

UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

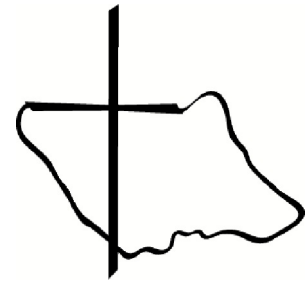
Published Monthly by the

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 asterisk may be of special interest to your congregation.
Deadline to submit articles - First of each month.*

Volume XXVIII Number 9

September 13, 2011

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.

We will open the season this year on September 14 with our caterer, Heidi Potter continuing. Although reservations are not needed, if you are not a regular attender, a call to United Churches, 322-1110, will help us let our caterer know how many to prepare for.

SEPTEMBER:

- 14- **Mrs. Carol Waltz and Mrs. Candy Watkins**, Carol is the Organist, Messiah Lutheran Church and Candy is a retired Music Teacher, *"Autumn Inspiration"*
- 21- **Ms. Pamela Wollet**, MSW, LSW, Children's Bereavement Coordinator, Susquehanna Health, *"Heartworks"*
- 28- **Mrs. Melissa Magargle**, Director, Family Promise of Lycoming County, *"Helping Homeless Families"*

OCTOBER:

- 5- **The Rev. Dr. John Piper**, Professor of History and Dean Emeritus, Lycoming College, and Retired United Methodist Pastor, *"Lycoming College Bicentennial Reflections: A Church Related College"* (A book is forthcoming, "Lycoming College 1812 - 2012: On the

Frontier of American Education")

12- **Flood Relief for Lycoming County and the Region**, Speakers to be announced.

19- **The Rev. Jeffrey LeCrone**, United Campus Minister, Lycoming College, *"The Better Together Movement"*

26- **Dr. Jackson Hill**, Organist, St. James Episcopal Church, Muncy, *"Elegy of 9/11"*.

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:

9/12-18 Rev. Danesta Whaley

9/19-25 Rev. Kathleen Erhsam

9/26-10/2 Rev. Gwen Bernstine

10/3-9 Revs Jim & Kathy Behrens

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

CHALLENGE 2011: I want to thank so many of you and your congregations for continuing to respond to our financial crisis. You have a few days yet to be part of our Golf Tournament. to register your foursomes for our 1st Annual Golf Tournament. The Amazing Grace Tour was spectacular - rain and all. Every congregation is a gem - Holy Cross, Salvation Army, St. Boniface, St. Marks and New Covenant, and the day was delightful! We really appreciate the support of individuals and congregations both through your prayers and your financial gifts. *Please continue!!!* All our ministries that worked five days a week have gone to four days as a cost cutting measure. The 2011 Challenge goal hopes to put our joint ministry back to 100%. We expect to have much to celebrate at our Annual Assembly this November.

GOLF TOURNAMENT - Sept 20

We are really pleased with the number of sponsors and golfers but at this writing we are three foursomes short of our goal of 25 foursomes. We also still have some hole sponsorships (\$100) left and always have room for more church sponsors (\$50). We can also use some more door prizes - items valued at !0 and above or gift certificates to businesses in our area. The tournament is on Tuesday morning September 20 at White Deer. All monies raised will go to United Churches to continue its ministries. We are in desperate need of the funds so please think about supporting us in anyway. Contact Rev. Ken Weiss, 570-323-63825 or kweiss1213@hotmail.com with any questions or help. Thanks again!



New Pastor's Orientation will be held Tuesday, September 27, beginning at 9:15 a.m. - Noon at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport. Pastors new to the area or who would like to know more about the ministries we do together as United Churches, as well as the ways we work together with the many agencies in the county should attend. For more information contact me at 322-1110 or uclc@sunlink.net

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, November 4 - **Church Women United World Community Day** held at 1:30 at South Williamsport United Methodist Church. The ingathering will be of handmade crinoline Christmas Stocking and money to purchase the items to fill them. The stockings will be filled on Thursday, November 17. Watch for details in our October newsletter.

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.

UNITED 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. We look forward to working with our new adviser, Mrs. Deb Buckman, who teaches in the Science Department. Faith Talk meetings continue to be on Monday evenings at 8:00 in room CC 105C, led by local pastors. Students look forward to this time of Bible study and discussion each week.

We will be working with Yokefellow Prison Ministry during Fall Break Mission weekend, October 14-15 and are always interested in helping churches and other ministries in the area. We'd like to participate in many service projects throughout the year. Please let us know if your ministry could use some help with an upcoming project.

There are many for you and your congregation to get involved with UCM.

- **Pray:** for the students currently involved in UCM and for the students that are searching for the Lord.
- **Bake:** You can help with UCM's next fundraiser, a bake sale on Thursday, September 29. We'll need cookies, brownies, cupcakes or anything. (you know how college students love to eat)! Please call me at 419-5376, and I will be happy to pick baked goods up. Monies will fund our program and Spring Mission Trip.
- **Make Study Bags:** At the end of each semester, we give study bags made by local congregations. They contain snacks, drinks, and prayers to let students know someone is praying for them throughout their exams.

We are always looking for our group to grow. If you have students attending Penn College, let them know about us and what we do. If you would like to find out more about what UCM is all about, we'd be happy to make a presentation to your congregation. I look forward to another exciting year of ministry with the students and congregations. Please continue to keep the students, faculty, and staff at Penn College in your prayers. Thank you for your continued 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 9, 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 9, 2011

Walks Begin at 1:30 P.M.Registration begins at 1:00 P.M.

CROP is here. This year's CROP Walk will take place on Sunday October 9 at 1:30 pm. We have a new venue this year. We will start and finish at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Market St. in Williamsport - right at the Market Street Bridge. Our 3, 6, and 10 mile walks will take place on the beautiful river walk both on the Williamsport and the South Williamsport sides.

As we have recently seen with the flood, it does not take much for people going from a state of being OK to one of terrible need. This is why Church World Services are here and their CROP program works with those who are hungry.

This is the 32nd year of walking for the Greater Williamsport CROP Walk. In the first 31 years they have raised over \$700,000 with more than \$150,000 staying right here to help with our local needs. 25% of what we raise comes back to our three local food pantries and St. Anthony's Center. There will be people from Cogan House, Muncy, Salladasburg, Quiggleville, Loyalsockville, Montoursville, Williamsport, South Williamsport and lots of places in between. Join us!

Our goals this year include 400 walkers and \$20,000 in money raised. Please know that every single dollar makes a difference.

TWO WALKS

1. **GREATER WILLIAMSPORT** - will begin from St. Mark Lutheran Church on Market St. in Williamsport and will move onto the river walk. Contact Rev. Ken Weiss, 323-6325. Sponsor forms and materials can be picked up at the United Churches office, 322-1110 or 419-1464 or Pine Street UMC office, 323-4606.
2. **TROUT RUN** - They will begin from the Trout Run United Methodist Church. Call Mary Phillips at 998-8650.

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.



UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY

Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 322-1657

Our United Churches/Center City Food Pantry provides a three day supply of food to those in need. It's hard to believe that the long, hot summer has passed and it's football and pretty leaves and school time.

We, and all the pantries, will be stretched to meet the needs in the days ahead as we help to feed families whose pantries or already tight budgets were destroyed by the flood. Donations are really appreciated by those who use our pantry. You allow me and the volunteers here at the pantry to see the face of anticipation as they find that special item

for a family meal that reminds them that God really does love them. Thank you for each and every gift of love you share with us.

It's definitely true that prayers are always answered, maybe not in our time or how we expect them to be answered, but God 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.

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UC Food Pantry - continued from page 3

We need folks on a regular basis and at least one that could be a 'fill-in' on 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:

<i>Ramen Noodles</i>	<i>Jello</i>	<i>Tuna</i>
<i>Saltine Crackers</i>	<i>Noodles</i>	<i>Sugar</i>
<i>Chunky Soups</i>	<i>Veggies</i>	<i>Soups</i>
<i>Cake Mixes</i>	<i>Frostings</i>	<i>Mac-N-Cheese</i>
<i>Spaghettios</i>		<i>Canned Fruits</i>
<i>Microwave Popcorn</i>		<i>Graham Crackers</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.

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

FLOOD UPDATE: September 2011

I love living in Lycoming County! The flood waters have done their worst, especially along our creeks, wreaking havoc with homes, property, roads, bridges and services.

However, the words I keep hearing are, "Everyone has been so nice - have gone out of their way to help - have worked generously and relentlessly to restore normalcy in a time when many have lost everything." One family, after getting rid of the mud and dead fish in their yard, went to Sullivan County to help with food/water distribution.

You hear some say, "We've lived here 50+ years and were sure we'd never be flooded, but this time there is a foot of water in my first floor!" Others say water took out walls. Still others remain calm as they tell of the water only in their basement. We praise God for mitigation done previously, putting furnaces, water heaters, etc, on the first floor.

How can you help? You've already begun. Your prayers have been wonderful. Thursday we took personal hygiene items from our Shepherd ministry to the Montoursville Shelter at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Cleaning items, paper towels, masks, garbage/contractor bags, boxed fans and tarps are needed. Volunteers, both individuals and groups are going to be needed for quite a while, especially those with construction experience.

Clothing is pretty good at the moment. Folks will probably need some later, but when they are in temporary accommodations they don't a lot of room to store items.

Small and large appliances, household items and cloth-

ing can be taken to the American Rescue Workers. The Am. Red Cross will provide vouchers to folks who need these items, and they will receive them at no charge.

Our short and long term disaster recovery groups are working together once again through VOAD. Watch for news in upcoming newsletters and in e-mails to your church pastor. If you want to be on the flood recovery update e-mail group, please contact me at director@uclc.org.

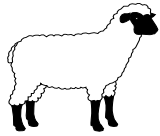
ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Blessings by the box: Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and financial support to communities throughout the USA. The program began in 1994 with 34 families in Monroe, Georgia and now serves hundreds of thousands of families every month across 45 states.

Angel Food is available in a quantity that can fit into a medium-sized box at \$30 per unit. Each month's menu is different than the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an average retail value of ~\$60.

One unit of food generally assists in feeding a family of four for one week or a single senior citizen for a month. The food is the same high quality one purchases at a grocery store, no second-hand items, damaged or out-dated goods. Also offered are specialty boxes such as steaks, chicken and pork. There is no limit to the number of units of foods an individual can receive. There are no applications to complete or qualifications to which participants must adhere. Angel Food Ministries participate in the U.S. Food Stamp program, via the off-line voucher system. For details and dates/times of sign ups please call one of our local sites: South Wmspt. United Methodist Church, 409 Main Street, South Williamsport, (570) 323-0733 or Newberry Church of Christ, 822 Diamond St. Wmspt. (570) 326-4070.

DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES: During the next few weeks we will be completing the task of collecting information to update our directory and web listings of area churches and worship times. Information this year is being collected primarily via e-mail. Please be sure that our United Churches office has your church or pastor's e-mail address. We do much of our contacting of pastors via e-mail now. This facilitates our ability to contact you and pass along time sensitive alerts, requests between pastors, and provide mailings of materials economically. Directories will be available at the end of September listing all churches. 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 November.



SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

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

SOME OBSERVATIONS REGARDING POVERTY

Why do many of the poor not work? Many do not work because they have no skills to market. I would say first that it is a generational thing. They have no skills because they had parents and/or mentors who did not pass skills on to them or were not impressed by parents and/or community to make preparation for life and work. The examples who they observed in the years of formation often did not pursue work with aspiration or excellence.

Why can't many of the poor keep a job? They do not know how to keep a job because they are ignorant of some of the essentials of employment: productivity, service, socialization, deportment, respect, courtesy, verbal discretion, ability to communicate and, therefore, understand instruction, and an inadequacy in the use of the English language.

These deficiencies can come from a number of sources, the main one being family (nurture) and another is the lowering of standards in schools (ineffective education). The break-down in marriage and family has produced hopelessness in the children resulting in a lack of ambition. Inadequate education that does not teach morals, behavior, and a sense of divine identity militates against commitment, responsibility, refinement, civility, prudence, and a true sense of self worth (meekness: right view of one's self). This results in deterioration of the appreciation of fine arts and in an appearance that shouts inferiority and rebellion and depression. This, in turn, results in a disinterest in learning a better way to do things (the reforming and refining of concepts).. All this is called a "work-ethic".

Of course, there are other reasons for not working: disabilities (physical and mental, many of which are the results of early life-styles), fear (brought on by ignorance), a sense of entitlement (someone; government or church or agency has what is needed), and of course, a lack of jobs that are commensurate with abilities.

In a nutshell, the erosion of spirituality and religion in general in the public sector (schools, government, etc.) has its consequences. As a Christian, I am constantly throwing these insufficient behaviors and perceptions over against the teachings of Jesus Christ who came to give all abundant life. I take every opportunity to challenge them when prompted by the Holy Spirit. I do not fling the words of the Lord about indiscriminately, but I find joy in the many opportunities to offer divine counsel to those who seek help from the Shepherd of the Streets.

We are always in need of regular size hygiene items, baby and adult diapers, bedding, and the finances to help with work readiness and prescription assistance. Thank you for your past faithfulness. The exact listing follows....

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.

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

Or are you envious because I am generous. -Mt. 20:15 In the parable about the laborers in the vineyard, at days end the landowner pays all the same wage. This generosity can be seen as his recognition of the need of all. In today's society wage and income disparity, coupled with unemployment and underemployment, contrast the treatment by the landowner of those who worked in his vineyard. When are we going to hear, embrace, and enact Jesus' call to generosity?

Lycoming County Unemployment Rate Increased in

June: The preliminary rate of unemployment for Lycoming County. for June 2011 was 7.8%. This was higher than the April and May figures and translate into 4,700 unemployed persons. These numbers do not include the underemployed or the numerous persons who are working one or more part-time jobs without benefits.

Mind the Gap: The wealthiest 1% of our population own more than 90% of us combined. 20% of Americans have minus 1.4% of our nation's wealth. This means they

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Poverty A Faith Based Response - continued from page 5

collectively have more debt than income or assets. To get involved from a faith-based perspective to address this inequity visit www.networklobby.org .

Debt Ceiling Crisis – What next for those most in need?

If the Congressional super committee can't agree, across-the-board cuts will be triggered starting in 2013. Some programs assisting the poor will be exempt. However, *no discretionary spending programs are protected*, which means programs such as WIC, Head Start, food aid, international poverty-focused development assistance, housing programs, and job training programs would be cut. The "safety net" that includes faith-based efforts is straining and has holes. For example, locally the Shepherd of the Streets is open only four days a week. For more on the potential impact of Congressional deliberations on those living in poverty visit www.bread.org/hunger/budget/pdf/debt-ceiling-deal.pdf

Famine in Somalia: What needs to be done? The UN announcement of famine in Somalia is both a wake-up call to the scale of this disaster, and a wake-up call to the solutions needed to limit death-from-hunger now and in the future. So, what is famine and how can we prevent it? Famine is the "triple failure" of ❶ food production, ❷ people's ability to access food and, ❸ in the political response by governments and international donors. Crop failure and poverty leave people vulnerable to starvation – but famine only occurs with political failure. In Somalia years of internal violence and conflict have been significant in creating conditions for famine. Learn more at www.oxfam.org/en/emergencies/east-africa-food-crisis/famine-somalia-what-needs-be-done

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS IN OUR COUNTY *

Pennsylvania Pastor's Conference 2011 will be held November 14-16 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East. The theme of the conference is *"Practical and Practiced Awe: Reclaiming the Joy and Wonder of Our Call"*. Keeping "wonder, love, and praise" in one's practice of ministry can be a daunting task. The featured plenary speakers, John A. Berntsen, Director of Student Services at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia; and Anabel C. Proffitt, Assoc. Prof. of Educational Min. at Lancaster Theological Seminary will help attendees recapture that sense of awe. The \$150 registration fee includes both the Monday luncheon and Wednesday breakfast buffet and all plenary sessions. A printable brochure and registration is available on the Council's Web site www.pachurches.org, which offers the opportunity for secure online registration.

School of Religion will be offered by Lutheran Shared Ministries, a cooperative ministry of congregations of Greater Williamsport. This year note that the time has changed to afternoons. The community is invited to grow in faith by taking a 4 week course during the Wednesdays in Oct. from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran, 142 Market St., Wmspt. This is free, however, they ask that you contact St. Mark's office at 323-4619 no later than Oct. 2nd so room and course preparations can be finalized.

Day of Dialogue on Hopes, Facts and Fears: **Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict:** On Monday, October 24, 2011 the Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic Coordinating Committee invites you to this day of dialogue. To get a copy of the flyer contact Gwen our United Churches at 322-1110 or director@uclc.org .

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 Montour/Superior Plus was awarded the bid, and the cap price was chosen. With this option co-op member congregations and their paid employees will be assured that we will never pay more than \$3.79.9 per gallon for oil during this heating season. They will be charged the tank wagon price at the time of delivery and if payment is made within 8 days you will get a 12¢ per gallon discount, but never paying more than \$3.79.9. 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 (o) 321-8254 or (h) 326-7319.

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Council Director
Contacts: 326-6868, smileynessie@yahoo.com

COME JOIN US! Yokefellow Upper Susquehanna is having their very first Open House on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 1-5PM. The Location is 1200 Almond St, Williamsport. Additionally, Bridge Haven, which is a ministry to the families of inmates, will open their doors for a tour of the home we both share.

Enjoy fellowship, food and more information on these vital ministries in our community. It will be a time of collecting information and asking questions you might have.

Our board and volunteers will be happy to serve you as we come collectively together.

More prisons are NOT the answer but we know our Lord has all the solutions. Come and be a part with us!

CREATION CORNER

from our *Christian Social Concerns Committee*

Electronic Recycling is good for the environment, good to finally have a place to take your old electronics... and this Saturday it will also benefit the American Cancer Society!

**Saturday Sept 17th from 8am – Noon
at the Parking lot of Hoss's Restaurant
1954 E 3rd St, Williamsport**

This is a fund-raiser to benefit the American Cancer Society. **St Michael's Angels Relay For Life** team has partnered with **UNICOR** (ISO-9001:2008 &, R2 Certified) to offer you **Electronic Recycling!**

In an effort to keep it out of the landfill we want your working or non-working:

**Cell phones - Cable TV boxes - Cameras
Computer equip - Computer Scrap (metal & Plastic)
Copiers Fax Machine - Game Boys - Hard Drives
Laptops - Mainframes - Modems - Monitors
MP3 Players - PDAs - Play stations - Power Supplies
Printers - Telephone Systems - Televisions - UPS
X-boxes and more...**

- We can't take any Hazardous items that have *refrigerants, acids, or paints* of any kind, *radioactive material, oils/ PCB's or microwaves*.
- We also will not accept "white goods" which are appliances like washing machine, dryers, or stoves.

Bring your items & simply make a *monetary donation* payable to the **American Cancer Society** on Saturday September 17. The link to check on items is www.unicor.gov/recycling/acceptable_item.cfm. Call 570-326-4149 (Theresa Miller) if you have any questions .

PA **Interfaith Power and Light Conference** (PA-IPL) will hold its second annual conference Sept. 18 in State College. "The Human Face of Climate Change: Food, Faith and other necessities of life" is the theme. See www.paipl.org for details. It is free and open to the public, and includes lectures, workshops and a Green Fair.

PA-IPL is the Pennsylvania affiliate of the national www.InterfaithPowerandLight.org, which is 10,000 congregations strong. It is a national movement of communities of faith responding to climate change as a moral issue, through advocacy, energy conservation, energy efficiency, and the use of clean, renewable energy.

Resources are available to help congregations and individual homes become more energy efficient. Energy assessments are available to member congregations at a reduced cost. An education clearinghouse lists films, books, speakers, monthly newsletter, blog, Facebook page and archival newsletters. Advocacy for local, state and national legislation levels by PA-IPL focuses on energy efficiency (and pre-

serving EPA funding) so as to reduce our contribution to climate change.

Conference speakers include Prof. Bill Easterling, Dean of Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences as well as Rev. Jim Deming, Minister for Environmental Justice for the United Churches of Christ and author of "*From Southern Fried Guilt to Spiritual Responsibility*" in IPL founder Rev. Sally Bingham's book **Love God Heal Earth**.

Reminder: The *Constitution of the Commonwealth of PA*, Article 1, section 27 states: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

CLASSIFIEDS

Tape duplicator: A lightly used tape duplicator and a box of cassette tapes are available free to a good home. Contact Ethel Donley at 398-7097.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: This year's theme, "We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ." (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:51-58), holds much promise as we set aside Jan. 18-25 as a time of prayer and reflection and celebrate our life together. Resources are available 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.

AIDS Resource is a non-profit organization that provides free HIV/AIDS prevention, education, testing and assistance to those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Their mission is to provide culturally sensitive support to people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS and to prevent further infection through education and outreach programs. They serve Lycoming, Snyder and Union Counties. Please remember to lift up the needs of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. It is especially appropriate to do that on World AIDS Day, December 1 each year. Several fund raising events to help offset governmental budget cuts follow. For more information contact info@aidresource.com or call 570-322-8448 x 11.

- **Indoor Yard Sale**, September 17, 8:00 AM - Noon at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Donations can be brought to the church September 16 after 5:00 PM. A table can be rented to sell your own items at the sale, for \$20.
- **Rohrbach's Homemade Apple Dumplings Sale**. Only \$4 each or \$3.50 for 4 or more. Order deadline is October 14. Pickup is October 21.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY*

Habitat for Humanity in Lycoming County: Habitat wants to involve more congregations in providing weekly lunches on Saturday for their workgroups. Lunches are usually for 15 workers. Call their office, 570-322-2515, to learn about this opportunity for ministry. Your might also provide workers too.

Road to Recovery: Drivers are needed for this American Cancer Society program which provides transportation for cancer patients going for medical treatments. You need to own a safe and reliable vehicle, have a current, valid driver's license, proof of adequate automobile insurance, have a good driving record and attend a road to recovery volunteer training. The area currently most in need of drivers is Jersey Shore. To enquire call 1-888-277-5445.

Hearthworks: Children's Bereavement Program - provides peer support groups to support and companion children, teens and their parents and/or caregiver along their journey of grief. Trained staff and volunteers provide a safe place for them to...

- know they are not alone in their grief...
- share in a nonjudgemental accepting atmosphere
- see that grieving is normal
- know that hope and healing are possible
- have fun with peers and family
- make quality relationship

Contact Susquehanna Health Home Care and Hospice, 570-320-7691 or 888-499-3177.

Lycoming County Life Chain 2011 will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2010, on the Golden Strip (East Third Street) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. Area churches are invited to participate. This is their 20th 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
- N.E. 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
- W. Fourth St. Wmspt. - Denise Boring - 570-745-7185

SPECIAL EVENTS *

Russian Orthodox Ensemble to Perform Locally: On Wed., Sept. 21 at 7 pm, Holy Cross Orthodox Church, off Northway Road, Loyalsock, will host a concert performance of the world-renowned vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg, "LYRA." The acappella music of this talented group of five singers, trained in the St. Petersburg Conservatory will feature works from the Russian Orthodox liturgical tradition and a selection of Russian Folk Songs. There is no charge for the concert. A free-will offering will be received. Refreshments and LYRA recordings will be available. See www.holycrosswilliamsport.org for flyer.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL sponsored by the Divine Providence Hospital Auxiliary will be held Sunday, Sept. 25, at 2 pm at the Divine Providence Hospital Auditorium. You are invited to an afternoon of fun and sweets. This is a membership recruitment party and men and women are invited. The program will include music, health hints and hospital news. To make a reservation call the Gift Shop, 326-8402 or Ruth Keller, 435-0653.

Elizabeth Smart to be at Community Arts Center: The Junior League of Williamsport will host abduction survivor, ABC News commentator and author Elizabeth Smart at 7 pm Oct. 15 at the Community Arts Center. Smart, 23, will share her experiences in overcoming adversity. She was kidnapped at age 14 and held hostage for nine months, has become an advocate on behalf of children who have experienced violence. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for students and are available at the CAC box office at 570-326-2424 or online at www.caclive.com.

Walk to Prevent Suicide 2011: Our County's third annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk will be on Sunday, Oct 16th from behind the Bush Campus Center at Penn College. Check-in begins at 1 and the three mile walk is at 2 pm. Register online at www.outofthedarkness.org. For details or to volunteer, contact Joe Miller (joesmillier@verizon.net) This is in conjunction with the Am. Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Pork and Sauerkraut Supper to benefit Habitat for Humanity will be held Thursday, Oct. 27 from 4-7 at St. Joseph the Work Parish Fleming Parish Center. Meals will cost \$8, children under 10, \$4. Take outs will be available. The dinner will be in memory of Sue Hornberger.

Making Strides To End Breast Cancer, a walk to help the Am/ Cancer Society raise funds to create a world with less breast cancer and more birthdays. The 5K walk is at 11 am Saturday, Oct. 29 in Indian Park, Montoursville. Contact www.cancer.org/stridesonline or tessa.beiver@cancer.org, or 570-326-4149.