

The Messenger

July 2009

SUNDAY, JULY 5

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, July 5, during our regular Sunday Worship Service which begins at 10:30 am. After worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, July 8, at 12 pm for a covered dish dinner. We welcome you to join our group of "60-somethings" for good food and fellowship. If you wish to come, all you need is a good appetite for food and friendship. So bring a dish to share and join us. If you want to know more about our group, please call Lois Eigenbrod at 868-6419 or Mary Eroh at 868-5268.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

OLD RIVER CHURCH SERVICES

The Old River Church Services will begin on July 12 with Mt Zion UCC as the host church. The services will begin at 6:00 pm every Sunday evening through August 30. For a complete schedule, please see inside this issue.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

FLEA MARKET

We are looking for donations of clean, gently used, still usable, unbroken items to be sold at our Flea Market which will be held on Saturday, July 25. Please put any items for the flea market in the Sunday School room in the Fellowship Hall. The money raised from the flea market will build up our General Fund. We will also have food and beverages to sell as people wander through the flea market. Anyone who can help with this fundraiser or if you want more information, please see Lynne Stewart.

SUNDAY, JULY 26

CHURCH PICNIC

We will again have our church picnic on the lawn of Emmanuel. The picnic will begin after our worship service with a covered dish dinner for which the church will supply hot dogs, hamburgers and buns. After our meal, we will join in playing indoor and outdoor games, such as bingo, bean bag, tag and kickball. So bring your appetites and enthusiasm for a great day of family fun.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

7768 Blue Ridge Trail
Mountain Top PA 18707

www.emmanuel-ucc.org
emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com

Rev. Penny Dollar
15 Old North Road
Mountain Top, PA 18707
(570) 678-5949
(570) 706-6476
preacherdollar@yahoo.com

Inside this issue:

Around Our Neighborhood	p. 5
Cemetery Assoc. Report	p. 3
Committee Meetings	p. 3
Condolences	p. 3
Congregational Corner	p. 3
Flea Market	p. 3
From the Pastor	p. 2
General Fund Report	p. 3
Old River Church	p. 5
Picnic	p. 3
"Picture Perfect"	p. 4
Thank You's	p. 3
VBS	p. 4
VBS Thank You's	p. 3
Volunteer Schedule	p. 5
Youth Achievements	p. 4
Youth Group	p. 4

From The Pastor's Desk

Those of you who have been in the pew for the past few Sundays know that I have had some things to say about the financial situation of our church. We need to look at our situation and come up with some solutions for increasing our giving. The Stewardship Team is getting ready to plan for another campaign in the fall but we can't really wait that long.

I have read and also know from personal experience that the majority of people WANT to give more to the church than they are currently giving. Many times one feels limited in terms of resources held and the way those funds are handled. But the desire to do more is there.

In the course of a day we are bombarded from every side with messages about money 24/7. Too many folks are pulled into these advertisements and spend money on things we don't need. And many times our society as a whole seems to increasingly glamorize the rich and famous and look down on the poor. But for some reason, at church, it is taboo to bring up money at church - preaching about it or writing about it.

It is a fact, as I said on Sunday, the most generous levels of giving come from persons who directly connect their financial giving to their spiritual lives. The strongest motivations for giving are not guilt, obligation, or habit. The most generous givers are those with thankful hearts who recognize that God is the source of all that we have. Research shows that almost no one who gives 10% or more of his or her income to the church does so out of guilt.

As the Stewardship Team plans the campaign for the fall I would like for you to begin praying about what your intention for giving will be for the coming year. And maybe before the campaign begins you will have already decided that you can give a little more than so far this year. And maybe you won't even want to wait until next year to add a little extra in your envelope.

Here are some helpful biblical references on tithing you may want to read as you begin your prayer:

- Genesis 28:10-22
- Numbers 18:25-27
- Deuteronomy 14:22-29, 26:11-13
- Malachi 3:6-12
- Luke 11:42
- Hebrews 7:1-10

As we work on our giving I am also considering some ways in which we can increase our spiritual lives. These will be discussed further next month.

Please be praying for our church and our spiritual lives. We have a very loving and hard working family here at Emmanuel. Archie and I have really loved our time here. Let's continue to work together as we move forward together remembering Deuteronomy 16:17 *"All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you."*

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Penny

References taken from
Quick Tips for Improving Your Church's Finances
Copyright 2008 Christian Community, Inc.

Thank You

Thank you for everyone's concern while I was not feeling well with that terrible cough.

Ethel Fine

We received a thank you card from Bernie Baluta, RN, at the McKinney Clinic. Our donation of socks will be put to good use since they are something the patients can always use. The card is on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

Our Condolences

Our deepest sympathies are offered to Harriet Seward and Rhonda Keller and their families on the passing of Ray Seward on June 18. May our prayers and thoughts help sustain you in your time of grief.

As many of you know, our Vacation Bible School chose to support A.J. Novitski and his family as he fought against cancer. A.J.'s battle ended on June 20, and as his obituary read, he "went to rest in the Lord". We offer our condolences to his family and pray for God's strength for them in the days to come.

DORRANCE EMMANUEL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION 2008 REPORT

WORKING FUND

Balance 12/31/07	\$17,375.85
2008 Income	<u>5,922.84</u>
	23,298.64
2008 Expenses	<u>-4,009.66</u>
Balance 12/31/07	\$19,289.03

PERPETUAL CARE FUND

Balance 12/31/07	\$43,750.00
2008 Income	<u>2,200.00</u>
Balance 12/31/08	\$45,950.00

EMMANUEL UCC GENERAL FUND 2008 TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/2008	\$15,272.24
PLUS INCOME	<u>97,862.15</u>
	113,134.39
LESS EXPENSES	<u>-109,470.05</u>
ENDING BALANCE 12/31/08	<u>\$3,664.34</u>

We would like to thank Frank Partington and Cliff Readler for auditing the financial books this year. It's always a daunting challenge and we are fortunate to have members who will take on such a project.

FLEA MARKET

GOT JUNK? Well, maybe not exactly junk, but what about that stuff in the attic that you keep thinking you want to get rid of? We will have a flea market to help clear up your home, and to benefit the church, beginning at 8 am on Saturday, July 25. Any donations of clean, gently used, still usable, unbroken items can be dropped off at the church in the Sunday School room back in the Fellowship Hall. We will also have food and beverages to sell as people wander through the flea market, beginning with breakfast which will be prepared by the Youth Group. Setting up the tables is scheduled for 7 am so that we can get everything out and organized before people start arriving at 8 am. Anyone who can help with this fundraiser or if you want more information, please see Lynne Stewart.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

A baby boy was born to Kari Hoch on June 2, 2009. His name is Kanaan Jacob Hoch and he weighed 8 lb 5 oz and was 20³/₄" long. Kanaan is the grandson of Sherri and Bill Hoch and the great-grandson of Stan and Darlene Stein. Congratulations!

ANNUAL PICNIC

Bring along your favorite covered dish and picnic games for our annual church picnic on Sunday, July 26, in Emmanuel's "back yard". Hamburgers, hot dogs and buns will be provided by the church. The picnic will start after our worship service. So, plan to stay for food, fun and fellowship!

VBS "Thank You's"

I would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's Vacation Bible School. It was the most energetic in years. The kids' enthusiasm flooded Faith UMC. We had over 30 students with 7 teen helpers plus adults, having a great time learning about Jesus' last days in Jerusalem and his wonderful promise of eternal life for us. Your support was also overwhelming and I am so grateful for it. This year is the first time that I can remember that we did not have to ask for extra help from any of our church's treasuries. All expenses were paid through donations. On top of that, we raised \$271.75 to help A.J. Novitski's family. The members of Emmanuel, Faith and Stairville are truly to be praised for their generosity. Thank you for giving me these fantastically wonderful memories. Denise Dean

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The combined Vacation Bible School of Faith and Stairville UMC and Emmanuel UCC provided a glimpse into the world as Jesus knew it. For five days from June 14 to 18, Faith UMC in Slocum became the Jerusalem Marketplace. It was a fantastic reenactment of the scenes of Holy Week. We experienced Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, his shocking arrest and agonizing crucifixion, and his glorious resurrection. The marketplace shops included a jewelry store, weavers shop, bakery, candy store, carpenter shop and pottery shop. We visited the bakery and made yummy cookies. The pottery shop was where we made bowls like the one that Jesus used to wash the feet of the disciples on Holy Thursday. At the candy store, we concocted a trail mix which represented the haroset served at Passover meals. A small wooden cross, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice, was crafted at the carpenter shop. We also made a key chain at the jewelers and decorated a small bag at the weavers to hold our Bible buddies. The games we played could have been the same ones Jesus played. There was one similar to "Duck, duck, goose" called "John in the Middle". Another game was played with a "game board" drawn in the dirt and you had to get all your beans in the right order to win. We even played the dreidel game which Jesus certainly learned as part of the Hanukkah celebration. Even our snack time included something that Jesus would have enjoyed as we had delicious haroset to compliment our usual snacks. We learned a lot about Jesus and how he wants us to be good Christians. He lead by example as he rode humbly into Jerusalem, served the disciples by washing their feet, prayed to God in the Garden of Gethsemane, gave his life so others could live, and rose from the dead to glorify God. We attempt to copy his model and live our lives to glorify God also.

VBS Special Offering— Following our Savior's lead, we gathered a mission offering during Jerusalem Marketplace to help A.J. Novitski and his family. A.J. was 18 years old and had been fighting leukemia for almost four years. He was scheduled to undergo experimental drug therapy beginning on Monday, June 22, but he never made it. A.J. went to the Lord on Saturday, June 20. Even though A.J. will not directly benefit from our mission, we were glad to be able to give \$271.75 to the fund set up for him at the Cross Valley Federal Credit Union. Any donations would greatly reduce the strain put on the family's finances. If you did not have an opportunity to donate at the Marketplace, the Cross Valley Federal Credit Union has a special account for A.J. and will accept any contributions you may be willing to give. A.J.'s family thanks everyone

who donates and prays for God's blessing on you all.

Denise Dean, VBS Director

YOUTH GROUP

MINI-GOLF OUTING

I would like to organize a mini-golf outing sometime in July. Anyone interested, please see me so we can figure out a good date to have some fun.

Marc Davis

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

CRESTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL:

High Honors: Glynis Dean, Rachelle Heller, Eric Rinehimer, Justin Rinehimer

Honors: Devin Stein, Kyle Prelewicz

As of the date of this issue, I did not have the honor roll for Crestwood High School but hope to have it for the next one.

picture perfect

There was plenty of fun and excitement at this year's Vacation Bible School. Sharon Moyer acted as our "Scribe" for the Jerusalem Marketplace. As well as being in charge of the Jerusalem Daily News, which was the student booklet, she shared with the kids her calligraphy skills and was our photographer. There are loads of pictures on the table in the Narthex showing the wonderful time the kids and youth had. Check it out!!!

Check the front door bulletin board for these mug shots!

Autumn Atkinson is again on the bulletin board as the Mountain Top Avalanche &-13 placed second in the annual Whitewater Memorial Day Tournament. They defeated teams from New York and Maryland, but lost by only a 2-1 score to the team from Upper Dublin PA. Still a great showing!!

The Daisy Troop 30180 went to the Luzerne County SPCA to deliver supplies and food for the shelter's animals. Members of the troop include Brooke Rinehimer, Samantha Kotarsky and Brooke Aton. They are pictured with the rest of their troop and a "resident" of the shelter. Nice job, girls!!

Game Night was held on May 22 and there are pictures of friends and families enjoying the good meal and fun games. See Cindy Heller's grandson, 3-year-old Julian Ring, as he tries out his skill at badminton, with a racket in each hand!!! Go get that birdie, Julian!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CONSISTORY

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, July 16, at 6:30 pm.

AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

OLD RIVER CHURCH SERVICES

Services will begin at 6:00 pm and there will be snacks and beverages afterward. Come and enjoy the experience of worshipping as our ancestors did. The following churches will be in charge of the services:

July 12	Mt. Zion UCC
July 19	Emmanuel UCC
July 26	St. Peters UCC
Aug. 2	St. Mark's Union
Aug. 9	St. John's UCC
Aug. 16	New Hope UM Charge
Aug. 23	St. James Lutheran
Aug. 30	The Cemetery Association

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the August Messenger is Monday, July 20. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

JULY 2009

July 5 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters: Meredith Martin & Sami Dauber
Liturgist: Beverly Kramer

July 12 – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters: Alecia Myers and Richie Lenahan
Liturgist: Paul Thomas

July 19 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters: Carol Duffy & Eileen Bonczek
Liturgist: Meredith Martin

July 26 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters: Judy Cybulski & Bob Heller
Liturgist: Roy Baker

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Donald Myers	13 Irene Hoch	18 Travis Pickering
3 Gladys Readler	13 Elizabeth Henry	21 Jennifer Rinehimer
5 Randy Grosz	13 Kyle Prelewicz	21 Judy Cybulski
8 Samantha Dauber	13 Bonnie Silveti	23 Rachelle Heller
8 Mary Eroh	14 Carol Leindecker	25 Sharon Moyer
8 Joshua Brand	14 Ruth Polashenski	25 Patricia Grosz
10 Janice Broyan	15 Jo Ann Kotarsky	27 Denise Stein
12 Nathan Kamowski		29 Connie Davis

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 1, 1998..... Mary and Nelson Horwath
July 23, 1976..... Stan and Judy Cybulski
July 30, 1983..... Jim and Lynne Stewart

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2009

July 5 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters: Meredith Martin & Sami Dauber
Liturgist: Beverly Kramer

July 12 – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters: Alecia Myers and Richie Lenahan
Liturgist: Roy Baker

July 19 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters: Carol Duffy & Eileen Bonczek
Liturgist: Meredith Martin

July 26 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Greeters: Judy Cybulski & Bob Heller
Liturgist: Paul Thomas

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler