
THE CORNERSTONE

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 2, Issue 2

November 2011

Our Calling in Service to Christ is to:

*Nurture discipleship in those who claim Christ; Boldly love those whom Christ claims;
Passionately celebrate the living presence of our Lord.*



November Small Group Schedule

As we move deeper in our reading and discussions of God's call within St. Paul's, Anthony B. Robinson makes it clear that there is no silver bullet to create vitality. Spiritual renewal (or newing) is only possible through a dedication of ourselves to a deeply intimate relationship with God. We are challenged to an honesty of our sinfulness, of our hunger for the living God, of the needed centrality of Scripture within our lives, and of our personal dedication to a thoughtful Christian approach to life.

Therefore, join in one of this month's *One Church, One Book* discussion groups. There are four different groups to choose from, with every group meeting in the McQuate Room (lower level of the Christian Education Building.) If you weren't able to make a small group last month, you are more than welcome to join in the conversations this month.

November – Chapter 3 “A New Heart”

- Wednesday, 16th 6:30-8:30pm
- Sunday, 20th 1:30-3:30pm
- Tuesday, 22nd 10:00-12:00am & 7:00-9:00pm

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“A GOD WHO ASKS SOMETHING OF US” *One Church, One Book*

Following one of our One Church One Book discussion groups, an individual came up to me and said, “I don't know if I can do this.” Caught off guard by a statement I interpreted to mean “I don't plan to participate in any more of these discussion groups,” I took a deep breath and calmly asked, “Could you say a bit more about what you mean?” Unknowingly, in that question, a doorway was opened to a powerful and deeply holy conversation.

In awe I listened as this individual succinctly and articulately spoke of the transformation God was calling her to. She spoke of how all her life she had lived as a child of God. God was as real as the breath she breathed and the food she ate. There was no question about God or what it meant to be in relationship with God. Everything about her life had been about God. But in these most recent years, the thought began to dawn within her that maybe there was more to this God than she had ever known. Maybe there was a deeper, richer way God longed to be in relationship with her. Maybe her faith to this point in time had been in some ways a façade of religiosity. For what had come alive to her, and what she now struggled with, was the reality that God was calling her to be touched and transformed by the very truth Christ proclaimed and died for on the cross of Calvary.

Longing to know God with such honesty and purity, she spoke her pained truth, “I don't know if I can do it. I don't know if I can now turn my life that fully over to God.”

Without any doubt, these words were spoken by a person who had encountered the living God – a God who is not the nice, warm, cuddly, loving God of Sunday School, but the Lord of Jesus, who demands nothing less than everything of us. What this individual heard was God's calling to the cross: to

become someone who no longer simply listens to the words of Christ and does good deeds because of them, but who becomes in her own human body, his disciple. She knew that this moment was about nothing less than the death and resurrection of her life. She was one who stood like Jesus, praying in the garden of Gethsemane, and with trembling and trepidation was being invited to speak the words of life, “Not my will, but your will be done, my Lord and my God.”

This spiritual awakening to the living God is happening all across the church as people have begun to realize that there is something more to this faith than what Christendom had ever allowed for. Anthony B. Robinson writes, “The civic faith that was operative in many of our congregations for so many years was a compound of good citizenship, personal moral virtues, and doing what we could to make the world a better place. Of course, there’s nothing wrong with that; it’s just that there’s nothing specifically Christian about it” (p.61).

Today, as the intertwining of our culture and Christianity continues to unravel, there is a growing awareness that God is calling to us. Unlike the call of civic faith, God is not necessarily calling us to be good, moral citizens who do nice things within this world. Instead, the call is to discipleship, to follow in the way of our savior, to live our lives in service to God just as Jesus himself did. It is a call defined not by the culture in which we live, but is a call revealed through the prayerful reading of Scripture, mediated by the Spirit, and testified to in the lives of the saints and the martyrs of the church.

As a church, we are being called by God to our time of resurrection. We are being called to the time in which we trust that God will make all things new. We are being called to a time of the death of what has been, so that we can respond to what will be. Like Jesus, praying in the garden of Gethsemane, with trembling and trepidation, we are being invited to speak the words of life, “Not my will, but your will be done, my Lord and my God.”

Mercifully In Christ,

Pastor Joe



WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In our deepening study of the One Church One Book initiative, we have focused on the changing realities of the world that are beyond our control and yet the responsibility we still have to respond with faithfulness to Christ. In the coming month, our focus will shift to what God is asking of us. How God is seeking to transform our hearts and lives as we are invited to be touched by the one true living God. Come and worship that your life may be renewed!

- † Nov 6th, 10:30am – **All Saints Sunday: Service of Word & Sacrament** (pew communion & baptism) – We gather to remember the saints who have passed from our congregation in the past year. At the same time we are reminded of God’s call for the entirety of our lives.
- † Nov 13th, 10:30am – **Service of Word & Puppet Skit** (*Other Side following worship*) – Together we explore the role Scripture plays in our faith. Though a part of every worship service, rarely do we stop to ask why.
- † Nov 20th, 10:30am – **Christ the King Sunday: Service of Word & Harvest Home Celebration** – Our worship takes on deeper meaning with the celebration of Christ’s Lordship over our lives and the dedicating of ourselves to his service.
- † Nov 23rd, 7:30pm – **Thank Giving Eve Worship Service @ Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church** – As one body, our community gives thanks and praise to God for all the blessings we have received and which we are gifted to share.
- † Nov 27th, 10:30am – **First Sunday of Advent: Service of Word & Sacrament** (intinction) (children’s sermon) – With the beginning of the Christian year, we are reminded of our responsibility to seek and yearn for the living God who comes to us through Christ Jesus.



CARING FOR RELATIONSHIPS

Filling our Time with what Matters Most

By Leah Brecher-Cohn, LMFT, MS, MA – Council for Relationships

One of my clients recently came in and expressed his feelings of overwhelm. He felt overcommitted at work, stressed at home, and generally confused. He said that he didn't feel that there was any time left for him. I reminded him that to stay in balance, we can only give from the overflow. And I asked him: Would he be willing to try an experiment?

I asked him to imagine that he had in front of him a large jar, and some sand, water, pebbles and 3 big rocks. I told him that he had to fit everything into the jar, and then asked him, "what should you put in the jar first?" He thought for a moment and then said that he had to put the three big rocks in first, because he would never be able to fit them in if the other items went in first. Bingo!

If we don't take care of ourselves by making sure that our "big rocks"- the most important activities and uses of our time- are in the jar first, we certainly won't be able to take care of all the other people in our lives or the work that has to get done. And we probably will feel overwhelmed, resentful, stressed and/or confused. Some of the "big rocks" my clients talk about are:

- Listening to music
- Exercise
- Meditation
- Being in nature
- Reading
- Praying
- Writing in a journal
- Drawing/painting
- Getting enough sleep, etc.

Notice that these are actions that you do on your own. And that after doing them, the benefits that you receive include feeling more balanced, more "yourself."

What are your big rocks? What makes you feel good? What keeps you in balance? I encourage you to identify your three big rocks and practice them at least several times a week. Prioritization requires attention and discipline; when our activities reflect what's most important to us then we can generously give from the overflow.

ALL SAINTS CELEBRATION

November 6th, 2011

On Sunday November 6th, we will honor and pray for the following Saints of Christ, who had died in this past year and whom are now entrusted into the eternal grace of God. May God continue to offer the Spirit of healing and encouragement to those whose lives have been forever changed by their passing.

Harry Hinks	10/8/1918 - 11/1/2010
Nathaniel W. Amole	1/28/1929 - 1/1/2011
Mark Gunn	9/3/1961 - 4/6/2011
Alice M. Kerper	6/25/1920 - 4/17/2011
Glenn Reinhart	3/3/1923 - 5/31/2011
Anna Cora Reeser	2/20/1919 - 7/26/2011
Walter Robert Gasser	10/21/1921 - 9/3/2011

During our All Saints celebration, you will also have the opportunity to help send a message of support to the many retired pastors, spouses and widows within the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference who receive low pension incomes. The support of your gifts will help to meet our commitment to assist with their health and dental insurance.

On Nov. 6th as well as Nov. 20th, you will find an "All Saints" offering envelope in your bulletin. Please consider making a contribution and placing it in the offering plate. If you wish to give a donation, you may also mail it to St. Paul's UCC, Christian Education Building, 235 West First St., Birdsboro, PA 19508.

CROP WALK 2011

What a beautiful day! This year there were a total of 92 walkers and 6 dogs, with \$3777 raised. Last year there were 88 walkers and 7 dogs and we raised \$3081.50 . There were 7 churches that participated this year while last year we had 6. St. Paul's Lutheran Douglassville will keep the Golden Sneaker and Walking Stick for most walkers and most donations. Thank you to all who walked and/or donated to the Crop Walk. ~Angie Kutz



We are a month into our Fuel the Furnace Campaign and thank you for your generous donations to this Campaign. Over the last month we have received nearly \$2,000 in gifts and a pledge of \$3,000 toward the campaign. Because of this assurance that you are fully behind this project, we are contracting to begin the project in November to limit the amount of fuel oil we would need to purchase this year.

Your support is still needed though to bring a completion to the project, which is now very much so in reach by the end of the year. If you haven't given to the campaign yet, please give "Fuel The Furnace" special consideration in your monthly giving. Truly this is an investment in our ministry.

In case you don't know about the Campaign, here are the particulars:

- As presented at the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 11th, it had been decided to move forward with converting our existing heating system, from oil to gas, to allow for a more efficient and cost effective system.
- We received many bids from contractors that ranged anywhere from \$39,000 to \$10,000. The main difference in the estimates was whether we kept the existing boiler and, of course, labor costs. We decided to contract with Berks Products, who will keep our existing boiler, install a new tankless water heater, and a new gas burner for \$10,000.
- After the conversion process is done, we will test the soil around the existing oil tank so we can follow DEP Regulations. If there are no complications and the tank has not leaked, we can decommission the tank for around \$4,000. (This work can happen any time after the conversion of the heating system)
- To account for any possible overages to the project, we have budgeted \$16,000 for the entire project. With \$6,000 already available in the Capital Improvement Fund we are well on our way to our goal. Gifts for this project can be deposited into the building envelopes found in the pews. Or just simply write "Fuel the Furnace" on a special envelope.

General Fund September Financial Report

	<u>2011 YTD</u>	<u>Previous YTD</u>
Starting Balance	\$9,864	\$10,259
Blessings Received (Income)	\$100,894	\$93,006
Ministry Investments Made (Expenses)	(\$112,084)	(\$103,741)
Ending Balance	(\$1,326)*	(\$476)

**Due to the budget revisions made in September and the increased gifts from individuals and from Helping Hands, we have not needed to cash our Camp Annuity Fund. To date, \$675 has been received towards our \$2,000 53rd Sunday goal. Your continued gifts remain of great significance to the ministry and decisions of our congregation as we prepare for the end of this year.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Boxes. Where would we be without them?! Whether it's containing our morning breakfast cereal or the holiday decorations up in the attic, boxes are one of the more practical items ever devised.

Despite how helpful boxes are, however, they're simply no good when it comes to **people**. The moment that a person gets put into a box—metaphorically speaking, of course—is the moment when trouble begins. People just don't belong in boxes!

And yet... Aren't these statements something we've heard or maybe even said within our church community at St. Paul's?

I don't do evangelism.

Missions? That's for somebody else.

I'm not a teacher, so I'm not teaching Sunday School.

Worship? That's for the pastor. He's the expert.

The flip side is that we've just put *someone else* in a box. What these statements imply is that if we're not part of a particular group or Ministry Team—and someone else is—that person is the one who's "supposed" to do that ministry.

Now it's perfectly true that we all have different gifts and passions and talents to use in God's service for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom here on earth. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, 12: 5-6, talks about just this fact.

But do any of us belong in a box? No way! We are **all of us** called as disciples of Christ to do good works (missions), to share our faith (evangelize), to build one another up in the faith (teach), and to celebrate our God (worship). The Bible doesn't call us to be on a Ministry Team or a committee to do these things. We are called to live them out in our daily lives!

As we continue with Changing the Conversation, part of the discussion may be looking at how to move each other and our own selves *out of* ministry boxes. Is there another way of doing and being the church? Could there be a new way of ministry?

Let's be in prayer about this, and let's leave the boxes for the corn flakes and Christmas tree lights.

In the Spirit of the Lord,
Janeen Adil

CONSISTORY CORNER

October

- The Consistory will be united in prayer (Ephesians 3:14-19) for the coming month
- Janeen Adil, Barb Kerper, and Pastor Joe to serve as delegates to the fall meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference on November 19th
- Discussed growing in relationship with Birdsboro Elementary school as a way to give a vision and focus to our local mission
- Approved design for re-organizing the 1941 addition of the church building (planned move date is 11/5)
- After researching and exploring different insurance policies, it was determined to remain with the UCC Insurance boards who increased their coverage while reducing the premium costs
- Approved *Youth Fund* policy. Will be creating policies for all funds.
- Approved calendar sale by the youth group
- Noted no cantata is being planned for this year due to the inability to coordinate enough vocalists
- Noted that the Compassion Fund continues to have insufficient funds to meet our monthly obligations for our 3 Compassion children. Payments will be made only as funds allow.
- Received and honored request of Christine Fink, Michael Fink, and Carol Shafer to be removed from membership
- Received report of nearly 70 individuals likely to be loosed from membership at the beginning of November due to an inability to re-establish a covenantal relationship



YOUTH GROUP MEETING DATES

Nov. 27th, Dec. 11th

3:00 – 4:30 in the lower level of the Christian Education Building until further notice

GAME NIGHT FOR THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION!!

November 12th 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Activities for Everyone

Bring your favorite games for ALL age groups. We will be meeting in the church fellowship hall. Refreshments will be available and donations for the refreshments are welcomed.

SHACK-A-THON

November 19th – 20th, 2011

Saturday, noon – Sunday, Fellowship Hour

The schedule of events are as follows:

- Welcome / Opening
- Construct Boxes for Shelters
- Assemble Thanksgiving Food Boxes for Community Members Identified
- Deliver Food Boxes and Community Property and Yard Clean up in Local Community with many disabled / people with needs
- Evening is filled with Speakers, Activities, Worship and Music
- Sleep in Boxes in park
- Sunday - November 20th
- Tear down Shelters / Clean Up
- Receive Breakfast at a local church within walking distance (Simulated Soup Kitchen experience)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

FALL FESTIVAL--OCTOBER 29th from 12:00pm -2:00pm

Come join us for food and fun, there will be games, a movie and other activities. RSVP by Oct. 23rd to the church office or see one of the Sunday school teachers. Please see Toni Powell or Robin Long with any questions or to get your registration

DECEMBER 10th from 11:00am – 2:00pm

Christmas party in the Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16th from 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Advent Workshop



NURSERY RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

A group of dedicated volunteers has begun the work of renovating the church nursery to better reflect the love and care we embody as a congregation. The team will be updating the toys, painting the walls, developing toddler and infant sections, and increasing the area's safety. Each week the nursery will be available and appropriately prepared for children. However, please excuse the "mess" as the project moves from stage to stage.

1941 CHURCH ADDITION

Redesigning for our ministry

On November 5th, during the church wide workday we will be redesigning the way in which the 1941 addition of the church is currently organized. The goal is to create a more dynamic and multiple purpose facility out of the existing lounge, choir room, chime room, stage, and old pastor's office. Though the major part of the re-arranging will occur on November 5th, the final set up will not be completed till January as we learn and adjust to the new arrangement. As we live into this new space, please be in conversation with the leadership so that we might make wise and informed decisions about how we organize ourselves for ministry together.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO VOTE

In September, every member received a letter inviting you to help determine the 2012 ministry priorities of St. Paul's by completing a Faith Gift Intention Card. We have had a strong positive response to date, but we are still waiting for a number of individuals to provide their guidance. If you have not yet completed one of these cards, please do so by Nov. 6th at the very latest. If you are in need of a Faith Gift Intention Card, please contact the church office or pick up a blank one by either of the church entrances. Completed cards can be mailed to the church or placed with your Sunday offerings.

LANDMARK BAPTISMAL AGREEMENT

Multidenominational agreement

This summer, at the national Gathering of the United Church of Christ (General Synod 28), the UCC affirmed the *Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism*. This agreement between the UCC, Presbyterian Church USA, Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed Church, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops affirms that in Christ there is but one baptism which unites us all as members of his body, the church. Therefore, these churches, from this summer on, agree to mutually recognize each other's baptisms as sacramental acts originating from our Father in heaven.

Truly this is a great work worthy of significant rejoicing as we heal the human divisions we have inflicted upon the body of Christ that has kept fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from mutual recognition of God's blessings in each of our lives. Praise be to God for the courage of all those who surrendered much to serve our living God!

PSEC VOTES TO RATIFY SWEEPING CHANGES TO THE UCC CONSTITUTION

On November 19th, at St. Paul's UCC, Amityville, the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC (our regional body that stretches from Philadelphia to Schuylkill County) will vote on a massive restructuring proposal for the United Church of Christ. As the world has changed, so has the role of the church and that of its national entities. The proposal is to unify the 5 national boards into one decision making body to streamline and better focus the purpose and ministries of the UCC. This change would reduce the number of individuals in direct leadership positions from 300 down to 52.

Please be in prayer for your delegates from St. Paul's, who will be making these decisions on your behalf. To learn more about this proposed change, please visit ucc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Nov. 5th **Church's Fall Clean-up**
- Nov. 6th **All Saints Day**
Communion Sunday
- Nov. 10th **Veteran's Day**
- Nov. 12th All Congregation Game
Night
- Nov. 13th Coffee Hour & The Other
Side
- Nov. 16th One Church, One Book
6:30pm
- Nov. 19th **PSEC Conference**
Shack-a-thon
- Nov. 20th One Church, One Book
1:30pm
- Nov. 22nd One Church, One Book
10:00am & 7:00pm
- Nov. 24th **Thanksgiving Day**
- Nov 30th Bazaar Set-up Begins

**Weekly Bulletin Announcements
Due Wednesday's by Noon**



November

- 1st David & Donna Hinks (25th)
- 6th Brian & Lynn Rutkowski (18th)
- 7th Julius & Sandra Taglieri (13th)
- 10th Joseph & Jessica Motz (6th)
- 11th Barton & Marian Werner (61st)
- 13th Brad & Jennifer Fry (18th)
- 16th Jason & Heather Reeder (15th)
- 17th Martin & Melissa Darocha (22nd)

Prayer List

In Need of Healing

Kathy Druzba
Bob Fuller
"Vicki"
Mrs. Bowers
Marion Hinks
Florence Sowers

Comfort In the Time of Loss

The Family of Father James Adams
The Family of Joe Stanton
The Family of Kelly Erb

Long Term Care

Ken Zellers
Jean Nanni
Carol Miller
Lorraine Long
Evelyn & Bill Fry
Judy Stone
Mary Lapinski
Nadine Huyett
Clinton W. Dean Sr.
Rev. Cal Adams



Ministry Support

The Houck Family
Fuel the Furnace Campaign



November

1 st	Tim McGee	13 th	Thomas Manney
	Thomas Adams		Jean Seivard
2 nd	Mary Ann Althou		Zachary Dragan
	Deanna Dragan		Derrick Dragan
3 rd	Doug Johnson	16 th	Stephen Adams
	Irene Ziemer	19 th	Gilles Audette
	David Fear		Lisa Kieke
6 th	Violet Bordic	21 st	Grace Staub
	Richard Green	26 th	Robert Jones
7 th	Joan Weaver	27 th	Stephen Shore
8 th	Damian Trice		Andrea Fry
10 th	Patricia Babel		Brenda Care
11 th	Linda Nye		Amy Kerper
12 th	Brandon Kerper	29 th	Kim Lorah
	Gavin Harrison		Katelyn Kieke
			Alexandra Troyan



WORSHIP LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Stewards for November

Nov. 6th John McQuate

Greeters for November

Nov. 6th Pat Babel & Marty Darocha

Nov. 13th Jeff & Luwaina Baker

Nov. 20th Joe & Denise Cisick

Nov. 27th Dee & Ken Christman

Acolytes for November

Nov. 6th Jacob Baker

Nov. 13th Colleen Hunter

Nov. 20th Dakota Flanagan

Nov. 27th Owen Powell

Ushers for November

Nov. 6th Nancy & Blaine Stoner

Dawn & Dyck Fear

Nov. 13th Eva Stone & Curtis Hafer

Nov. 20th Marty Darocha & Tom Manney

Nov. 27th Jeanie Dierwechter & Toni Powell

Nursery Attendants for November

Nov. 6th Luwaina Baker & Wanda Druzba

Nov. 13th Rachel Statzell & Dee Christman

Nov. 20th Eva Stone & Toni Powell

Nov. 27th Barb Kerper & Carol Audette

**Nursery Attendants-*

Please contact the church office or switch with another attendant if you are scheduled for an inconvenient date

****WEEKLY WORSHIP BULLETIN SPONSORS****

If you are interested in sponsoring a bulletin, please contact the church office. We are requesting that a minimum donation of \$15 be made which will help defer the costs to produce the bulletin. You may choose any week that you wish to sponsor & it will be listed in the bulletin on the 2nd page with the flower sponsor.

ST. PAUL'S UCC LEADERSHIP

Ministers of the Gospel of Christ

All Members

Supporting Ministers

Rev. Joseph Motz, Pastor • Luwaina Baker, Secretary • Barbara Moyer, Choir Director/Organist

Barbara Kerper, Sexton • Toni Powell, Treasurer • Maureen Connolly, Bookkeeper

Tim McGee, Financial Secretary

Consistory

Janeen Adil, President • Blaine Stoner, Vice President • Wanda Druzba, Secretary

Barbara Kerper • Dawn Fear • Denise Cisick • Pat Babel • Dyck Fear • Joe Cisick • Jeanie Dierwechter

Nancy Stoner • Toni Powell

Ministry Team Leaders

Jeanie Dierwechter, Buildings & Grounds • Toni Powell, Christian Education, Youth Group • Dyck Fear, Finance

Nancy Stoner, Hands of Hope • Wanda Druzba, Missions • Janeen Adil, Outreach • Blaine Stoner, Personnel

Pat Babel, Puppet Ministry • Dawn Fear, Special Events • Rev. Joseph Motz, Stewardship, Worship

Robin Long, Helping Hands • Luwaina Baker, Vacation Bible School • Nancy Dragan, Women's Bible Study

To become more actively involved in the life and ministry of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in our mission to Nurture Discipleship, Boldly Love, and Passionately celebrate the living presence of our Lord, contact a ministry team leader or contact Pastor Motz to see where you might begin.



FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, November 5th

8:00am – noon

Please join us for a church wide work day (rain date 11/12). The projects will range from landscaping, to cleaning, to winterizing, to moving furniture, to some skilled projects. Lunch and light snacks will be provided. For more information please contact Jeanie Dierwechter.

SCHEDULE FOR HEAT!

To ensure for adequate heating for your meetings & gatherings, make sure to schedule the event with the church office at least 2 weeks before the meeting/event indicating:

- What the event/meeting is
- The date(s) of the event
- Start time
- End time
- Specific locations to be used

Otherwise cannot guarantee adequate heating for your event.