

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

Published Monthly by the

United Churches of Lycoming County

202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701

Phone 570-322-1110 E-Mail director@uclc.org

Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Executive Director and Editor

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

Volume XXVII Number VI

September 10, 2010

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCH *

Join us from 12 to 1 p.m. for the Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Lunch Program. 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.

We opened the season this year on September 15 with a new caterer, Heidi Potter. Tammy Harris catered our luncheons for 18 years. We wish her well in her new position.

SEPTEMBER:

15- **Rev. Mark Brumbach**, Pastor, South Williamsport United Methodist Parish, and U.S. Army Chaplain recently home from Afghanistan. "Spiritual Support".

22- **Mrs. Carol Waltz and Mrs. Candy Watkins**, Carol is the Organist, Messiah Lutheran Church and Candy is a retired Music Teacher, "*September Song*".

29- **Mrs. Arlene Brown**, Missionary in Rwanda, "*Spirit of Hope*".

OCTOBER:

6- **Rev. Aden Wertz**, Pastor, Pine Street United Methodist Church, "A Visit To Oberammergau".

13- **Rev. Danesta Whaley**, Council Director, Yokefellow Prison Ministry, "God Is Doing A New Thing".

20- **Colonel Dawn Astin**, Co-Commanding Officer, The American Rescue Workers, "*An Overview of Saving Grace Shelter Project 2010*".

27- **Major Marie Harris**, Community Relations Officer, The Salvation Army, "*Spotlight Haiti: The Disaster Recovery Continues*".

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:

9/13-19 Rev. Robert Lauver 9/20-26 Rev. Gwen Bernstine

9/27-10/3 Rev. Rob Manzinger

10/4-10 Rev Jim & Pastor Kathy Behrens

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

Visit us at the following web site - www.uclc.org

POVERTY - A FAITH-BASED RESPONSE**from our Christian Social Concerns Committee*

And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. (Luke 16:20-21)

Where do we find Lazarus today in our communities? We are serving some of the poor through the efforts of food pantries and other programs. However, with the unemployment remaining high, many more need our help. All these efforts are examples of charity. What do we need to do for justice – to change the systems that create the problems that those living in poverty face?

Lycoming County Unemployment Rate Remains High:

The preliminary rate of unemployment for Lycoming County (Williamsport Metropolitan Statistical Area) for June 2010 was 9.8% which was higher than a year ago. The local rate has been at 9.0% or higher for more than a year and a half.

National Hunger Action Month: September 1st kicked off Hunger Action Month, a nationally recognized campaign to increase awareness of hunger issues in our communities. The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is again highlighting this month. For resources and suggestions on how to do more to feed Lazarus and others living in poverty visit www.hungerbites.org. This year's tagline is "*do something new, now!*"

Think of Lazarus as a Child: Child Nutrition: Strengthening child nutrition programs is an immediate and direct way to reduce child hunger and improve health and educational outcomes for children. Programs like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); school breakfast and lunch programs; and preschool, summer and afterschool meal programs are vital in providing children the food they need for healthy development. Congress is scheduled to re-authorize child nutrition programs in 2010. Without adequate funding, authorizing committees will be unable to make necessary program improvements, leaving millions of children without access to needed food.

Child Nutrition: What We Can Do: Child nutrition legislation has been stalled in the House of Representatives since 2009. Our local Representatives can help move this legislation onto the House floor for a vote. Call Rep. Chris Carney (202) 225-3731 or Rep. Glenn Thompson (202) 225-5125. All you need to do is leave a simple message: "Please maintain and possibly increase funding for programs that provide child nutrition and which aid needy families."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, November 5 - **Church Women United World Community Day** held at 1:30 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Williamsport. The theme will be "Building the Beloved Community". The ingathering will be of handmade crinoline Christmas Stocking and money to purchase the items to fill them.

Thursday, November 18 - **United Churches 2010 Annual Assembly.** This 64th assembly will be held at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Quiggleville. The meeting will begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting and program will conclude the evening.

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

The fall semester has gotten off to a good start. We held our annual kick-off and were able to meet some new students. Deb Best started our faith talks with **Soul Survivor... How to survive college without getting kicked off campus.** It was a very good discussion on the ten things you need to change about your life. They included: stop worrying, trusting in the Lord, prayer, faith, patience, kindness, and love. Thank you Deb for a very inspiring, thought provoking discussion. We look forward to our upcoming faith talks this semester. We will be discussing **Discerning God's Call, The Existence of God, Gideon, The Call of Jeremiah and Us, and Passing the Faith Test.** I am sure they will all lead to some great discussions.

We have also been working on some community projects as well. During the month of September, we are collecting canned food items for our United Churches Food Pantry, and in October during fall break, we will be helping to paint some rooms at Yokefellow Prison Ministry. We hope to participate in more projects throughout the year.

DO YOU LOVE TO BAKE? You may be able to help United Campus Ministry's next fundraiser. We are holding a bake sale on Wednesday September 29. If you are interested in baking cookies, brownies, cupcakes, anything...(you know how college students love to eat,) please call me at 419-5376, and I will be happy to pick them up. All money raised will continue to fund our program.

We are always looking for our group to grow. If you have any students attending Penn College, let them know about us and what we do. Please continue to keep the students at Penn College in your prayers, and thank you for all your support.

"HUNGER AWARENESS MONTHS"*

People of all ages, races, and faiths from all parts of Lycoming County will again work especially hard in October and November to increase their awareness, prayer, action and advocacy regarding hunger and poverty in our communities, nation and the world. Events in our county begin with CROP Walk on October 10, and end with Thanksgiving food collections. And all year long our United Churches Food Pantry reaches out to those who are hungry.

CROP WALK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2010
Walks Begin at 1:30 P.M.Registration begins at 1:00 P.M.

FOUR WALKS

1. **GREATER WILLIAMSPORT** - will begin from pavilion 2 at Indian Park, and move on the bike path. Contact Rev. Ken Weiss, 323-6325. Sponsor forms and materials can be picked up at the United Churches office, 322-1110 or Pine Street UMC office, 323-4606.
2. **TROUT RUN** - They will begin from the Trout Run UMChurch. Call Mary Phillips at 998-8650.
3. **EAST LYCOMING** - They will begin from the Hughesville at Christ UMC's Social Hall. Contact Rev. Ted Corcelius, 584-2544.
4. **MONTGOMERY** - They'll begin from Clinton Township Fire Hall on Rt. 54. Contact Rev. Gunther Bernhardt - 547-7150

Five Steps:

1. **PLAN** to walk because so many other people in the world **MUST WALK** for **FOOD, WATER, FUEL, and SHELTER.**
2. **LEARN** more about the issues of hunger and poverty in our world all year round.
3. **DECIDE** upon the location and length of your walk 3, 6, or 10 miles.
4. **RECRUIT** sponsors who'll pay you or your church team to walk. ***Get the whole church involved in getting sponsors this year.***
5. **JOIN** your friends, as you walk together.

The Jersey Shore Hunger Walk will be held October 10 to benefit the Love Center.

FOOD PANTRY *

Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 322-1657 or foodpantry@uclc.org

Our United Churches/Center City Food Pantry provides a three day supply of food to those in need.

	Families	Adults	Kids	Elderly	Total
May	122	166	80	46	292
June	144	182	101	54	287
July	109	135	87	53	275
August	148	173	106	65	344

an as needed basis.

The work isn't hard or very heavy, it does require standing, walking, bending and moderate lifting. If you think you might be interested, please call or stop to see us in action. I can promise that the blessings and good feelings will flow continuously.

The food needs for this month are:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Ramen Noodles | Jello | Tuna |
| Saltine Crackers | Noodles | Sugar |
| Chunky Soups | Veggies | Soups |
| Cake Mixes | Frostings | Mac-N-Cheese |
| Spaghettios | Canned Fruits | |
| Microwave Popcorn | Graham Crackers | |

It's hard to believe that the long , hot Summer has passed and it's football and pretty leaves and school time. We had a good summer at the pantry. Donations were up from previous years and for that we are so very thankful. It's definitely true that prayers are always answered, maybe not in our time or how we expect them to be answered, but He never leaves us in doubt that He is there and will answer. So with complete confidence in a right outcome for our needs, we still ask for a few volunteers to fill out our roster.

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.

We lost a couple of our wonderful folks due to personal reasons and health issues. In order to keep things running smoothly and not overwork our regulars, we need two folks on a regular basis and at least one that could be a 'fill-in' on

Whatever you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. Many thanks and you are constantly in our prayers.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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

A DISASTER IN THE MAKING

Poverty is a condition in which a person or family does not have the means to satisfy basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, health, safety, heat, water, electricity. Poverty is becoming more prevalent among those who work...they are called the working poor.

The way the American system works is: a job pays a wage and benefits for the above mentioned necessities. The sophistication of technology and the high cost of benefits has changed the availability of jobs that can meet the cost of living. As the cost of living increases, the wages do not rise accordingly, creating the working poor. Jobs have decreased due to corporate buyouts, moving their operations elsewhere in the U.S., and moving manufacturing to foreign countries where workers can be hired for much less. The unemployed and under-employed have joined the ranks of the chronic poor.

Food pantries such as our United Churches Food Pantry, have been impacted with middle class families who have lost their jobs. Clothing closets (such as Sojourner Truth, which gives clothing away) have become vital to families. Affordable shelter has become scarce as rents have been raised to levels that far exceed the ability to pay. Utility rates have increased to levels of impossibility. The generous grants given to Shepherd of the Streets by the Plankenhorn Foundation four times a year to assist with utilities helps fewer and fewer. We have had to limit the utility assistance to \$200 per utility, families only. Did you know that you can be evicted for lack of a utility payment...and Children and Youth can even take your children away until you have corrected the situation.

Shepherd of the Streets seeks to help the uninsured and underinsured with prescription assistance, medical equipment and transportation, employment safety issues, all of which have had a increases in cost. Medical Assistance does not cover all medications, sometimes a person with the assistance card has no prescription coverage. Did you know that if you are drawing unemployment, your medical assistance for prescription medication is denied? Transportation rates have increased with the price of gasoline.

THIS IS A DISASTER IN THE MAKING. More and more I have to place a sign that reads "We Have No Prescription Funds" on the front door, sometimes for up to two weeks before we have recovered. Public assistance programs are getting tougher and tougher. Minimum wage no longer covers even the basics. Unemployment and under-employment are on the increase. Health care costs are skyrocketing. Poverty has spread to the middle-class. Race is

not an issue, previous status is not an issue, ability to work is not an issue.

Christians have always been admonished to live in detachment, that is, impartial to their blessings (Matthew 6:25-34), have from the beginning been told that the evidence of righteousness is to share food, water, clothing, wages, care for the ill as if we were assisting Jesus Himself (Matthew 25:31-40). Hard times are the call for sacrifice...please help us as you would in any disaster.

We continue to need hygiene items, bedding, baby supplies, and finances to assist the poor with basic necessities that have become extraordinary needs.

Items for Babies:

baby diapers in all sizes *baby powder*
baby oil *baby shampoo,*

Items for Men and/or Women... *All in regular sizes*

deodorant *shampoo*
razors *shaving cream*
toothpaste *toothbrushes*
soap *feminine products*
Kleenex *toilet tissue*
paper towels *bath towels*
wash cloths

Many churches have a "Shepherd box" in the foyer to collect such items - - others have special drives through the church or auxiliary groups.

We also have a Shepherd Kiosk that is available to place in your church for several weeks or a month if you would like to especially focus on the Shepherd ministry.

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES is now available listing all churches, their mailing addresses, phone numbers, pastors, e-mails, fax and other church staff as information was available. Member churches are entitled to two directories. Non-members pay \$35. Stop by our office to pick up your directory. These directories will also be available at our Assembly on November 18.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS IN OUR COUNTY *

Geisinger Spiritual Care Fall Class Offerings for clergy, spiritual caregivers and laity. These classes are free. Call 570-214-5091 for more information.

- (1) Faith: An Evolutionary Psychological Perspective
- (2) Quantum Theology
- (3) Pain: Nature, Dynamics and Interventions
- (4) An Altar in the World
- (5) The Divine Feminine
- (6) The Four Yogas
- (7) Sources of Islam: The Qur'an, Sunnah and Hadith
- (8) Opening the Gates: Exploring Jewish Mysticism
- (9) A Buddhist Response to The Climate Crisis
- (10) Toward a True Kinship of Faiths

For more information contact Chaplain Karl A. Polm-Faudre, PhD., Director of Education/Research & Outreach, Department of Spiritual Care, Geisinger Medical Center, 100 N. Academy Ave. MC 28-01, Danville.

School of Religion will again be offered by Lutheran Shared Ministries, a cooperative ministry of congregations of Greater Williamsport. You and/or your laity are invited to attend these classes which will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport on Wednesdays October 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 7-9 p.m. Reservations are needed by October 4 (call Sandy at 322-2533 or e-mail her at walkalongtheway@comcast.net). Arrangements can also be made for childcare at registration. Classes include:

- **Four Key Moments in Good News** - This course will feature Good News of 4 topics (English, Social Action, Music and Formation). Each week a different topic will be discussed and theme highlighted. Williams Tyndale; Father Damian; Johann Sebastian Bach; putting together the canon of Scripture. Presented by Pastor Ken Elkin
- **Martin Luther and the Catechism** - This course will highlight the different parts of the Catechism and we'll discuss them. In addition, we'll be looking at the impact Luther had on historical and faith growth in the church. Presented by: Howard Best and George Jansson.

Day of Dialogue on Telling the Christian Story in the 21st Century: On Monday, October 25, 2010 the Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholicity Coordinating Committee invites you to this day of dialogue.

The presenter for the day is Rev. Dr. Elias D. Mallon, SA. Fr. Elias is presently involved at Franciscans International, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the United Nations, where he is using his ex-

perience and contacts with Islam to work with Muslim countries and NGOs and he is on the NGO Israel-Palestine Working Group. Fr. Elias' will have two presentations during the day, "How the World Has Changed", and "How we Move Toward the Future".

This program will be held at the Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg. The cost for the day is \$20 and registration must be received by October 18. Lunch is included in your registration. Mail to Deacon Charles Clark, Diocese of Harrisburg, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710. Phone - 717-657-4804x 265.

Fr. Ellias Mallon, a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement (Graymoor) was ordained priest in January 1971. He obtained a licentiate degree (STL in Old Testament studies in 1970 and a PhD in Middle Eastern languages from the Catholic University of America in 1984. He taught Old Testament at the Washington Theological Union and American University in Washington DC. He taught ancient Near Eastern languages at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. From 1989-2001 he was Director of the Graymore Ecumenical and interreligious Institute in NYC.

Fr. Ellias has been involved in the Roman Catholic/Christian-Muslim dialogue on the local, national and international level since 1985 and has published several articles and two books on Islam. The first was *Neighbors: Muslims in North America* and his latest book is *Islam: What Catholics Need to Know* and his latest article is "*Shiites Muslims - The Party of Aly*".

To get a copy of the flyer, more information, or to car pool, contact Gwen our United Churches office at 322-1110 or director@uclc.org.

Woman's Day-long Retreat: Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., Williamsport, will be holding this retreat for women on Saturday, November 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. "Shaped, Formed and Molded by God: You are His Masterpiece" will be led by Rev. Danesta Whaley and her team. In addition to the retreat messages you will be treated to a lite breakfast and a delicious lunch. The cost for the retreat is \$20 per person and includes special gifts just for you. Reserve your seat by Oct. 30, 2010. Make checks payable to Pine Street UMC (memo: Women's Retreat). For details call 570-323-4604.

Educational Opportunities - *Continued from page 5...*

Pennsylvania Pastor's Conference 2010 will be held November 8-10 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East. The theme of the conference is "*Gifts of Generosity and Gospeling: Rethinking Evangelism and Stewardship Today*". Plenary speakers and workshop presenters will help clergy rethink the core practices of evangelism and stewardship, reframing them in more faithful and celebrative ways.

Plenary speakers are Shane Claiborne, founding partner of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia that has helped to organize and network radical faith communities around the world, and Episcopal priest Eric H. F. Law, founder and director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, established to develop competent leadership in a diverse, changing world. Claiborne's Monday afternoon addresses on "Economics of Rebirth" will set the stage for the conference's examination of stewardship, while Law's presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday on "Gospeling in a Diverse Changing World" will explore the implications of cultural diversity and a generation linked by social media for evangelism.

Opening and closing luncheon presentations and an array of eight workshops, together with Tuesday's special interest luncheons, round out the program.

The \$150 registration fee (\$125 for registrations postmarked by September 30th) includes both Mon. and Wed. luncheons and admission to all plenary sessions. Tuesday's special interest group luncheons (members of our Interfaith Dialogue Panel will be presenting at the Ecumenical and Interfaith luncheon) are open to all by advance reservation; cost is \$20 per person.

A printable brochure and registration form is available on the Council's Web site at www.pachurches.org, which also offers the opportunity for secure online registration. Many pastors, seminarians, Christian educators, retirees and spouses are expected to attend, and I hope you will be one of them! This is one of the best continuing education events for pastors in Pennsylvania. We have people attending from our area, so there is an opportunity to share housing or travel expenses. If you are interested in making connections, contact our office.

PRISON MINISTRY REMINDER

Clergy: Check your Prison Green Card - Pastors in our county are provided with access to the Lycoming County Prison for professional counseling of inmates who are members or related to your congregation as well as to allow you to provide ministry within the county. However these cards do expire every two years, so please

check your green card today. Our office has the forms available to update your card.

YOKEFELLOW NEWS

The Yokefellow Prison Ministry would like to announce that in August, the Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley became their Council Director. Nessie is a native of Williamsport, who has been active in Prison Ministry for many years. In 1993 she served on the administration staff with Prison Fellowship Ministries in the local Williamsport office, founded by Charles Colson. She has done prison ministry in several county, state and federal facilities. In 2007, she became the first women's chaplain and currently serves along with another chaplain at the Lycoming County Prison in Williamsport conducting Bible studies and one on one counseling for both men and women.

Nessie became an ordained minister in 1998 and served as an assistant pastor with Citychurch for 3 years. Presently, she serves in leadership there in various capacities, and oversees the prayer ministry and serves on the board for International Healing Houses, located in her church. Additionally, she is First Vice President on the board of United Churches of Lycoming County and serves in ministry with them going into nursing homes, the local prison and pre-release centers teaching, preaching and ministering.

Nessie's heart for missions and her Lord's heart as the Desire of the Nations' has taken her to various nations with other ministries including trips to Trinidad, China, Romania and Mexico serving the people and sharing the gospel.

Nessie's desire and passion is to continue to serve her Lord in whatever capacity He calls her to, ready, willing and available to HIM and HIS people advancing the Kingdom of God!

BOOK DISCUSSION AND SIGNING

Beverly Lewis, author of *The Thorn*, will be in Williamsport this Thursday, September 16 for a book discussion and signing that will be held at the James V. Brown Library - Lowry Room, Welch Wing, Third Floor. The discussion will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the cost is \$10. Contact Mary at 326-2587 to make your reservation.

A Dinner may be available beforehand, but you will need to check with Mary at 368-2587. Reservations for the dinner were due on Friday, Sept 10, and the additional cost for the dinner is \$10.

CREATION CORNER

from our Christian Social Concerns Committee

October 10, 2010: Call for faith response to climate crisis

Because scientists say that 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide (350 ppm CO₂), a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission, in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity, an effort to reach that goal, from the current 390 ppm, is described on the web site www.350.org/oct10, where people are encouraged to set aside Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010 as a day to make an effort to implement solutions to the climate crisis. It is organized by environmentalist Bill McKibben, a Methodist Sunday School teacher, who began writing about global warming in 1989.

Over our hot summer here, we have seen other evidence of more extreme global weather events---the breakaway Arctic ice island off the Petermann Glacier in Greenland, floods in Pakistan displacing millions of people, and heatwaves, wildfires and smog in Russia.

It is noted at www.350.org/people/faith that for people of faith, "350 represents more than just a scientific benchmark for a safe climate - there are also deeply moral and spiritual reasons for getting the world back below 350 ppm CO₂. Social justice, creation care, stewardship, earth community, beloved community - there are many ways we can name and express our moral and spiritual perspectives to this issue."

People of faith are encouraged to join in that day with prayer, meditation, sermons, Sunday school lessons, ecumenical conferences, interfaith workshops, action and celebration for 350. One can endorse the Interfaith Call for 350, share information such as resources, campaigns on climate change, and faith action spotlights provided by many faith-based organizations that are listed. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are addressed, and statements by "350 Messengers" (writers, scholars, activists, leaders, visionaries) who support the 350 cause and message are also available on the web site.

Dozens of ideas for a work party for 10/10/10 are also included. Among these are tree-plantings, solar installations, community garden or organic farm work, bike rides, wind harnessing, becoming more energy-efficient, trash clean-ups, raising sustainable energy issues in municipalities, pledging to reduce your energy use by 10%, and more.

Among the "350 Friends and Allies" are the World Council of Churches, a worldwide fellowship of 349 churches seeking unity, a common witness and Christian service (www.oikoumene.org), Religious Witness for the Earth (www.religiouswitness.org), Faiths United for Sustainable Energy (FUSE, www.fuse.org), Alliance of Religions and Conservation (www.arcword.org), Pax Christi USA (www.paxchristi.org), Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change (www.interfaithdeclaration.org), Massachusetts

Conference of the United Church of Christ (www.macucc.org), Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (www.ocice.org), the Muslim Green Team (www.muslimgreenteam.org), A Rocha (www.arocha.org), the Christian nature conservation organization, www.Christianaid.org/UK and Faith In Action (www.putyourfaithinaction.org). And because October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi in the Catholic tradition, one might want to link the two events.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: This year's theme, "One in the Apostles' Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread and Prayer" (cf. Acts 2:42), holds much promise as we again set aside January 18-25 as a time of prayer and reflection and celebrate our life together. Resources for worship and study are available on the internet at www.geii.org or by obtaining an order for at our United Churches office. You can also order Ecumenical Trends a monthly publication containing ecumenical news, documentation and thought at the above web site or on the order form.

Lycoming County Life Chain 2010 will be held on Sunday, October 3, 2010, on the Golden Strip (East Third Street) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. All area churches are invited to participate. This is their 19th year and their goal is to have 2000 participants. If your church has not received the written announcement in the mail and you are interested in that information, please contact the district coordinator in your area listed below.

Newberry - Larry Stetts - 570-326-0048

Montoursville - Robert Stein - 570-584-2947

South Williamsport - Cheryl Palski - 570-745-7653

Loyalsock - Cheryl Palski - 570-745-7653

Hepburn/Lycoming - Frank Sherman - 570-326-2916

Northeast Cluster, Wmspt. -

Kim Corson - 570-745-3121

Jersey Shore - Diana Persun - 570-745-3557

Muncy - J. Howard Langdon - 570-546-3104

East Lycoming - K. Vincent Swartz - 570-584-4267

Montgomery - Sharon Bennett - 570-547-6149

Center City, Wmspt, - Kim Corson - 570-745-3121

St. John Neumann Regional Academy

Dir. of Religious Formation - 570-323-9953

West Fourth Street Association of Churches, Wmspt. -

Denise Boring - 570-745-3121

SPECIAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COUNTY *

ICON Festival: Holy Cross Orthodox Church, 1725 Holy Cross Lane, Wmspt., invites you to join them on Saturday, September 18 for their Icon Festival. The schedule of the day includes:

- 10- Hymn of praise to the Precious Cross, in the church, Fellowship Center exhibit, bookstore display, kitchen open.
- 11- Presentation - "Jesus: The Icon of God" by guest speaker Fr. Peter Dubinin.
- 12- Demonstration - Fr. James Chuta and Susan Shiposki will present the art of Iconography in the Fellowship Center, explaining artistic forms, styles, and theology of line, form and color. (Kitchen is open for lunch)
- 1:30 - Presentation - "The Icons of Holy Cross" with Fr. Dan Kovalak (an iconographic tour of the church)
- 2:30 - Presentation - "Fr. Peter Dubinin will reflect on his extensive army chaplaincy experience in Afghanistan and Iraq during a program titled "Faith on the Front Lines"
- 3:30 Great Vespers
- 4:00 Blessing of the Icons

Moms In Touch Prayer Event is being held this September to introduce Moms and Grandmoms to the power and peace that comes from praying together, through Christ as children are back to school. The event will be held Monday, September 27 from 9-10 a.m. at New Life Presbyterian Church, 1500 Hidden Valley Drive, Williamsport. A nursery will be provided. For more information contact Diane Ippolito at 522-5081. You can access flyers at www.momsintouch.org, which can be filled out and printed.

Africa Mission – St. Bartholomew’s Orphanage to benefit from the sale of beautiful handcrafted baskets and bags made by the widows of St. Bart’s Orphanage in Kajo-Keji Sudan, that will be for sale October 7-8 at Christ Episcopal Church’s Arts and Craft show, from 10 am - 7 p.m. at 426 Mulberry Street Williamsport.

St. Bart’s orphanage provides a home for more than 125 children who have lost their parents to war, disease, and famine. Widows care for the children and also for the population of a nearby leper colony. And they all fall under the umbrella of our prayerful care and support. We send not only monetary and prayer support but also mission teams of parishioners to go over and to incarnate the love of Christ for his people in this challenging part of the world. Every penny of the sale of baskets and bags at this booth go directly to St. Bart’s Orphanage.

Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity invites you to join them at their Annual **Pork & Sauerkraut** fundraising dinner, Thursday, October 14th from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. The dinner will be held at St Joseph the

Worker Parish, Annunciation Fleming Center. Adult dinner tickets are \$8, children’s tickets (under age 10) are \$4. We welcome you to join us for a fall evening of great food, with entertainment provided by Tom Wentzel. **Take Outs are also available.** For advanced tickets, please call the Habitat office at 570-322-2515. We hope to see you there!

Interfaith Dialogue: **The Spiritual Dimension of Water** will be held Wednesday, October 13 from 7:30 - 8:30 at Honors Hall, Lycoming College. The UN predicts that by 2025 one third of human beings will be living under scarce water conditions and all others under extreme water stress. How can our religious traditions help us respond to this claim? Join this evening of dialogue as representatives of our wisdom traditions and environmental science begin a free exchange of ideas that can help us look at this vital issue from multiple perspectives.

Giant Yard Sale benefitting Newberry Branch of the Needlework Guild of America. (NGA), Saturday, Oct. 16, 8 AM until 2 PM. St. John-Newberry United Methodist Church, Newberry St. Williamsport. Household items, clothes, toys, jewelry, books and much more all to benefit the needy of the Williamsport area.

CHURCH HEATING OIL CO-OP member congregations and their paid employees will receive a discount off the tank wagon price throughout the year. This year Pickelner was awarded the bid, and the discount was 10¢ per gallon off the tank wagon price plus 10¢ additional discount for a cash or check payment within 10 days, (with additional opportunity for each person/church to choose to cap their oil price). Member congregations may also order cases of paper once a year through the United Methodist paper co-op. Membership in the church Co-Op is a one time \$100 fee. For details call Pam Burkholder at (o) 321-8254 or (h) 326-7319.

Cruise to Bermuda - Pastor Ken Weiss has put together a cruise to Bermuda on Celebrity's Summit leaving out of New Jersey on June 12, 2011. It will return on June 19. This is not a fund raiser and no extra money is added to any cabin for a trip leader or any other reason so the price of the trip will be the lowest fares possible. Anyone can go. Booking must be made through their Travel Agent who will give each person the lowest price possible. A bus has been reserved for transportation to and from New Jersey. Any questions or requests for additional information can be directed to Ken Weiss at 323-6325 or at kweiss1213@hotmail.com - This might be a wonderful way for a group from any church to travel together for fellowship and fun.