St., Muncy, by the Muncy Ministerium

**God, Country and Community Flag March:** This year is the 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this event, and the goal of the committee is to have 1,000 marchers on Tuesday, June 14. Registration will be from 5:30-6:00 p.m. with judging at 6 and the march beginning at 6:15. Participants are to meet at Hepburn & Fourth Sts. Parking Lot (across from Water Authority) and march West on Fourth St. to Penn College. You must park at the Hepburn Plaza parking lot. Advance Registration is requested by June 7, 2011 by calling (570) 327-7566 or by Email Christy at [mayor@city-ofwilliamsport.org](mailto:mayor@city-ofwilliamsport.org). All organizations are encouraged to bring their banners/flags and their American Flags. All are encouraged to walk except for those who are unable-they will go in the Trolley.

### DATES TO REMEMBER in 2011

- June 1 - Caring for Caregivers Seminar
- June 19 - United Churches Sunday
- August 6 - Amazing Grace Tour
- September 20 - Golf Tournament for United Churches
- October 2 - Life Chain
- October 9 - CROP Walk

**T**rainning for Volunteer Drivers April 14th: The American Cancer Society is recruiting volunteer drivers for the Road to Recovery program. Road to Recovery is a free transportation program for cancer patients in which volunteer drivers take patients to and from their scheduled medical appointments. A training for new drivers will be held Thursday, April 14th from 1-3pm in the American Cancer Society's Williamsport office located at 1948 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Road to Recovery drivers must possess a good driving record and a serviceable vehicle. Limited mileage reimbursement is available. For more information or to RSVP for the training, please call your American Cancer Society at 888-227-5445, Option 3 or (570) 326-4149 and ask for Sandy.

**N**ational Day of Prayer Service will be held Thursday, May 5th, 2011 at the Community Art Center in Williamsport from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. The keynote speaker will be Judge Paula Patrick.

**R**elay for Life Luminaries: Each of us has been touched by cancer in some way, personally, or having a friend or relative suffer with this devastating disease. The Lycoming County Unit of the American Cancer Society will hold their Luminary service on Friday, May 13 at their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual 1<sup>st</sup> Site Relay for Life at the Williamsport High School Football Stadium. For a donation per name you have an opportunity to remember those who have lost their battle to cancer, and honor those who are still fighting the disease, by purchasing a luminary to be lit at the event. The names of these special people will be inscribed on the luminary bags and will be read aloud at the nightfall ceremony. To learn more, call the American Cancer Society toll free at 1-888-ACS-5445.

**F**lowers On The Water Ceremony: All congregations and communities are invited to participated in the Flowers on the Water Ceremony on Sunday, May 15 between dawn and noon. This interfaith movement begun by the Buddhist Community is asking people to gather along the rivers and streams of our Susquehanna River Watershed with two flowers - perhaps a violet or a tulip leaf or a cherry blossom - and place one on the water in gratitude for the blessings of our resources, and then place the other as a way of recommitting ourselves to protecting our resources. Visit the [Flowers on the Water](#) Facebook page to send news of your location and group, and share photos and videos. For more resources visit [www.artandawareness.com](http://www.artandawareness.com).