



# First News First

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2014

## First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

### Dates to Remember

- Nov. 2 .....All Saints Sunday  
Daylight Savings  
Time ends  
New Member  
Class begins
- Nov 8 .....LFNS Fall  
Festival
- Nov 13-16 ..Bob Evans  
Fundraiser
- Nov 16 .....Consecration  
Sunday  
Anchor Worship
- Nov 19 .....Bagging at  
Mission Central
- Nov 23 .....Church  
Conference  
OCC Shoe Box  
deadline  
Rejoicing Spirits
- Nov 26 .....Sleep Out

### From the Pastor

Truit Ganna, pastor of a church in Georgia, tells of an incident in his boyhood. A man named Hugh, who worked for his father, owned a beautiful Harley Davidson motorcycle. It was a wine-colored machine with the hydro-glide fork on the front wheel. As I understand it, that hydro-glide fork was an engineering miracle in motorcycling in its day. Anyway, Truit says it was his greatest thrill as a teenager to ride that motorcycle. One day he asked, “Hugh, can I ride your motorcycle again today?” Hugh’s words have stuck with him ever since: “You can ride it anytime you want to,” Hugh said, “anywhere you want to, and as often as you want to. Just remember to ride it like it was mine and not yours.” Reflecting on that statement, Gannon says, “God has given us full and free use of this world. All God asks is that we use it like it was His and not ours. There’s a word for that. . . .it’s called ‘stewardship.’”

I like that story, because it is an accurate reflection of what the scripture says about how God entrusts creation to us: we have full and complete freedom to do with the world what we want, to live in it as we please, to use its resources as we choose. All God asks is that we remember. . . .this world and the universe that houses it belong to God and not to us.

Remarkable, isn’t it, how easy it is to forget that. It’s so easy to begin to claim corners and parts of the world for ourselves because we see others around us doing it all the time. It’s so easy to forget that God is the creator and “owner” because we live in a time when many around us don’t do so and have gained great wealth and notoriety for themselves by treating the world as if they own it.

Christians are different. We hold that “stewardship” notion perpetually in our minds and hearts, and we seek to honor God by the ways we live in God’s world and the ways we treat the elements and components of God’s creation. In order to hold onto that idea and keep it from being pushed aside or covered up in our minds and in our way of living, we have to practice it. Among the ways of practicing stewardship is in giving, and giving to God’s work through God’s community of faith, the church, is one important way of practicing stewardship.

Each year First Church calls upon all its members and constituents to consider your giving to your church in the year that lies ahead of us. I’ve given you, above, a reasoned explanation of why giving is important: it reminds us (and we need to be reminded daily because daily we are tempted to forget) to whom the world belongs, and to whom we are grateful for the bountiful provision that has been made for our life. But it can be stated much more simply: we give because that’s what God is like. God is one who gives: everything about God’s nature and character must be described using the concept of giving. We give because that’s what God is like and we endeavor to follow and imitate and reflect God and God’s ways in our living.

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## From the Pastor

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When you are asked to give and to project your giving into the next year, I hope you will reflect on the vital ministries of First Church, on how diligently and hard you and your church are working to participate in God's mission across the face of the earth. I hope you will consider the leadership of the church staff, the blessing that our facility is to us and our community, the importance of our ministries with children, youth and adults...I hope you will consider the importance of First Church's vital witness to Christ in a time when many are moving away from faithful participation in a community of faith and from the values of Christian discipleship. All of this makes First Church's ongoing ministry tremendously important.

We plan to focus on stewardship through the months of October and November as we enjoy a video and sermon series called "Loving Generously." Then, on November 16, traditionally called "Consecration Sunday," we'll ask you in the worship services that day to make a giving estimate for 2015. I can't over-emphasize how important this process is as we plan and budget for First Church next year. I'm hopeful that you and all who are part of our congregation will participate, acknowledging by our giving that the world and all we enjoy in it are God's and not ours.

Pastor Mike

## Church Conference

Church Conference will be held November 23 at 3:00 pm at Aldergate United Methodist Church, 1480 Jerusalem Road, Mechanicsburg. All church members are encouraged to attend.

## Finance

### Through September 30, 2014 (75% of year)

#### General Fund

2014 budget	\$ 885,000	
Expected income	\$ 663,750	
Actual income	\$ 656,685	(74% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 7,065	

Actual expenses \$ 628,202

**Building Fund** \$ 122,453

**Legacy Campaign** \$ 3,432

The Finance Committee has started work on the 2015 budget. Watch the bulletin for the date of a planned open meeting to discuss the budget and the amounts requested. The date when the committee will finalize the recommended budget will also be announced in the bulletin. All are invited to attend these two meetings.

The Building Fund includes the proceeds from the sale of the Keller Street rental properties. Those monies were paid on the church debt.

*FIRST NEWS FIRST*

**Editor:** Kristin Brown

The **December/January** newsletter deadline is  
**November 15.**

**This will be a combined issue so there will not be a  
January Newsletter. Please plan accordingly.**

All submissions should be received in the church  
office on or **before** this date. **Early submissions are  
always welcome!**

## Missions

### Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry ~ GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Are you packing your shoe boxes for Samaritan Purses' Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box drive? We will be collecting shoe boxes through November 23. Information on what to pack, etc., was placed in your church mailboxes. Additional information on OCC and other mission areas for Samaritan's Purse can be found on their website: [www.samaritanaspurse.org](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org)

Fill your boxes with CHATS:

- C - hard candy**
- H - hygiene items**
- A - apparel**
- T - toys**
- S - school supplies**

Please remember: no liquids, no chocolate, no war toys, nothing breakable.



Last year, First Church filled so many boxes that our wall of shoe boxes almost covered Pastor Mike at the pulpit! He has vowed to buy a ladder this year to see over the wall! Let's make him purchase that ladder!!!!

If any group/family is interested in hosting a shoe box packing party, feel free to contact Dave or Margie Mengle for information.



"Each Thanksgiving time, First Church collects canned sweet potatoes for New Hope Ministries. Please bring the potatoes to the tower entrance and we will start our wonderful donation pile for New Hope. In the past, New Hope helped 523 families and it is estimated that they will help 10% more this year."

Christmas Blessings Express is a ministry of helping those less fortunate than we are...New Hope is looking for donations of adult men and women's gifts; Christmas gift ideas are on a Christmas tree in the Narthex. But before that, if you see some great gift ideas for mothers and fathers, please gather them for later donations. For example, tool box, work gloves, wallet, shaving kit, slippers for men and purse, umbrella, watch and slippers for women. Look for more information to come.

Thanks for your ongoing donation of peanut butter and tuna fish, these items are always in great demand!!

### Grocery Bagging for Bethesda Mission

On the third Wednesday evening of every month member of First United Methodist Church gather at Mission Central to bag groceries for Bethesda Mission. All are invited to join and be a part of this mission opportunity. Join us at Mission Central on November 19 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or [eeking@verizon.net](mailto:eeking@verizon.net) for more information.

### Penny Report

Help supported the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any loose change, into the Penny Bucket in the narthex. One hundred percent (100%) of your donations are used to provide training and dig wells that supply safe drinking water for schools and communities in Sierra Leone. There were 708 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,133.29.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project!

## Missions

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### Mission Trip to Dominican Republic

Come support the adults in our congregation going to the Dominican Republic in July by taking a night to dine and donate! All dinner fundraisers are on Thursdays. Proceeds will go towards supporting these adults in both medical & building ministries in the Dominican Republic. We hope to see YOU there. Fundraiser dates and restaurants (all Mechanicsburg locations) are:

**November 13th thru the 16th - Bob Evans Fundraiser (All day)**

**December 4th- Applebees Fundraiser (11am-9pm)**

**January 15th- Friendly's Fundraiser (details to follow)**

**Chili/Cornbread Mission Meal at First Church, December 7** following the 10:45 am service

Thank you for your prayers and support! ~ The D.R. 2015 Missions Team

### Botswana, Africa: Follow up Letter

Dear Support Partner,

I want to start this letter by saying thank you, so much, for your support. I am truly so thankful and appreciative for how the Lord moved in your heart to support me through prayer and giving this summer, as I could not have made the trip without your generosity. The Lord is truly moving and working all across the world, including 8,000 miles away in Botswana, and He made that very evident to me while I was there.

Our trip was considered a “good works/good deeds” mission, meaning that along with evangelism, we were also there to serve others. Botswana is a very unique country, in that the corruption of the government has led to sections being very prosperous, with other sections being massively impoverished just a short distance away.

The first 2 weeks while we were in Botswana, we ran a Vacation Bible School for the local children in the city of Gaborone (pronounced Ha-bor-oh-nay). Here, my eyes were opened to things that I had only before seen on television and in movies. Children were running in their bare feet on broken glass, wearing the same clothes every day, and some of them most likely were infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. At first, I was very hesitant to work with the children because of the risk of infectious disease. However, by the end of the 2nd week, it really was amazing to see how God worked on my heart and changed it quickly towards these children. As human beings, we desire relationships and love; that is how our Creator made us. And that is exactly what the children desired from us.

In the second week of our trip, we were on the campus of the University of Botswana. This is 1 of the 3 campuses in the country with the “university” status, and where many of the country’s eventual leaders are being filtered through. We took advantage of the opportunity of being on a foreign campus by intentionally evangelizing to the students that were in attendance. The culture is very different in Botswana, and instead of having to build a relationship to talk about spiritual things like we often must do in the United States, the Botswanans are very open to talking about God, and who Jesus was and is. Luke 15:10 says “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents”. There must have been much rejoicing in Heaven while we were there, because we were blessed to see many people accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. Praise God for his goodness, and how He changes hearts and lives.

Again, thank you so much for your help in getting me to Africa. If I haven’t gotten the chance to talk to you personally, I hope this letter gives you some insight on my trip, and the things God is doing around the world. God bless you!

In Christ,

Matt Herring

## Missions

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### Sierra Leone

The Sierra Leone Initiative recently received an important letter from Sierra Leone Bishop John K. Yambasu, detailing the SL United Methodist Church's response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Following is a summary of the letter. Copies of the entire letter are available in the church office.

#### UNITED METHODIST RESPONSE TO EBOLA

##### THE IMPACT

News of Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone was first reported in May 2014. From May to date, the disease has spread with such devastating consequences that it is now found in every political district in the country.

The disease has caused such devastating social and economic consequences that today everyone lives in a state of fear and intimidation. The fact is that these days, once you travel out and people come to know that you are from Sierra Leone, they move away from you. Sierra Leoneans now live in a state of shame and embarrassment, loss, pain, grief, panic, suspicion and superstitions.

Our economy - Prices of essential items continue to hike every day; People are losing their jobs as institutions close down; Other are receiving less working hours and therefore less salaries; Some have already been asked to stay home without salary.

Our educational system - Nationwide deferment of exams and forceful closure of schools; September is the usual time for the new school year to start but up to this time, no one knows when schools and colleges will reopen. This places our children's education at risk.

Negative impacts on religious activities—no pilgrimage to holy lands and ban on public gatherings such as cinemas, weddings, camps, retreats, etc. The Conference Health Board has temporarily shut down four of the most vulnerable health facilities in the rural communities in order to protect our health workers from infection from unsuspected Ebola patients who may seek treatment at these facilities.

On the government front, Ebola isolation units are being overwhelmed with the influx of Ebola patients, and with inadequate care and food supply, patients escape from these isolation units and go in search of food thereby mingling with the population and compounding the situation even more.

In some of the few remaining facilities, health workers actually refuse to touch patients because they fear risking contracting the disease. A young woman dies of appendicitis because she was taken to two separate hospitals and no doctor was willing to touch her. This means that it is no longer Ebola alone that is killing people. People are now dying of very common diseases that can easily be treated. WHO, MSF, the U.S. CDC, and other international health organizations who are on the "front lines" are in agreement that the situation is out of control, and without major engagement from the international community, the situation will only get worse. Every attempt to curb the virus, including isolation of patients, isolation of whole regions, suspension of international flights, etc have yielded very little result. Border closures, flight bans and mass quarantines have been ineffective.

The situation in Sierra Leone is far from improving. Rather is it getting worse each day with escalating new infections and death. There is a huge scarcity of Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) in the country to protect health workers who are on the front lines of the fight against Ebola. Ambulances are in short supply. The same ambulances that carry Ebola patients are the same ambulances that carry "normal" patients. Body bags to bury Ebola victims are not available in the country.

##### CHALLENGES

Ebola broke out in the country when no one was prepared for it. In their attempt to respond to the outbreak government health officials inadvertently sent out conflicting and often counterproductive

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Missions

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*(Continued from page 5)*

information in the initial stages of the outbreak. In its Accelerated Ebola Virus Response plan, the government recently presented several reasons why the virus has continued to spread with such alarming speed:

- Inadequate understanding of the EVD as this is the first major outbreak reported in Sierra Leone
- Lack of experience among healthcare workers and limited capacities for rapid response
- High exposure to Ebola virus in the communities through household care and customary burial procedures.
- Denial, mistrust and rejection of proposed public health interventions arising from misinterpretation of the cause of the new disease
- Fear of the disease by frontline health workers leading to either suboptimal care for patients or substandard implementation of protective measures
- Close community ties and movement within and across borders has led to difficulties in tracing and following up of contacts for the three countries.
- Outbreak poses serious challenges in terms of human capacity, financial, operational and logistics requirements and threatens national and international health.

### WHAT WE HAVE DONE

Through the United Methodist Church Ebola response initiative funded by UMCOR, an interfaith response—the Religious Leaders Task Force on Ebola was initiated. The Task Force has intentionally focused on adopting “quick impact response” that have had a wider and more positive impact on the nation. In fact, the United Methodist Church, through the task force, was the first faith based organization that actually rang the alarm bell signaling the seriousness of the EVD. The work of the Task Force include:

1. Aggressive and intentional media coverage
2. Aggressive training of religious leaders and health workers of faith based health facilities
3. Intentional advocacy and networking programs with other stake holders to urge government to:
  - Develop a nationally coordinated, accurate, credible, consistent and effective approach in responding to the threat posed by Ebola.
  - Intensify training of religious leaders and health staff on Ebola and provide adequate protective gear for vulnerable health workers throughout the country
  - Expand Ebola testing centers to all District Headquarter towns and provide adequate infrastructure
  - Declare Ebola an emergency in the country so the international community could come in and help the country develop a more robust response to the epidemic
  - Momentarily restrict free movement of people from infected to non-infected areas and vice versa
  - Focused on increasing community awareness and education from the grass root to our Government.
  - We lobbied with government health officials to make provisions for families, Imams and pastors of persons infected with Ebola to visit and pray with their loved ones as well as to ensure “last respect” burial of persons who die of Ebola.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Missions

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*(Continued from page 6)*

### A NEW STRATEGY—PRAYER, PREVENTION AND CARE

After two months of effective nationwide interfaith engagement in the fight to eradicate the disease, we have now shifted our attention to a new strategy which focuses on training our UM health workers across the conference and providing them with the needed protective equipment. As more hospitals close within the country, we want our UMC health facilities to remain open and be there for the people. As more and more health workers refuse to go to work, we want our UM health workers to keep the doors of our health facilities open to the public. And as more government health workers die, we want to protect our health workers from being infected with the disease. In pursuance of these goals, the United Methodist Ebola Response Team (UMERT) organized two conference wide training of our health workers.

- August 29 at Leader Memorial Church in Bo *(this included health workers from Taiama Health Centre, a UMC health clinic located across the road from our sister church, Calvary UMC)*
- September 5 at Brown Memorial Church in Freetown

The training focused on strengthening infection prevention and control practices in all UM health facilities including:

- Discussions regarding the establishment of holding centers and efficient ambulance service systems in three of our major health facilities to convey Ebola patients to established government treatment centers.
- Providing all our health workers with the best quality and adequate PPEs, drugs and other basic health care consumables.
- Training our health workers to be able to diagnose and handle Ebola infected patients without risk of being infected.
- Two day training sessions on Ebola awareness, education and prevention for all Child Rescue Centre residential children and staff, Forster children and post-secondary children and their parents and care givers in Bo.
- Distribution of 800 sets of PPE including garments, boots, shoe covers, head gear, gloves, goggles, facial masks, etc. Also distributed quantities of Chlorine and other essential health drugs.
- Episcopal conference wide visit and preaching to encourage members and give them hope in the midst of fear, grief and panic that has gripped the nation as a result of the EVD.

### WHAT NEXT

The Ebola Response Team is developing a detail proposal for the next steps forward including:

- Establishing holding centers and effective ambulance services in three of our major health facilities
- Developing a comprehensive psychosocial care program for Ebola patients in holding centers and isolation units and survivors and surviving families of Ebola victims.
- Putting in place a surveillance team that will conduct periodic site visits to ensure that protective kits are actually being used by health workers.
- Developing an integrated Ebola/malaria response program that aims at addressing the escalating malaria situation in the country that has now been swallowed up by the Ebola epidemic.
- Continue with our interfaith response programs and collaborating with other organizations through sharing, networking and other advocacy programs.

Bishop John K. Yambasu

## Adult Ministry



Last year “Living Generously” introduced us to the Donovans, and over five weeks we journeyed with this family as they learned that true followers of Jesus are called to reject social divisions and invite the poor and rejected into their lives, their homes and their communities.

In “Loving Generously”, we are journeying once again with the Donovans as they welcome a struggling young couple into their care and pay a price in worldly opposition. But they also find great joy and beauty in the community that forms as a result of their generous hospitality.

This “Loving Generously” five week sermon series began on October 19 and small groups have been meeting during the week that follows each sermon. You are welcome to join into a group late... just see the display in the main lobby for a listing of when and where small groups are meeting. You can choose an existing group, create a new group, or simply do the study on your own. If you have questions please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611.

### New Member Classes

New Member Classes will be held for four weeks beginning November 2 during the Sunday School hour in Pastor Mike’s office (room 201). If you know someone that you think would be interested in becoming a new member, please tell them about the class and have them contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611 for more information.

### Women’s Ministry

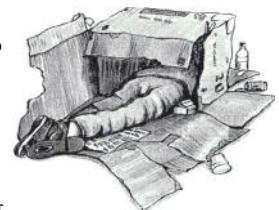
Have you tried the SCRIP program yet? Would you also like to support the Women's Ministries of First Church (particularly the Women's Retreat)? The bell choirs have generously offered to share the SCRIP proceeds. If you purchase gift cards from Applebee's, Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse, Cracker Barrel, Dunkin Donuts, Olive Garden/Red Lobster/Longhorn Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, or TGI Friday's, the proceeds will directly benefit the Women's Retreat. Please check out all of the great restaurants, retail stores, hotels, etc that SCRIP offers. The SCRIP box and order forms are located at the end of the main entrance hallway, to the right. Any questions, please contact Patti Herring at 795-9721 or [familyzeke@verizon.net](mailto:familyzeke@verizon.net).

## College | Youth

### Sleep Out for the Homeless

Don’t forget to spread the word and let others know about our efforts to raise money for the homeless.

- Registration forms are due November 16
- Make sure you have a box
- Plan to stay after the late service on November 23 to help put up fencing and pass out flyers
- Make sure you know what is expected of you at this sleep out – NO electronics!
- Check your emails and church website for more details of rules and expectations.
- Adult help for fence set up, soup making and supervision of the event can be found at [www.timetosignup.com/kidscount](http://www.timetosignup.com/kidscount) as well as in the sign up binder at the information desk.





## College | Youth

### Anchor Worship

This summer we were blessed with an opportunity to have two college students, Trace Morgan and Paige Snyder, share with us their experiences of worship.



Many of our college students are growing by leaps and bounds in their faith and we have been inspired by the growth they display! So we thought “Why not let them lead us in worship and share with us the ways in which they have experienced worship while away at school?” That is exactly what we did. This summer we had a collegiate organized Sunday evening worship service. This service became known as "Anchor" and founded itself on Hebrews 6:19 where it says ***"This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary."*** That verse has become the vision of the worship experience: creating new ways in which we can enter into the throne room and worship our God together.

Join us as we continue the worship experience throughout the year on the third Sunday of the month. Meet in the green chair section of the sanctuary at 6:00pm. We begin with a time of coffee and fellowship and hope to see you there!

### 3rd Annual Cookie Walk ~ December 13, 10:00-1:00

Who likes cookies? I do!! We are asking for assistance from the youth this year in helping us make this a ongoing, memorable and effective fund raising tradition.



Please supply us with 4 dozen, or more, of the same variety of **homemade** cookies. Have a family favorite? Great we'll take it. Want to try out a new recipe? That will do too. Fill in the below slip with your name and your top two cookie options you would be willing to make.

Because we want to have a large variety of cookies we will notify you of the cookie option we need. Slips should be returned **no later than November 23rd** so we can select the varieties needed.

Any questions please contact Lisa at [uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com) or 716-510-8948

Cookie walk benefits youth mission trips. All youth are requested to help in fundraising because of the ongoing nature of fundraising that benefits current and future trips. Please help us in this endeavor.

**Please return to Lisa Aronson no later than November 23**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cookie Option 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Cookie Option 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

## Choirs



### Ring In the News

It's Pie Time! ☺ On Saturday, **November 22** we will be baking our pies again! Choose from pumpkin, mincemeat, or apple (double crust or crumb topping). We will bake them, or you can take them home to freeze and bake when you want to. Why not stock up for Christmas as well? Pumpkin and Apple pies will be \$8.50 and mincemeat will be \$9. Pick up will be available at the church that day from noon until 2:00. Look for sign-up sheets at the Information Desk, in Sunday School, or see a bell choir member to order. All pies need to be pre-ordered!



Concert opportunities this December: Holiday Harmony is here at First Church, Sunday, **December 7**, at 7pm when many of our own musical ensembles will serve up a little Holiday Cheer in music. The Praise Ringers will again be in concert at the Fredrickson Library in Camp Hill on Monday, **December 15**, at 7pm. Hope you can join us for one of these as we ring in the Holiday Season.

We want to thank all of you who came out to support the Handbells for their 14<sup>th</sup> annual Chicken BBQ October 18! What a wonderful church family we have.

### Music Schedule for Worship

November 2	8:15	Sounds of Worship and Bells
	10:45	Sanctuary Choir, Bells and Wee Singers
November 9	8:15	Sanctuary Choir
	10:45	Invocation
November 16	8:15	Sounds of Worship
	10:45	Invocation and Youth Choir
November 23	8:15	Sounds of Worship and Bells
	10:45	Sanctuary Choir, Bells and Junior Choir
November 30	8:15	Sounds of Worship
	10:45	Sanctuary Choir and Wee Singers

Mark your calendars now for the Music Department's Holiday Harmony on Sunday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

## Worship

Sunday Morning  
Worship Services  
8:15 am &  
10:45 am  
  
Sunday School  
9:30 am

Sunday Evening  
Anchor Worship  
3rd Sunday at 6:00 pm



**The 4th Sunday at 4:00...**  
an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and care givers.

### Preparing for Advent

November 30	1st Sunday in Advent: Worship, Holy Communion (pew service) 8:15 & 10:45 am
December 7	2nd Sunday in Advent: Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am; Holiday Harmony 7 pm
December 14	3rd Sunday in Advent: Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am; Service of Remembrance 7 pm
December 21	4th Sunday in Advent: Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am; Christmas Caroling 5pm
December 24	Christmas Eve: Worship 5 pm, 8 pm & 11 pm

## Library

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November is the month to count your blessing—even though I know most of you do it every day! George Washington made Thanksgiving an unofficial national holiday, realizing after the many years of war the new country needed to thank God for its blessings. During the Civil War Lincoln was urged by many to make Thanksgiving an official day in November to give country hope at a time when hope was scarce. Another reason for thanks arrives early in the month as we thank our veterans for their service to our country. I usually give thanks that November is the calm before the whirlwind of Christmas, a time of family, and those crisp autumn nights perfect for hot coffee and good books! And the library has some wonderful new offerings on its shelf.

Karen Kingsbury, known widely as the queen of Christian fiction, has started a new series called *Angels Walking* which is also the title of the first book. It is the dramatic story of a washed up baseball player, the love he left behind, and the miracles that just might save him. Tyler Ames was on his way to being a star in the big leagues when an injury ended his dream. While chasing that dream, Tyler left everyone he ever cared about behind and now they have moved on without him. He lands a job as a maintenance man in a nursing home which is a far cry from the limelight he had craved. He becomes friends with an Alzheimer patient, and his life begins to change. With each small step in his new life, new hope blossoms in him. Read this page turner to find out what Tyler is thankful for!

Another Christian fiction star in our library is Beth Wiseman, known not only for her Amish fiction, but also contemporary fiction. In her latest book, **The Promise**, the main characters Mallory Hammond and Tate Webber are in love. But Mallory is restless and her heart's desire is to save someone's life to prove her life has meaning. During this quest she meets a charming man online and decides to fly half a world away from Tate to help this charmer in a volatile corner of the world. Tate begs her not to go, but Mallory is unstoppable. It isn't long before Mallory finds promises can easily be broken, and she is in terrible danger. As her family prays for her, Tate tries to reach her before it is too late. This story is based in fact and truly shows the dangers of online romances.

If neither of these books appeals to you, come in to the library and let us help you find something just right for you.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> the library will be having a mini book sale in the library during Little Friend's Fall Festival. Shop for Christmas or just restock your books shelves for winter. We always have great reads at good prices! Thanks for your support.

See you in the library.

Donna & Pam

## Juniper Tree

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I was recently given the opportunity to join Grace Like a River Counseling, a Christian Counseling group in Camp Hill, so beginning December 1st I will no longer be a part of Juniper Tree Pastoral Counseling Center. It's been such a privilege and blessing to have served First Church and the surrounding communities through the ministry of Juniper Tree for the past 15 years. I've enjoyed being able to participate with the congregation through different activities during that time: Health Talks, MOPS meeting, filling in as a Sunday school teacher, and helping to facilitate the Women's Retreat on several occasions. First Church is a wonderful congregation and you serve the Lord and your community well! I will miss seeing and connecting with friends and acquaintances here at First Church, yet I'm also very excited about this next phase of my career and journey with the Lord. He plans our seasons of ministry well and this is no exception. May the Lord continue to bless all those who make up First Church as you serve Him in Mechanicsburg and the region! ~ Janet Hensel

## Facilities

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Water woes continue to plague First Church! Does that sound like a familiar refrain from me? Every time I turn around it seems like we're having another issue with water at the church. Here are the water issues we've been dealing with lately:

- a. Roof leak impacting the alley stairwell. After a couple recent rainfalls, we were noticing some water dripping down onto the landing in the alley stairwell between the main floor and upstairs. Turned out there was a small slit in the rubber roof near one of the roof drains above that area which needed to be patched. I'm confident we have it fixed, at least for now.
- b. Increased water usage. A recent bill from the water company showed a spike in water usage during September, especially in comparison to the same period last year. We believe one of the commodes in the Office wing was the culprit fixture, and have made some interim repairs while we await a special repair kit from the manufacturer for this recalled unit.
- c. Sewage pumps. We experienced a malfunction of the sewage pumps on Sunday morning, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Quick action by a number of church members helped get one of the pumps back running before the problem became even more serious. Subsequent to the mishap, we had a restoration company here for the better part of a week drying things out in our lower level and sanitizing affected areas and equipment. Drywall repairs, cove molding replacement, and painting of affected areas are on hold until we replace both sewage pumps and their electrical control system, clean out the sewage pit, and reinforce the pit cover. This will be an expensive repair which the Trustees are figuring out how to cover the cost.
- d. Updates to Education wing restrooms. Bill Seig and I are working on a project to replace the wall-hung sinks with double bowl vanity tops and single-lever faucets. Progress has been slow, but we hope to make bigger strides in the near future.

In last month's newsletter, I addressed a couple "noise" issues affecting the kitchen and sanctuary. James Paris replaced the fan motor on the reach-in refrigerator which alleviated the kitchen "noise" temporarily, but we really need to be considering the replacement of that vintage refrigerator with a new model. The Sound/Media Team thought they had solved the humming "noise" in the sanctuary with a relatively inexpensive piece of equipment, but the hum keeps coming back. The plan now is to have a technician from Sound Advantage come and test our sound equipment in hopes of pinpointing and resolving the source of that annoying hum.

Dealing with the water issues has delayed the final action on the replacement stair tread project. I still have one of the new treads to install at the bottom of the Frederick Street stairwell to wrap up that project. We do have all of the woodwork in the stairwell painted, and have been working on patching the walls so that we can complete the painting work there as well.

The iron railing restoration project is complete. Nail Construction finished the final phase of that initiative, the ground level railings protecting persons from falling into the exterior stairwells on the Frederick Street side of the facility. The restored railings around the building really look nice.

Neidig, Inc. is scheduled to dig open, before the end of October, the corner of the parking lot next to the property we recently sold at 120 West Keller Street where we are experiencing a growing depression in the asphalt. Once the depression is opened up, we will determine whether we have decaying and settling of fill in what was the foundation of properties that were formerly along West Keller Street or an actual sinkhole. Please continue to use extreme caution when you are in that corner of the church parking lot until we can rectify the problem. Thank you.

We haven't had a chance yet to cut down the diseased weeping cherry tree near the corner of King

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Facilities

Alley and Frederick Street. Still hoping to get to that this fall, and replace it with a similar variety. It's on my "to do" list, along with addressing the holly bushes on the building's west side between the main and office entrances.

Winter is not that far away. The Trustees are working on securing a contractor to plow snow this winter, but will likely rely on volunteers once again to shovel sidewalks and steps when it snows. Please let me or one of the Trustees know if you are willing and able to be a part of our snow shoveling brigade. Many hands (and strong backs) make snow shoveling a less onerous task for the volunteers who help in this effort. Thank you.

Roger Walton, Facilities Manager

## Poinsettias



**POINSETTIAS** will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 14 and 21. You have the option of purchasing a poinsettia for \$7.50 or giving a monetary gift in memory/honor of your loved one. Gift donations will be forwarded to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Please complete the form indicating the number of "plants" or "gifts" and place it in the offering plate or send it to Kristin Brown in the church office by November 30.

*Plants may be taken after any Christmas Eve Service that you attend. If you order a poinsettia, please be sure to pick it up. Plants not claimed by December 31 will be disposed of.*

### POINSETTIA OR GIFT ORDER FORM

**Please indicate below, in the correct section, the number of plants and/or gifts that you are giving and who they are being given in memory/honor of.**

1. Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle whichever is appropriate:** In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Number of Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle whichever is appropriate:** In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_



## FUM Circle Meetings World Thank Offering

### DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton\*  
790-9131 or  
swalton54@comcast.net

### MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick\*  
697-2233

### MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen\*  
796-0809 or  
jjgbowen@yahoo.com

### RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan\* 697-3554

*New Members are always  
welcome!*

*\*Contact Circle Leader for dates &  
times*

## UMW District Calendar

**November 23-** World Thank Offering and Mission Meal.

\*All District events can be viewed on the conference website at [susumc.org](http://susumc.org), Harrisburg District UMW

"Spontaneous additional gifts can be given out of gratitude for God's abundance and in celebration of the joys of life." This describes the UMW World Thank Offering, which takes place every year around Thanksgiving. On Sunday, November 23, we will once again take up a collection to help women and children in this country and around the world. If you are thankful for God's abundance in your life, please remember those who are struggling and bring your extra change to help change a life.

### Change Purse Open House

If you would like to take home a great deal on a 'new' purse while supporting a fantastic charity at the same time, then please join us to browse, snack, and fellowship at Mary Circle's Change Purse Open House!

Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (stop-by anytime!)



Change Purse is a non-profit organization committed to fighting human trafficking through raising awareness and financially supporting faith based organizations that provide hope, healing, and restoration, through their direct work with victims and survivors. For more information, check-out [ChangePurse.org](http://ChangePurse.org)

Don't forget to drop you unwanted clothing and shoes in the Community Aid bin.

Money raised from your donations helps local schools, churches and other non profit charitable organizations.



## Fellowship

The Widows/Widowers group will dine at the Fireside Restaurant in New Cumberland on Tuesday, November 11th at NOON. Transportation will be provided upon request. Please contact Bonnie Guyer at 766-0145 if you plan on attending.

## Health & Wellness

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### "Prescription for Success: Be Medication Smart"

Whether it is vitamins, herbal therapy, over the counter medicine or prescriptions, people of all ages require medications to keep them healthy, but knowledge is the best medicine to managing your healthcare. Get informed - learn to safely use, store, and dispose of medications, understand labels, manage side effects, and get answers to any of your medication questions. Be a well informed medication user and make a difference in your health.

Presented on Sunday November 16th at 9:30am in the Multipurpose room by FUMC member Kimberly LaPointe, PharmD, BCPS Pharmacy Clinical Manager at Holy Spirit Hospital.

### 2014/2015 Flu Vaccines Available

The Visiting Nurse Association of Central PA. will be administering flu shots on Sunday, November 9 in the multipurpose room from 9 am to 11 am.

The 2014/2015 flu shot is a Quadrivalent formula, meaning it contains 4 strains of influenza virus (California A, Texas A, Massachusetts B and Brisbane B) that the CDC has selected to be the worst during the upcoming flu season.

The cost of the shot will be \$35 (cash or check accepted).

#### **Medicare will be billed for individuals who are Medicare Part B eligible.**

Other medical insurances that will be accepted and billed include

**Aetna Medicare Advantage**  
**Gateway Assured**  
**Geisinger Health Plan**  
**Humana Gold**

**FEP**  
**Geisinger Gold**  
**Highmark Freedom Blue PPO(FER)**  
**Unison Advantage.**

All other HMO subscribers must go to their physician to received their flu shot.

Please bring all health insurance cards with you to assure proper billing to the insurance company can be completed.

Please call Sandy Leister at 319-6666 or email her at sleister2@verizon.net if you have any questions.

### **A Message from the Health & Wellness Committee**

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood! The Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank is the sole provider of blood for Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin, York, Adams, Lebanon and Lancaster counties. **Each donation can actually save the lives of 3 local patients**, so every little bit helps. Our church will not be hosting a blood drive anymore this year, but we did offer to list the November blood drives in our area. Perhaps you might consider making this **very valuable** donation at a location convenient for you.

11/3 - High Associates, Ltd. (Rossmoyne Business Center) 9am – 1pm

11/7 – Fox Center, formerly Seidle Hospital, 8am – 7 pm

11/8 – John Gross & Co, 10am – 1pm

11/10 – Mechanicsburg Brethern in Christ, 3pm – 7pm

11/24 – Messiah College, 9am – 4pm

CPBB and your H&W committee thank you!

## Church News and Notes

### Love & Sympathy ...

to the family upon the death of June Keller on October 6, 2014.

### All Saints Day ~ November 2, 2014 ~ *For all the Saints who from their labor rest*

Richard Biggs - 12/8/13	Janet Miller - 4/4/14	Walter Dietz - 8/4/14
Dean Davis - 12/13/13	William Dietz - 4/29/14	Ruth Grosz - 8/7/14
Harry Hamsher - 1/21/14	Cephas Zimmerman - 4/29/14	Louis Barth - 8/15/14
Wilbur Baker - 1/28/14	Galye Elder Anderson - 5/1/14	Elmer Lee Ritter - 8/27/14
Nancy Biggs - 2/25/14	Phyliss Mengle - 5/30/14	Betty Weaver - 8/31/14
John Landis - 3/12/14	Russ Gavlak - 6/8/14	June Keller - 10/7/14
Ada Brackbill - 3/22/14	Ann Minnich - 6/23/14	
Arlie Lehmer - 3/25/14	April Farleman - 8/3/14	

### Thank you...

*Dear Church Family,*

*A very sincere thank you for the many get well cards, best wishes, prayers and support received during my recent hospitalizations. As many can tell I am getting around quite well and should be back to normal by Christmas. Special thanks to Pastor Mike for his time spent encouraging me and to Ed and Polly Blum for their support.*

*Skip Hutter*

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*Charlie Glessner, one of the senior members of First Church, recently built an oak rocking chair for use in room 120, the toddler room. Charlie is a man of many talents, and woodworking is one of his specialties. Thank you, Charlie, for using your expertise to create such a beautiful piece of workmanship and for sharing your gifts with all of us. You are special!*

|                                                                         |                                |                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Special Birthdays</b>                                                | Sadie Heim.....November 1      | Helen Ritter.....December 13     |
| <i>Addresses of these members can be found in the Church Directory.</i> | Doris Zimmerman..November 7    | Dolores Shell .....December 13   |
|                                                                         | Ruth Strock.....November 9     | Joan Buechel .....December 17    |
|                                                                         | Nancy Bomboy .....November 12  | Elaine O’Hara.....December 26    |
|                                                                         | Don Adams .....November 15     | Dolly Dougherty .....December 27 |
|                                                                         | Patricia Marr .....November 23 | Naomi Kuntz.....December 28      |
|                                                                         | Joyce Woods.....December 1     | Cliff Brown .....December 30     |
|                                                                         | Mary Rienecker .....December 4 | James Parfet .....December 30    |
|                                                                         | Jo Nye.....December 13         |                                  |

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Richard & Joanne Reed married 61 years on November 4
- ♥ Lincoln & Veloice Washburn married 63 years on November 9
- ♥ Russ & Janet Baker married 64 years on November 11
- ♥ Dave & Dolly Scholl married 63 years on November 22
- ♥ Robert & Sara Meck married 62 years on November 25
- ♥ Ken & Helen Love married 54 years on December 10