

# *The Clear Voice*

## *June 2009*

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
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## Habitat for Humanity




On Saturday, May 30, a beautifully warm and sunny day, a number of St. Paul's UCC members were on hand to celebrate the dedication of the Habitat for Humanity twin home in West Chester. This marks the fruition of a project that



began about a year ago, when we joined a diverse coalition of area churches and schools to raise \$80,000 and donate countless hours of labor to build a new home for a family-in-need. Pastor Jonathan offered the prayer of invocation, and the event continued with speeches by Mayor Dick Yoder, State Senator Andrew Dinniman, County Commissioner Kathi Cozzone, and speakers from each of the

sponsoring groups. The new homeowners were presented with a hammer and a Bible, as a Habitat for Humanity representative spoke about the theology of the hammer on which Habitat was founded. To quote from the late Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat: "We may disagree on all sorts of other things, but we can agree on the idea of building homes with God's people in need, and in doing so using biblical economics: no profit and no interest. . .the Bible teaches that God is the God of the whole crowd . . . God's love leaves nobody out, and my love should not either." Thanks to everyone who helped to make this project possible! And a special hurrah for Matthew Kilareski, who has served faithfully as our liaison to the coalition and our volunteer coordinator.

# The Clear Voice, June 2009

June 2008 Events						
	1 Shelter Team prepares and serves at Atkinson Shelter	2 Boy Scouts 7PM Bell Choir 7 PM 	3	4	5	6 Games Night at 7:00 PM
7 Trinity Sunday Worship and Communion at 9:00 and 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11:45 AM	8 Shelter Team prepares and serves at Atkinson Shelter Church Growth Committee meets at 7:00 PM	9 Boy Scouts 7PM Bell Choir 7 PM	10	11 Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 7:30 AM at Exton Diner	12 PSEC Spring Meeting in Lancaster	13 PSEC Spring Meeting in Lancaster
14 Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 AM Baptism at 10:30 AM	15 Consistory and Boards meet at 7:00 PM	16 Boy Scouts 7PM Bell Choir 7 PM	17	18	19	20
21 Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 AM Father's Day	22	23 Boy Scouts 7PM Bell Choir 7 PM 	24	25 Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 7:30 AM at Exton Diner	26	27
28 Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 AM	29	30 Boy Scouts 7PM Bell Choir 7 PM				

## Lectionary for June

Readings can be found in their entirety online at: <http://divinity.lib.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/>

June 7 -- Isaiah 6:1-8 / Psalm 29 / Romans 8:12-17 / John 3:1-17

June 14 -- 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 / Psalm 20 / 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 / Mark 4:26-34

June 21 -- 1 Samuel 17:32-49 / Psalm 9:9-20 / 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 / Mark 4:35-41

June 28 -- 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 / Psalm 130 / 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 / Mark 5:21-43

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## **Pastor's Ponderings....**

On a recent visit to a neighboring church, I noticed an index card in my pew imprinted with words of welcome and instructions about receiving the sacrament of communion. These cards are surely aimed at making visitors feel at home, but I couldn't help thinking that they send two very different messages to church-seekers. On the one hand we are so glad that you are here! On the other hand, you should not come to the communion table unless you are a baptized grown-up with a membership in good standing at a Christian church.

This is what passes for 'open communion' in many Protestant churches. Such 'open' tables, while less closed than those of the Roman Catholic Church, are still not fully inclusive of everyone who participates in worship. Someone is always left on the outside. I am well acquainted with the longstanding intra-Christian debates about the celebration of the Eucharist, and I know that it would be rather silly of me to think that such debates can be solved by a simple appeal to the open table practice of Jesus. But I just can't help myself. Why shouldn't our contemporary communion practice reflect Jesus' radical way of welcome?

In Jesus' day—much as in our own time—the common meal was a place where social boundaries were strictly observed. The wealthy elites did not sit down with the homeless. 'Proper' religious people did not share a table with those who were labeled as unclean or sinful. As a twist on the old saying, it was believed that you are who you eat with. Jesus flouted this convention by eating with people from every social group. He dined with prostitutes and power brokers. He drank wine with the righteous and the riffraff. If even just a tiny part of our sacramental meal is about remembering how Jesus broke bread with others, I believe that we have a sacred responsibility to ensure that our communion table is open to anyone who desires to come and eat. After all, it is neither the pastor nor the church that is the host of this meal, but the risen Christ.

This is why my children take communion. Some think that children should have an understanding of the sacrament before they should be allowed to receive the elements. While I respect this opinion, I don't agree with it. If understanding is key, what do we say about the inclusion of the developmentally disabled at the communion table? Or a person suffering from dementia? I believe that our sacramental table should be fully open and welcoming to all. Not for the sake of being nice, but because of our faith in the God whose love shatters social boundaries and tears down the walls of human estrangement.

Also, I think that it is always good to be humble about our own status before God, and that our sacramental life should reflect this humility. In Luke's gospel, Jesus tells a story about a man who plans a great dinner for his honorable friends and neighbors. But they are all too busy to show up. So the man says to his servant: "Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." These become his new honored guests—the very people with whom no VIP would ever eat. And now, the man says, none of those who were originally invited will taste his feast. This parable of the kingdom has something to say about the role of the church. We're not here to be VIPs, or keepers of a guest list. Jesus calls us to be that servant who goes out into the streets to invite everyone to be nourished by the gifts of love and grace.

*Jonathan*

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## **Christian Education Update**

### **Children's Sunday School**

The Children's Sunday School ended on May 31<sup>st</sup> with a single service at 10:30. The service included a celebration of a successful Sunday School year, recognizing the Sunday School participants and the Sunday School teachers and helpers. Three of our youth were also confirmed during the service. Congratulations to Caisa, Johanna, and David! The service was followed by an all-church Picnic and Musical Follies. Thanks to everyone who pitched in by bringing something or by helping out with setup, cooking, and cleanup. A fun time was had by all.

### **Adult Sunday School**

Adult Sunday School finished this year's discussion of the Gospel of John with a lesson by Pastor Jonathan that was a special treat. Next year we will be discussing the Gospel of Luke and would welcome everyone.

## **Build a Better World VBS Registration Form**

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
**[www.stpauluccexton.org](http://www.stpauluccexton.org)**

Come help us Build a Better World this July 27-31, 3-5:30 pm, as we journey to Bolivia, Sudan, the U.S./Mexico Border, Afghanistan, and even our own neighborhoods through story and song. This free program is for children ages 4-12.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency  
Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Needs or  
Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
How did you hear about our VBS? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Adopt-A-Garden Plot

Help make our church look beautiful by adopting a garden plot. Please see sign-up sheet in social hall to adopt a section of our flower gardens to plant and take care of this year.



## Scholarships

The Bessie P. Rogers/Harry C. Woodward Memorial Scholarship committee anticipates awarding a limited number of scholarships for 2009. We expect to award the scholarships in August of 2009. Deadline for applications is July 31, 2009 for August



awards. If you are a student pursuing post-high school education and would like to apply for a scholarship please see

Mary Lou Esposito in the church office, download one from [www.stpauluccexton.org](http://www.stpauluccexton.org) or request to have one emailed to you.

## Church Growth Committee

The Church Growth Committee will meet on Monday, June 8 at 7:00 PM. Please stop by if you are interested in helping plan events for the church. We welcome the help of many!

## Book Club News

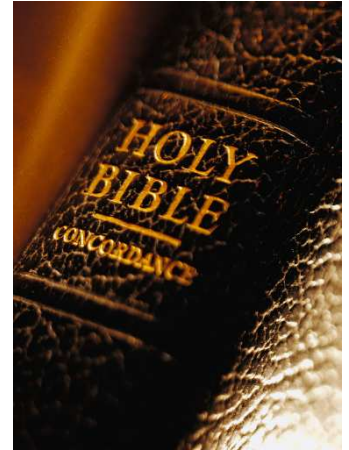
The book club will be reading the books, Eve by Elissa Elliot and An Innocent Man by John Grisham for the summer. We will meet in September to discuss.. Please direct your questions about the Book Club to Mary Lee Sailer.



## New Pew Bibles

We are excited to announce that we have ordered new Bibles for the sanctuary. Before we place them in the pews, we want to ask for your help in dedicating them:

Would you like to honor a loved one by sponsoring a Bible in his/her memory? Or would you like to give thanks for a special person in your life by dedicating a Bible in his/her name? The cost of



each Bible is \$11.20, and we invite you to consider sponsoring one or two Bibles. A sign-up sheet will be available in the fellowship hall.

Please be sure to sign up by August 1, so that we can be ready to use the Bibles in September. Thank you!

## A Great Church Picnic!

Pentecost Sunday wasn't complete until we had a picnic in the warm sunshine. Many thanks to Nancy Greger and Jim Scripko for their help setting up the tables. Also thanks to Louis Franconi and Ryan Vandermeulen for grilling up some delicious hamburgers and hot dogs!



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## **Cuban Church Leader to Visit PSEC**

The Rev. Antonio Santana, President of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba, will visit Pennsylvania Southeast Conference from June 10 to 19. He will be the featured preacher for the closing festival service at the Spring Conference Meeting on Saturday, June 13, at 2:30 pm, at the Host Inn in Lancaster. He will also be the guest of the Conference throughout the two-day meeting and will lead a workshop on the official partnership between PSEC and the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba established two years ago.

Conference Minister Russ Mitman stated: "We rejoice that Rev. Santana's visa have been approved and that he will be with us. His visit is so timely as relationships between the USA and Cuba are changing. Moreover, his presence with us will afford a first-hand witness to the vitality of the Christian church in a country that has been isolated for so many years." Everyone is cordially invited to join in this special time together at the Spring Meeting.

Rev. Santana will also participate in the Service of Word and Sacrament in the Church House Chapel on Tuesday, June 16, at 9:30 am. Following the service there will be an opportunity to dialogue with Rev. Santana on the status of the church in Cuba. Other opportunities to meet with Rev. Santana during his nine-day visit will be arranged as soon as his schedule is finalized. For more information about the Spring Meeting, or about Rev. Santana's visit, please talk with Pastor Jonathan or visit the PSEC website at [www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org).

## **Blessings to our Confirmands**

On Sunday, May 31, we celebrated the rite of confirmation as three of our young people affirmed their Christian faith:

- Caisa Grace Baumann, daughter of Chris and Mayme Baumann
- Johanna Irene Baumann, daughter of Chris and Mayme Baumann
- David Boyd Harrison, son of Cynthia Harrison

We give thanks for their presence in the life of our church, and pray that God will bless them as they continue their spiritual journeys.



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## June Birthdays

June 8 – Matt & Mark Pluchino

June 11 – John Gangwisch

June 14 – Harry Levering

June 15 – Gail Robilotta

June 16 – Cas Shay

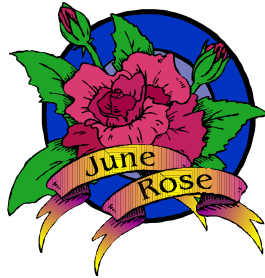
June 18 – Joe Miller &  
Peter Will

June 20 – Joan Trimble & David Harrison

June 22 – Chris Madison

June 23 – Darrell Lewis

June 24 – Daniel Gladson



## Anniversaries

June 1 – Norma & Bud Peterman - 63 years

June 5 – Heidi & Bryant Dembrosky and Bryan  
& Jen Benner

June 7 – Ed & Sharon Kuznick - 34 years

June 10 – Robin & Chris Madison

June 11 – Chris & Mayme Bauman - 15 years

June 20 – Al & Helen Peterman - 65 years

June 22 – Frank & Marg Perina celebrate 52  
years of marriage

June 27 – Jonathan & Liza Hauze - 11 years

June 28 – Muriel & Darrell Lewis - 51 years

June 29 – Brian & Beth Kirschner – 41 years

June 30 – Tina & Margarito Davilla

## Flowers

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Nicole & Bill Miller in honor of  
their 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Flowers given by the Allen's in  
memory of Joseph Tresnan

June 21<sup>st</sup> – Flowers given in memory of Don  
Raudenbush

June 28<sup>th</sup> – Flowers in honor of Jonathan &  
Liza Hauze's anniversary

The 2009 flower chart is posted on the bulletin board  
in the Social Hall. The fee for Sunday flowers is  
\$20.00.

## Readers and Greeters

June 07

Greeters: Heidi & Kaitlyn Dembrosky

Reader: Lorraine Nowlan

June 14

Greeters: Matt & Evelyn Kilareski

Reader: Barb Schneller

June 21

Greeter: Theresa Heinze

Reader: Beth Kirschner

June 28

Greeters: Hank & Linda Will

Reader: Louis Franconi

Please contact Nancy Wilson if you would like to  
be a reader or greeter at the 10:30 service.

## Fishes & Loaves

June 7<sup>th</sup> – NONE

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Propsner Family

June 21<sup>st</sup> – Lorraine Nowlan

June 28<sup>th</sup> – NONE



See bulletin board in social hall to sign-up for  
Fishes and Loaves coffee hour hosting.

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## **MISSION & STEWARDSHIP**

World Refugee Day – June 20

**June 20 is World Refugee Day**, a day to remember the millions of people in our world who have been forcibly uprooted by persecution and violence. A refugee is a person who, “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable to, or owing to fear, is unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country.” (1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees).

### **Refugee Facts:**

14 million:	Number of refugees & asylum seekers worldwide
8.5 million:	Refugees who have spent 10+ years in camps
26 million	People forcibly displaced within their own countries
60,193:	Refugees resettled to the U.S. in 2008
475,000:	Refugees Church World Service has resettled in the U.S. since 1946
Middle East:	Region with the largest number of refugees

Church World Service and partnering communities work together to protect and assist uprooted people worldwide. CWS provides help and homes to refugees, resettling about 8,000 refugees and entrants in the U.S. every year; congregations and affiliate agencies provide services locally. CWS also promotes policies and practices that encourage fairness, support, and welcome for the uprooted. For more information or to help, contact: Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program at [www.churchworldservice.org/Immigration](http://www.churchworldservice.org/Immigration) , or UCC Refugee Ministries at [www.ucc.org/refugees](http://www.ucc.org/refugees)

### **Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program: UCC Coffee, Tea & Chocolate Project**



We are offering fair trade tea and chocolate in addition to the several types of coffee.

Just a reminder: this is a justice advocacy project, so all fair trade products are being sold at the wholesale cost, with no markup and 100% of price goes back to where it is needed.

**interfaith@equalexchange.com • [www.equalexchange.com/interfaith](http://www.equalexchange.com/interfaith)**

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## Second Quarter Missions

### **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH**

Thank you to all those who gave to our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter mission, Strengthen The Church. A total of \$548 has been received so far and additional contributions are welcome. Through our gifts to Strengthen The Church, we further our commitment to be a multiracial, multicultural church, open and affirming and accessible to all. We strengthen and renew existing congregations. We fund leadership for new congregations. We provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. This mission also supports the **God is Still speaking Ministry** and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ.



**SPREAD THE LOVE**

Strengthen the Church  
Special Mission Offering



### **CHURCH CHANGE - FOR CHANGING CHURCHES**



Church Change is a special program that the churches in our conference are participated in the 6 Sundays between Easter and Pentecost Sunday. The funds will be used within our conference for Church revitalization and new church starts. A total of \$234.71 was received over these six Sundays. Thank you to all who participated and to our members who have matched each Sunday's giving.

## Habitat for Humanity



In addition to the \$1,000 donation from St. Paul's Endowment fund, \$130 has been received for donations. See page 1 for more information about the dedication of the Habitat Home.

## ST. PAUL'S ATTENDANCE and FINANCIAL NOTES for APRIL 2009

### April 2009 Attendance and Financial Information:

Sunday attendance in April was 410, for an average attendance of 103. April's operating expenses were \$14,167 and income was \$12,513. Hence, St. Paul's expenses exceeded income by \$1,654 in April 2008.

### Year-to-Date Financial Summary:

Through the month of April, total income was \$58,574 and expenses were \$64,523 for a year-to-date **deficit of \$5,950**.



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## **Lord's Pantry Food Bank**

Remember to bring something from your pantry for The Lord's Pantry (Downtown) on Sunday. Non-perishable items such as canned goods, Cereal, Soup, Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce are great. Also, items for babies such as diapers, baby food/formula are a big help. We will take the items to the Pantry. See Nancy Wilson or Mary Lee Sailer if you have any questions.



## **Donating Giant Food Cards**

You can now purchase a Giant card to be donated to the Lord's Pantry Food Bank. A special basket will be provided for these cards. This is an opportunity for us, who have so much, to share our bounty with our less fortunate neighbors.

## **Atkinson Shelter**

Members of St. Paul's serve meals at the Atkinson Men's Shelter on the first and second Mondays of the month. If you have ever been interested in getting involved in this ministry, please see Diane Battilana for more information. You are more than welcome to come along one week to see how rewarding it can be to help others in need.

## **ABRAHAM FETTERS-WHITE SCHOOL UPDATE**

Much progress has been made in completing the schoolhouse restoration. We continue to seek funding for the restoration completion from many foundations and are selling engraved brick pavers for fundraising. We will be selling brick pavers for purchase by individuals or a family for \$100.00 per brick for 2 lines of text, or company name for \$200.00 per brick. Order forms are located in the church foyer. If you have any questions about the project, please see Fran Pluchino or Frank Perina. Thank you again.



In Christian Love, The Abraham Feters-White School Preservation Society

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## **ENDOWMENT NEWS**

### Planned Giving Ministry Established

In the May 2009 edition of *The Clear Voice* we learned more about our Churches' Endowment Funds and how, through prudent and consistent yearly budgeted withdrawals, these accounts can be used to support our church and its various ministries into perpetuity. The Endowment Fund has been established through the thoughtful and generous gifts of church members who have remembered their church family in their Estate Planning by a bequest of cash, real estate, or other gifts designated to the Endowment Fund.

Many of you will remember the dedication of an Honor Roll held in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 12, 2008. That Honor Roll is a humble attempt to honor these individuals. The Honor Roll remains on exhibit in the social hall's north wall, just above where "Loves and Fishes" are served, Sundays after Services.

Two years ago, the Consistory established the Financial Planning & Endowment Committee, which is charged with reviewing the financial well being of our church. The Committee also provides assistance to the Deacons in the management of church finances, budgeting, investing and the use of our endowment funds. The Committee meets quarterly, and as necessary

Over the past year the Financial Planning & Endowment Committee has been working on developing a series of seminars and workshops that we call St. Paul's Planned Giving Ministry. This ministry has been put together by direction of Consistory to delve into matters better known as "Life Planning". We have organized and contacted several area professionals and speakers outside the church. These individuals will present seminars and workshops covering such topics as Wills & Estate Planning, Investing for the Long Term, Life Insurance, The Biblical Mandate for Planned Giving & Life Planning and many other topics that will benefit us all.

The Seminar/Workshop series will begin in the third quarter of this year and will be open to the congregation and other interested parties. The program will continue in an ongoing basis. There will be no charge for this series.

I truly believe that, no matter where you are on life's journey, the subject matter presented will be helpful to each of us, our immediate families and to our Church Family. I urge that you and your families take advantage of this opportunity to plan and welcome your attending.

In His Service,

Louis C. Franconi  
Committee Chairman

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
101 Worthington Road  
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