



UNITED CHURCHES' NEWS

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UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY
202 East Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701
Phone: 570-322-1110, E-Mail: director@uclc.org
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Issued mid-monthly, September through May with some special e-mail only summer issues.. Items marked with an asterisk may be of special interest to your congregation. Deadline to submit articles - First of each month.

VOLUME XXX NUMBER 6

September 10, 2013

Please notify us if you changes of e-mail address

Thank You for receiving our Newsletter via E-Mail.

It is a wonderful donation of postage, office supplies and volunteer time.

UNITED CHURCHES 3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT*

Ken Weiss at 321-9555 or
E-mail: kweiss1213@gmail.com

Date: Friday Sept. 27



September is almost here and we are almost ready ... how about you? Our first two years showed us just how much support there is for UCLC. However, we need to do so much more.

The Tournament... is Friday Sept. 27th starting at 9am at the White Deer Challenge Course. For a donation of \$80 (one of the lowest tournament fees in our county) golfers get a round of golf, the use of a golf cart, food and beverages before and during the event, lunch after playing, a number of free gifts, and each golfer gets a door prize. We moved to Friday to avoid conflict with other leagues. If you have not registered yet call us today! **GOLFERS ARE STILL NEEDED!**

Our Sponsors... We need a few more door prizes - gift certificates to local stores, small \$10-50 gifts, things a golfer might enjoy. Church sponsorship is only \$50. Have you signed up yet?

Our Raffle... is wonderful this year. Tickets will be drawn for each of the following items:

- a \$900 gift certificate at Golfsmith.com



- A Ron Beach Painting (valued at \$250)
- A 31 X 27 framed print by Rev. David Redding, Titled "Christmas Day, 1870"
- Gold Necklace provided by Petro's Jewelers (\$170 value)
- Silver earrings by Mahonski Jewelers (valued at over \$80)
- Autographed baseballs by Gaylord Perry, Hall of Fame 1991
- Autographed Book, "A Higher Call" by Adam Makos - signed by both vets and the author - NY Times best seller and local author
- Seaglass Jewelry by Mike Cillo of DKCCREATIONS,LLC.
- Blue Bird Houses made by our own Rev. Larry Waltz
- Matted & Framed large photo by Ken Weiss
- other prizes may be added still....

You don't have to be present to win. A donation of \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20 is all you need to have the chance to win. You need not be present to win. Someone you know should be selling the tickets, if not, check with the United Churches office or let me know.

-continued on page 2

Golf Tournament - continued from page 1

EAT OUT as part of the United Churches Golf Tournament Celebration: We've teamed up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to celebrate the friendships made through this event and to work together as part of God's family to add to the total raised. Please consider visiting the Hoss's in Williamsport on Sunday, September 29. All are welcome - you are all part of our team! Clip the box below and present it at Hoss's, Williamsport. They'll donate 20% of your total check paid to United Churches. If a lot of us go and there are \$1,200 in sales, Hoss's will donate 25%!

	COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER
Present this Card on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013	
At Hoss's In Williamsport	
Hoss's will then donate 20%+ of your Total Check	
For: United Churches of Lycoming County	
Group #: 17403	
Please Present Ticket When Ordering	
Thank You!	
Voucher distribution is prohibited on Hoss's property.	

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

New Pastor's Orientation will be held Thursday, September 12, beginning at 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 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 or more details, contact Gwen at 322-1110 or director@ucl.org.

HELP NEEDED FOR 2013 WORSHIP SERVICES*

We still have a few vacancies in our Worship Schedule this year and need your help. It's a big job - over 800 services. We ways have vacancies and appreciate those who fill in. Please contact Gwen at director@ucl.org or call 570-322-1110. The vacancies are as follows....

- Manor Care South (Sunday at 2) - **Sept 29**
- Pre Release Center for Women (Sunday at 3:30) - **Oct 20** (female clergy only)
- Sycamore: (Wednesday at 10:30) **Nov 6** and **Nov 27**

**WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES***

Join us for the start of the 2013-2014 Season! The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.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. No reservations are necessary, but a call to Gwen, Office-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer know how much food to prepare.

**SEPTEMBER:**

- 11- **Pastor Rusty Wolfinger**, Asst. Pastor, Faith United Methodist Church, Mont., and **Ms Tina McDowell**, Executive Director of Williamsport Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, "*Introducing the new 'A Brush With Kindness Program'*"
- 19- **Mr. Timothy Ohrum**, The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, "*The Medicaid Expansion Expected soon Under the Affordable Care Act*"
- 26- **Mrs. Carole Fulmer**, Alzheimer's Educator and Advocate, Support Group Facilitator and Author, "*Alzheimer's, The Thief That Stole My Love*"

OCTOBER:

- 2- **Mrs. Amy Seyler**, Church Relations, Operation Christmas Child of Samaritan Purse, "*Shoe Boxes Bring Blessings Around the World.*"
- 9- **Mr. Don and Mrs. Faye Konkle**, Members of Montoursville Presbyterian Church, "*Mission Trip to the New Jersey Shore*"
- 16- **Ms. Debbie Colton**, Oasis of Hope Ministries, "*Building Safe Havens for the Children Who Are Domestic Victims of Sex Trafficking*"
- 23- **The Rev. Canon Andy France**, Chaplain, Lycoming Prison, Archdeacon Emeritus, Episcopal Diocese of Central Pa. "*Heroin - It's Here and We Need to Do Something: a Personal Story*"
- 30- **Mrs. Tammy Aichner**, United Campus Ministry Coordinator, "*Ministry With College Students*"

PRISON MINISTRY REMINDER

Clergy: It is time to 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.

"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 13th, and end with Thanksgiving food collections. And all year long our United Churches Food Pantry and all our other Pantries reach out to those who are hungry.

CROP WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2013

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

CROP Walk is here. This year's CROP Walk will take place on Sunday October 13 at 1:30 pm. We will again be walking along the River Walk 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 9 mile walks will take place on the Williamsport and the South Williamsport sides looping one, two or three times between the Market and Maynard Street Bridges.

Our world is filled with people in need. Disasters seem to be everywhere - fires, floods, winds, drought, war. One minute people are OK and then they are in extreme need. This is why Church World Service is here and their CROP program works with those who are hungry.

This is the 34th year of walking for the Williamsport/Lycoming County CROP Walk. There will be people from Cogan House, Muncy, Salladasburg, Quiggleville, Loyalsockville, Hughesville, 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 dollar makes a difference. 25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies. This year the agencies we have chosen to receive these funds are the United Churches Food Pantry, Son Light House Food Pantry, American Rescue Workers Food Pantries in Williamsport and Jersey Shore, and St. Anthony's Kitchen.

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 Wagner-Pizza, 322-0126. Sponsor forms and materials can be picked up at the United Churches office, 322-1110 or 419-1464, Monday - Thursday from 9-3.
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 9 miles.
4. **RECRUIT** sponsors who'll pay you or your team to walk. ***Get the whole church involved in getting sponsors this year.***
5. **JOIN** your friends, as you walk together.

Feeding Fifty Thousand: Pastor Kerry Aucker (570-748-4581) is organizing another meal packaging event like done last November. This year instead of 21,800 meals, they plan on packaging 50,000 meals. The date for this year's event is ***Saturday, October 5, 2013.***

This year Trinity United Methodist Church, 1407 Allegheny Street, Jersey Shore will host the event in their gym.

We all know that people in our communities go hungry. Sometimes they must make choices between paying for medicine or food. We can do something about it. Outreach, Inc., will set up this food packaging event. The meals will be dis-

tributed to people in need here in Lycoming and Clinton Counties by the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, the Love Center, the Mill Hall Food Bank, and others food banks. Needed are over 300 volunteers on ten assembly lines for three shifts (9, 10, 11 a.m.). They also need financial support. The meals cost 25¢ to produce, feeding a family of four for \$1. Checks should be written out to "Outreach Inc." Drop your money off to St. John Lutheran, 229 South Broad Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740 or notify Pastor Aucker at 570-398-1676. For more information on this meal packaging program see www.EndHungerNE.org or call Kerry.

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY **Gail Burkhart, Coordinator 570-322-1627*

To all our Food Pantry friends, we hope you had a delightful summer. But it goes too fast! It's hard to believe Little League World Series is passed, the big league World Series is around the corner, school has started, the breath-taking autumn leaves will soon be here and then gone. Next it'll be snowflakes, ice melt and kids hoping for a 'snow day'. And so the world turns in Lycoming County.

One of the biggest happenings in our pantry is the explosion of client services. June - August 2013 we served 1000 people, including ~221 children in 430 households. Amazingly that's a 22% increase in new clients. I believe there are many factors that contribute to that large increase.

The economy is better, they say. Validated by a decreased jobless rate and an increase in jobs filled. But as our old time radio buddy, Paul Harvey, would say, 'and now the rest of the story'. Many new jobs are only part time, paying minimum wage. The unemployment rate has dropped in part because some people have stopped looking for work because they can't find something to support them and their families. There are college students who can't afford the 'meal plan' their school offers but still need to eat. We also see the toll these troubling times have taken on marriages. We wind up with two (broken) households in need of help, with the children shuttling between them both. Many seniors continue to struggle, and those who've just eked out an existence, now come to the pantry for help because of the increased costs of groceries, gasoline, medical co-pays and rent.

Our pantry gets through by the wonderful donations from the congregations and some good old fashioned budgeting of the funds that we receive from the State. We haven't been notified of funding amounts for the upcoming year and so we too experience some apprehension on behalf of the people we serve. This last month, we've only given 1 meat product per food order. That's the first time in the 10 years I've been with United Churches that we've had to do that.

Please continue to pray. It seems to be the only and best solution to all of this. Secondly: contact your elected officials. Tell them how you feel and ask that they work to clear up the issues that have put us in these positions. Thirdly: please donate as you are able. Some items we need are:

canned fruits	veggies	pasta [all shapes]
spaghetti sauce	tea bags	coffee
oodles of noodles	popcorn	powdered drink mixes
saltine crackers	Jello	peanut butter
granola bars	applesauce	instant pudding mixes
cornbread mix	canned tuna	canned/powdered milk

Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated and know that you are in prayer. May you have a blessed month &

thanks for all that you do.

Don't forget that our Pantry Office is now at 320 Park Avenue. The hours are Mondays 9:30 - Noon for donations and Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-3 for clients food services.

DIAL - A - DEVOTION *

Have you called yet?

The number is 570-322-5762.

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:

9/9-15 Rev. Dr. Margaret Balliet	9/16-22 Dorothy Wagner
9/23-29 Rev. Gwen Bernstine	9/30-10/6 Ms. Patricia Jenkins
10/7-13 Rev. Dr. Margaret Balliet	10/14-20 Rev. Danesta Whaley
10/21-27 Rev. Gwen Bernstine	10/29-11/3 Pastors Jim/ Kathy Behrens

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Anthony's Medical Clinic is in need of volunteers! They need physicians, nurses, and secretaries for Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings/afternoons. The hours for patients are Mondays from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm and Wednesdays from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. The doors are usually open earlier than the posted hours and the staff is working later than the posted hours, but times and days are negotiable! We especially need physicians for the third Monday of the month and the months that there is a fifth Monday or Wednesday. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this worthy ministry! Please contact Deb Steinbacher at 570-433-3757 for more information.

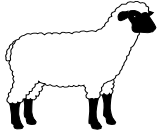
Out of the Darkness Walk to Prevent Suicide: will be held on Sunday, September 22 at Indian Park - Pavilion #5, Montoursville.

The check-in & on-site registration opens at 1 pm and the, walk begins at 2 rain or shine.

This is a great way to raise awareness about suicide prevention and to connect...

to reach out a hand and support someone who is going through a difficult time. Proceeds benefit AFSP & Lycoming County Suicide Prevention Coalition.





SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS*

J. Morris Smith, Th. D.,

Contact at: 570-322-6538 or shepherd@uclc.org

GIVING TO THE POOR

“Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.” (Mt. 5:42) Jesus teaches giving as basic to discipleship.

“...any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.” (Lk. 14:33)

“If you want to be perfect, go sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Mt. 19:21) Jesus teaches detachment of material things, to be held loosely, to be always considered given to be used for the kingdom.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt. 5:3) Jesus teaches holy poverty, not social poverty, as a way of life. The word here means having nothing for self to hold onto. All we are and all we have is dedicated to God and His Kingdom. We are blessed to bless, always watching for opportunities to “see” Jesus and serve Him.

How long and in what circumstances does one practice this way of life?

“There will always be needy poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.” (Deut. 15:11)

“You will always have the poor among you...” (John 12:8)

“The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Mt. 25:40) Jesus teaches holy poverty as the way to the Kingdom.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Lk. 6:38) Jesus teaches reciprocity.

“What good is it if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, Go, I wish you well, keep warm and well fed, but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (Jas. 2:14-17) There is always a balance between a spiritual dynamic, and a willful act that perfectly expresses that dynamic. Spirit can only be seen in the signs it produces.

“Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” (Rv. 20:12b) “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...for their good deeds will follow them.” (Rv. 14:13) What we have done with life, will be the Christian’s treasure stored in heaven (Mt. 6:19-25). Mt. 25:31-46

God bless all who have been faithful to help support Shepherd of the Streets with your offerings of time, talent, and treasure.

CHURCH FUEL CO-OP

The annual meeting of the Church Supply Co-op was held August 7th. Two heating oil bids were opened and the contract for the 2013-2014 heating season was awarded to Pickelner/Nittany Oil.

Their “cap price” bid of \$3.59.9 was accepted. Members of the Church Fuel Co-Op will never pay more than this price for their oil, no matter how high prices go this year. And each account also has the option to pay their bill within ten days and get the cash discount of 15¢/gallon (payments via cash, check and bank transfer only).

The plan is available to churches who are members of the Co-Op and their paid staff. To belong to the co-op congregations pay a one time fee of \$100. Should a congregation withdraw as a member, for some reason, the reinstatement fee is \$25. Retired clergy in the area are invited to be part of the co-op at no charge.

More information can be obtained by contacting Gwen Bernstine at United Churches, director@uclc.org or 322-1110 or 323-5911.

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

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.”
 -Lk. 4:18

Jesus proclaims his fundamental concern for all who live in poverty and are oppressed in general in society. If we believe that the Spirit of the Lord is with us, are we too fundamentally concerned for and acting with those who are poor?

Lycoming County Unemployment Rate Increases for July: The preliminary unemployment rate for the county for July 2013 was 7.9 %. For most of this year, the county’s unemployment rate has been higher than the previous year. Currently 5,103 individuals and their families are high priorities for the Spirit of the Lord.

Dr. Martin Luther King: God’s Concern for the Poor: Shortly before he was assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King proclaimed these words: “Our idea is to dramatize the whole economic problem of the poor. . . We call our demonstration a campaign for jobs and income because we feel that the economic question is the most crucial that black people and poor people generally are confronting.... We need an economic bill of rights. This would guarantee a job to all people who want to work and are able to work. It would also guarantee an income for all who are not able to work. Some people are too young, some are too old, some are physically disabled, and yet in order to live, they need income . . .”

Congress Proposed Sizeable Cuts to Nutrition Assistance: Earlier this summer, the Senate adopted their version of the Farm Bill which traditionally includes SNAP (food stamps). The Senate bill includes \$4.1 billion cuts over time to SNAP. The House defeated a proposed \$20.5 billion in cuts to SNAP. However, the House passed their version of the Farm Bill without any inclusion of nutrition programs.

Sequestration: October 1 – Significant Cuts to Nutrition Programs and Other Poverty Assistance: Unless Congress takes action in September, automatic cuts will occur beginning October 1 to such essential nutrition programs as Meals on Wheels, school lunch funding, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). These and other poverty related programs such as funding for food pantries will experience reduced funding. All age groups will be affected – from infants to the elderly.

What Can I Do “to bring glad tidings to the poor”? Immediate action is necessary! Call our Congress and tell them” “As a person of faith, I urge you to replace sequestration with a balanced plan. Sequestration jeopardizes

programs that help hungry and poor people lift themselves out of poverty, both at home and abroad.”

Senator Casey 202-224-6324

Senator Toomey 202-224-4254

Representative Marino 202-225-3731

**DO YOU KNOW AN UNSAFE
 “PEDESTRIAN ON WHEELS”?**

The Safe Communities Task Force of the Lycoming Health Improvement Coalition, in conjunction with the Center for Independent Living, will be hosting a “Pedestrian on Wheels” event on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 from 1 PM to 3 PM at the Center for Independent Living, 24 East Third Street, Williamsport.

The purpose of the event will be to address traffic safety concerns of pedestrians who use power chairs in downtown areas. Demonstrations and safety information will be presented in a fun “bingo” format to educate power chair users to “Be Bright. Be in Sight. Be Safe.”

Participation is free by registering at the Center for Independent Living at 570-327-9070. Light refreshments, safety items and door prizes will be offered.

Lycoming County Life Chain will be held Sunday, October 6, 2013, on the Golden Strip (East Third Street) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. Area churches are invited to participate in this peaceful prayer event. This is their 22nd year. If your church has not received the written announcement in the mail and you are interested, contact the 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



Tammy Aichner, Coor, ucm@uclc.org or 570-419-5376

August 21st was the kick off a new school year, and a new ministry for me. 2013-2014 will be new to me as the coordinator, as well as the students. Together, we will grow spiritually. I am excited to have this opportunity to work with the students at Penn College.


We enjoyed Fall Kickoff! Music was provided by Jessie Burdett, a 9th grader from Loyalsock. What talent God has blessed her with! We handed out pizza and cookies. I met many of the students and staff that I will be working with this year. The Fall Fiesta was another opportunity to get our message out to the students. They also had a chance to talk firsthand with a number of local church representatives.

Friday we went rock climbing at Rock Run. We enjoyed hiking, visiting an 1800's cemetery and seeing one of the most gorgeous views this area has to offer. Christian fellowship is important to the students. UCM provides them opportunities to have a great time and a sense of belonging when they are so far from home. We are planning a corn maze/hayride/bonfire adventure in October.

Our Faith Talks will be held Monday nights in CC105 from 8-9. The first guest leader is Pastor Paul Browne from New Life Orthodox Presbyterian. If your congregation has students who might like to participate in a Bible Study with their peers, please pass the information along.

We have many service plans for the upcoming year. We will be making gift shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse. We will see all of you at Crop Walk. We are currently pursuing opportunities with Family Promise, Oasis of Hope and considering a mission trip to the New Jersey shore. We will need to fundraise. I can see bake sales and soup sales in our future. So, in the meantime, get out those aprons and wait for my phone call.

Please keep all of our students in prayer. This is a transitional time for them and for many the first time with so much freedom. God will call out to them, we continue to pray that they choose to listen.

 We also want to thank Sharon Comini for all her work as our coordinator these past five years. She resigned this summer to accept a full time position teaching art with Loyalsock School District. She is happy to be teaching again, but knows she'll greatly miss working with the students and staff, and all the friendships she has made in the ministry we do together as part of our United Campus Ministry. She looks forward to still being part of the ministry and serving on the UCM board.

CREATION CORNER

The Christian Social Concerns Committee

Priorities, Principles, Projects To Reflect Upon

God touches all in the heavens and on earth; everything is full of sacred presence. *-Psalm 103:19*

Here in the palm of my hand is a hazelnut, a small thing, round like a ball. It is all that is made; it is made by love. See in this little thing three truths: God made it; God loves it; God keeps it. In these three truths stay and grow.

-Julian of Norwich

The fragrance always remains in the hand that gives the rose.

-Heda Bejar

If you want your faith, you have to work for it. It is a gift, but for very few is it a gift given without any demand for equal time devoted to its cultivation. *-Flannery O'Connor*

To choose what is difficult, all one's days, as if it were easy: that is faith.

-W.H. Auden

Conservation is a cause that has no end. There is no point at which we can say, "Our work is finished." *-Rachel Carson*

We fasted, marched, picketed, sat in... We never succeeded, and we never quite gave up. That is the best that can be said for us. We must be content if it is to be our obituary.

-Daniel Berrigan, SJ

Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play and pray, where nature heals and gives strength to body and soul alike.

-John Muir

The sole meaning of life is to serve humanity. *-Leo Tolstoy*

To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future. To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war.

-Pope John Paul II

Nuclear war begins, I believe, in our hearts. And that is where it must end.

-Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen

The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children... Under the cloud of war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

The seed never sees the flower. *-Zen saying*

If you expect to see the final results of your works, you simply have not asked a big enough question. *-Arab proverb*

Probably every generation sees itself as charged with re-making the world. Mine, however, knows it will not remake the world. Its task is even greater; to keep the world from destroying itself.

-Albert Camus

-continued on page 8

YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY (YPM)

By Rev. Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, 570-326-6868
North Central Regional Director Yokefellow Center

BRINGING GOD'S WORD TO THE WEARY!

The sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the Word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. -Isaiah 50:4

Beloved Ones, we are the people of God who can bring hope to those who are weary, who need help and healing and to the hopeless. Yokefellowship Prison ministry's motto is "helping inmates and ex-offenders yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives.

What a glorious and fast summer! Yokefellowship has been on the move as our faithful volunteers continue weekly going into various county and state facilities bringing hope to the hopeless with words of life and encouragement. Even a smile makes a difference to those who are behind bars. It is amazing to see the looks on the faces of those incarcerated each week as we visit these facilities. They quickly change from doom and despair to one of hope once again.

A quick comment from an inmate through a letter our office received:

"Thank you once again for re-planting the seed of the Lord in my heart and life. I am on fire for the Lord more than I was before I backslid. Now, I have a personal relationship with God once again. Thank you for the volunteers who go in each week to share the good news of Jesus Christ. I realize how essential as well as vital a personal relationship really is to my foundation."

Praise the Lord for HIS goodness to our volunteers and this ministry as we continue to go in the prisons to help see transformation in the lives of men and women! You too can make a difference with us by contacting our local office at the number above. This past summer we had 6 new volunteers join with us. Call and we will get you connected!

Please keep us in your prayers as the Lord leads you. If you are interested in sending financial support our address is Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, 1200 Almond Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October Newsletter Information needed by October 2

United Churches Annual Assembly--Tuesday, November 19

Creation Corner - continued from page 7

We are now reminded to be aware of our place upon this earth, and to fulfill our obligations to ourselves, our families, nation, and natural world and its creator.

-Joanne Shenandoah ("Prophecy Song")

God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you.

-Martin Luther

ONE CREATION, MANY FAITHS:

A CALL TO ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Third Annual Meeting and Conference for Interfaith Power and Light will take place for its second (and final) year in Harrisburg on a Saturday afternoon at the Colonial Park UCC on Saturday, October 5 from 11 - 5. Preregister online at www.PAIPL.org; registration includes lunch. Individuals and congregational teams, clergy and lay people are all invited to join Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light for our 2013 Annual Meeting and Conference: One Creation, Many Faiths: A Call to Action on Climate Change

The KEYNOTE PANEL will discuss climate change from a variety of faith perspectives. Peter Adriance, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S., Washington, DC. Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Philadelphia. Sister Pat Lupo, Mt. St. Benedict, Erie. Rev. Dr. Gil Waldkoenig, Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The GREEN FAIR will feature businesses, non-profits, and faith groups that help people care for Creation through stewardship, community, education, and advocacy.

A fresh soup-and-salad LUNCH will allow people to gather by geographic groups to network, connect, and plan.

WORKSHOPS will allow people to choose one area for deeper learning, and will include a STUDENT MEET--UP for college students interested in the intersection of climate change, faith, and service.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Resources for the 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) are now available. The theme is "Has Christ Been Divided?" (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:13)

Order forms are available from our office or you can access information online and make your order there at www.geii.org. Materials available include a daily scripture and prayer guide, a prayer card, a poster, bulletin cover, and resources for Worship and discussion and community involvement.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES*

School of Religion: Lutheran Shared Ministry invites you to be part of this study opportunity on Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 - 3:30 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport. The classes are free, but you must make a reservation by calling 570-323-4619.

- ▶ **Songs in the Key of Life:** How hymns shape our faith and how life experiences influence hymnody. This 5 week course is led by Mrs. Carol Waltz, Organist at Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport.

- ▶ **Traveling Around the World-God's Work, Our Hands** You'll learn about the country, the people, their interests, history and so much more.

Oct. 2: Pr. Kerry Aucker, St. John's Lutheran, J.S., tells about USS,ELCA Companion Synod in Germany.

Oct. 9: Ms. Betty McCrandall, Missionary to Liberia, update on the USS,ELCA Companion Synod, Liberia.

Oct. 16: Mrs. Sandy Grier, AIM, Church of the Savior, Wmspt., will look at what the ELCA does to support ministry throughout the world re: Global Missions.

Oct. 23 & 30: Pastor Elkin, St. Mark's Wmspt., will share his archeological experiences in Spain, talking about the rich history and the people.

PLANNING FOR MUSIC MINISTRY: A workshop will be held on Saturday, October 19, from 9 AM-4:30 PM, at St. John's United Church of Christ, 1050 Buffalo Road, Lewisburg. The day includes worship, workshops on *Reading Music by Playing Tone Chimes*, *The Mystic Organ Music of Spain*, *Service Playing and Effective Registration*, and *Choral Conducting and Good Rehearsal Techniques*. There will be a display of choral, organ, and piano music. The day concludes with an organ recital by Mark Laubach of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre. For details or to register, contact Shirley Smith at 570-412-5949 or ssmith@dejazzd.com. The day is sponsored by the Williamsport and Susquehanna Valley chapters of the American Guild of Organists.

Writers Beyond is the conference being sponsored this year by the West Branch Christian Writer's Association on Saturday, October 19. It will be at Life Tree Church, 500 River Road, Jersey Shore from 8:15 to 4:45 and lunch is included. To learn about the many workshops on poetry, personal experience, magazine articles, speculative fiction and devotionals there are to choose from, the authors and editors you can learn from and have lunch with, writing contests and more, go to their web site, www.westbranchchristian-writers.com or call conference Susan Lower at 570-322-1570. Registration is \$65 with an early bird discount and late comers fee. West Branch Chris-

tian Writer's are responsible for the Christmas insert in the Sun Gazette for 12 years. Their writers have published more than 40 books combined and been published in dozens of publications.

Vibrant Faith Workshop: Lutheran Shared Ministry of the greater Williamsport area is sponsoring a FREE workshop for parish and congregational leaders on Saturday, October 26 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. It will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport. The workshop is designed to give leaders strategies and tools to empower families to grow in faith at home. It will be led by Leif Kehrwald of Vibrant Faith Ministries. This workshop is aligned with recent research on family assets and strengths and anchored in decades of experience in family ministry. Designed for Church Staff, Children's Ministry Teams, Small Group Ministry Teams, Adult Formation Teams, Sunday School Teachers, Council Members, and other ministry leaders and volunteers, this course is free; but, registration is necessary. Contact Kathy Wither at (570) 326-9171 or by email at wither15@comcast.net for more information.

Raising A Faith-Filled Family, is a free workshop for parents. Sponsored by Lutheran Shared Ministry of the greater Williamsport area, this workshop will help parents who want to raise a faith-filled family. It will be held on Saturday, October 26, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport. A light supper will be served followed by the class. Child Care is available. The course is FREE, but pre-registration is necessary. Contact Kathy Wither at (570) 326-9171 or by email at wither15@comcast.net for more information. When families spend time together, build healthy relationships with one another, share meals, and solve conflicts and reconcile with one another, they grow not only in well-being, but also in faith. This session will show parents, grandparents, and others ways to recognize how God lingers in the creases and folds of the ordinary and extraordinary events of their family life. Participants will also learn practical, doable ways to pray, celebrate, reconcile, and serve as a family. By exploring the holy and sacred nature of everyday family living, parents will see new ways to nurture their children's and teens' faith growth using research-based, proven methods, and create a vision for growing in faith as a family. Participants will learn the five key moments in day-to-day family living that when families bring intention to these moments they like each other better, and they function better as a family. You'll also explore the four key activities crucial to a young person's faith growth and maturity, and how to engage in these activities.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COUNTY *

Golden Agers Club: The Salvation Army is beginning a club for seniors with a wide range of fun and activities. They'll be music crafts games devotions speakers + Hotmail. It will begin Tuesday, September 10 at 10 o'clock and continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays meeting from 10 to 1. If you're looking for something fun to do try that. They are located at 457 Market Street, Williamsport. For more information call them at 570-326-1987.

The 9/11 Memorial Bike Ride will begin in Montgomery at the Clinton Township Fire Hall. There will be a blessing of the bikes and opening ceremony at 5:00 p.m. Please take time to greet riders along the route of the ride. This year the planners are happy to announce that they have obtained permission to ride thru Williamsport once again, and will be going along Third Street from Arch Street and going out through to the Golden Strip. Many churches also ring their bells as riders pass.



Williamsport Civic Chorus Welcomes Singers: Their second rehearsal for new and returning singers will be on Monday, September 16, at 7 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wmspt. Auditions are not required. For more information about joining is available by calling Deb Muthler at 570-398-4472.

The gala 2013-14 70th anniversary season will consist of two concerts. The season begins with "An Afternoon with Mother Goose" on Nov. 24 at St. Luke Lutheran Church. This concert features Fiona Powell as Mother Goose. Song and spoken word will bring timeless characters from everyone's favorite fairy tales and nursery rhymes to life.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014, the Chorus will perform J.S. Bach's glorious Mass in B Minor. This work can be considered the summation of Bach's life, faith, and musical craft. With full orchestral accompaniment and vocal soloists, it is a musical masterpiece not to be missed! Tickets and details about the season are available by calling Muthler or visiting www.williamsportcivicchorus.org.

NAMI to Meet: The monthly NAMI meetings will now be held on the second Tuesday of each month, so the October meeting will be on Tuesday Oct 8th at 6:30 p.m. At the Robert M. Sides building located on Mulberry Street in Williamsport.

Retirees Luncheon: Montoursville Presbyterian Church invites retirees to come to lunch the fourth Friday of every month at 12 noon. The lunch is free and the fellowship is fantastic. The church is at Walnut and Elm Street, or if you use your GPS it is 900 Elm Street,

Montoursville.

Russian Orthodox Ensemble to Perform Locally: On Wed., Sept. 25 at 7 pm, Holy Cross Orthodox Church Fellowship Center, off Northway Road, in 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 at 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.

Car Show & Autumn Fest: of Divine Providence Hospital Auxiliary will be held Sunday, September 29th at the parking lot in front of Hospital from 10am - 4pm. A pancake breakfast will be served in the hospital cafeteria from 8-11am. Cars, Awards, Food, DJ & live entertainment, kid's corner, crafts, Hunter's Screening (Hospital Auditorium). A special visit by "TOWmator", which is a tow truck fashioned after a tomato.

Missionary, Sherrill Blankenbeler Fausey, will be in Williamsport, at Fairlawn Community Church, 353 Pleasant Hill Rd, Cogan Station, on Sunday, October 6, sharing/presenting God's work at Christian Light School/Orphanage, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, (www.chritian-lighthaiti.org) at both services, 8:30am & 10:30am, and again on Wednesday, October 09, at 1pm in Tivoli, at the Tivoli United Methodist Church, 9598 Route 220, Tivoli. Visitors are welcome to come and meet her and see the new thing God is doing through her, in Haiti.

Sherrie Fausey, a retired school teacher from Jacksonville, Florida, visited Haiti in 1999 on a weekend mission trip. God used what she witnessed there to burden her heart to sell all of her earthly belongings and return to Haiti in the summer of 2000 to open a school. Today there are more than 260 children in attendance. Her faith has brought her through many challenges, including the school being completely demolished by the 2010 Earthquake. The Christian Light School is a non-denominational Christian ministry.

Haitians need to be given the necessary tools if they are to eventually become leaders in their country. But children simply cannot afford to attend school without our help. So, we provide textbooks, uniforms, school supplies, 2 meals per day and medical and dental care. They learn to read in French, English, and Creole and communicate with sign language. Graduates score very high on the Haitian state exams. They are among the best educated students in Haiti and are expected to grow up to assume leadership positions--Christian leaders.