

CHRIST'S CHURCH at LOWHILL
United Church of Christ
4695 Lowhill Church Road
New Tripoli Pennsylvania 18066

610-298-2527

www.christschurchatlowhill.com

The "Good News" Letter

JULY 3, 2011

Pastor: The Rev. Russell Campbell

"If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don't use my holy day for personal advantage; if you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, God's holy day as a celebration; if you honor it by refusing 'business as usual', making money, running here and there—then you'll be free to enjoy God! Oh, I'll make you ride high and soar above it all. I'll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob." Yes! God says so! (Isaiah 58:13-14, The Message).

Sabbath is a time of joy and celebration, a time to enjoy God. The word Sabbath comes from the Latin *sabbatum* and the Hebrew word *sabbat*, meaning "to cease and rest". Judaism recognizes Shabbat as a time to encounter and renew *Shekina*, our relationship to the Divine Presence—to God. Sabbath is a time of heart-opening, of thanksgiving, of spiritual renewal.

Sabbath is central to the spiritual life. Wayne Mueller, in his book Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives, calls us to recognize the vital necessity of Sabbath time. He writes:

All life requires a rhythm of rest. There is a rhythm in our waking activity and the body's need for sleep. There is a rhythm in the way day dissolves into night, and night into morning... In our bodies, the heart perceptibly rests after each life-giving beat. We have lost this essential rhythm. Our culture invariably supposes that action and accomplishment are better than rest. Because we do not rest, we lose our way. We miss the compass points that would show us where to go, we bypass the nourishment that would give us [comfort]. We miss the quiet that would give us wisdom. We miss the joy and love born of effortless delight.

I have been especially challenged in this area. I have learned and am still learning the hard lessons of slowing down, letting go, and resting. Since I lead worship services on the designated time for Sabbath—Sunday—some weeks my Sabbath time is Saturday. Some weeks, it's another weekday or parts of two weekdays. I have learned and am continuing to learn that whenever Sabbath time is missed or overlooked or scheduled over, I long for *Shekina*—that renewing and rejuvenating relationship to God.

Perhaps my challenge is your challenge, too. Then I invite you to set aside Sabbath time with your church family this summer. Let our worship services be part of your Sabbaths!

Peace and joy,
Pastor Russ

PASTORAL ACTS: MAY-JUNE, 2011

May 15: **Baptism of Ryan William Shellhammer**, son of Sarah and Bill Shellhammer.

June 5: **Rite of Confirmation for Vanessa Nicole Blose, Natasha Nicole Bowes, Stephanie Virginia Bowes, Daniel Elwood Baush Gross, Gabrielle Elizabeth Loch, Rebecca Lynn Locher, and Erika Lee Smith.**

June 19: **Reception of New Members/Reaffirmation of Baptism for Susan Heffner, Thomas Taylor, and Laura Heffner.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15: Penny Party, 7:00 pm

July 17: Vesper worship service, 5:00 pm

July 18-22: Vacation Bible School

July 25: Joint Council @ Christ's Church, 6:30 pm

August 7: Outdoor worship/Holy Communion, 10:30 am (changed from Aug 21)

August 14: Shared outdoor worship with St Paul's at Ontelaunee Park, 10:00 am

August 20: Night in the Country



Please remember - Save Redner's grocery receipts and aluminum cans for recycling.

Food Pantry Update - June 28, 2011

There is much happening at the Food Pantry these days. We have been able to reach our goal of \$80,000 in donations to build a much needed addition to the pantry to allow us to store all of our food in one site. Construction will begin within the second week of July. Mostly volunteer construction and skilled labor personnel will be doing the actual building under the direction of Marvin Smith, President of Sons of the Carpenter. Joe Mitlyng will work with him on the coordination of the subs. Dale Watt, from our congregation will be actively involved at the beginning digging the foundation.

The work will take about four months so it will be a challenge to continue to operate the Pantry during that time. We will have to change our Saturday morning distribution and also the stocking of shelves on Saturdays. Food donations will still be needed - especially in the summer when there are no food drives on-going.

Since the labor is mostly volunteered time, the work will occur on Friday eves, Saturday all day and possibly Tues evenings. We will be asked to feed the workers on Saturdays and Christ's Church has volunteered the kitchen for that purpose. Anyone who would like to help with this should contact me at terryrm@ptd.net.

This is an exciting time for us. The Food Pantry is truly a community project and has received wide-spread support in the form of volunteers, donations and food. We feel very blessed.

PENNY PARTY

Our 2nd Penny Party for 2011 will be held July 15th at 7:00 PM.

Will need your items at the church by Sunday, July 10th to mark them.

Will need finger foods for intermission and would also appreciate any monetary donations to help cover expenses.

Also in need of empty check-book boxes for our numbers. Any questions, please see Anna Raub or call her at 610-868-0928. Thank You!

NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY

Saturday, August 20th is Night in the Country and another fundraiser for the church.

Needed are volunteers and baked items. In the planning stages, but some people who will be able to answer your questions are Larry Hower, Jen Locher or Mark Schlofer.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee would like you to notice the newly installed handrail in hallway after leaving sanctuary. Cracks in the parking lot have been sealed to help protect and preserve it. A first aid kit and also the new defibulator have been mounted on wall by Pastor's office.

Camelot for Children-submitted by Mark Schlofer:

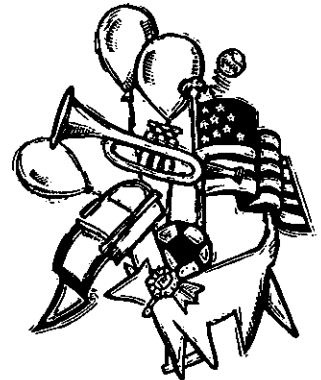
This year, our Fall Festival is benefiting "Camelot for Children" in Allentown. Camelot is a non-profit organization that benefits and helps terminally, chronically, and seriously ill and disabled children in the Lehigh Valley. They established the "Camelot House" in 1989 as a place for these children and their families to use for social networking (i.e. parties, dances, summer camp, etc.), education, grieving, counseling, and most importantly - a place where they can feel comfortable!

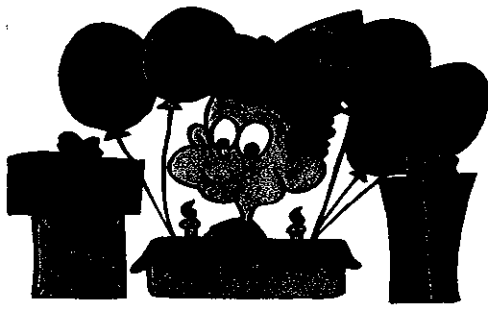
I visited the Camelot House in March to work out the details of our fall festival and was moved by the amount of social activities they put on for the kids and their families. Events such as monthly Friday evening teen nights (dances with a DJ, Valentines Formal, Disco Party, Prom, etc.), and monthly Sunday Parties make this a very, very busy place. Typically, they rely on youth organizations to assist with not only the event planning, but help during the event. The feedback that they get is that the youth organizations learn more about themselves and how to be more helpful and understanding in an environment that they may not get in school.

Those youth members/volunteers who will be joining Camelot for Summer Camp on July 18th are: Brandy Locher, Becca Locher, Scott Locher, and Gaby Loch. Possibly, Erika Smith and my niece Olivia will attend as well.

I will also attend Camp for the day with the kids. If you are interested in helping for that day, please let me know (my cell # is 610-597-8498). I am taking a van that day, so we all can meet at the church in the morning - time TBD. I think camp starts at 9am. I'll find out about lunch and snacks. They will be back in time VBS that evening at church.

The theme for the day at Camp is American Idol, so singing and dancing will be promoted.





KIDS AGES 4-12 INVITED TO CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

by: Michele Schock

There's a party goin' on right here
A celebration to last throughout the years
So bring your good times, and your laughter too
We gonna celebrate your party with you

All children ages 4-12 are invited to join us for a week of partying as we "Celebrate God's Love" during vacation bible school July 18th-22nd from 6-8:30 PM. Our VBS program is free and open to the community, so please invite your friends. Throughout the week all children and staff will share a party dinner each evening at 6:30PM, be entertained by our skit performers, play games, sing, and make crafts. They will also be helping our actors to plan Friday evening's party finale for family, friends, and members. Join us as we also celebrate our 7th year of writing and performing our own VBS program.

Complete the registration form attached to this newsletter or print it from our website at www.christschurchatlowhill.com. Return it to Michele Schock by July 10th. While we know you won't want to miss a single exciting night partying with us at VBS, you are welcome to celebrate with us as many of the five nights as your schedule allows.

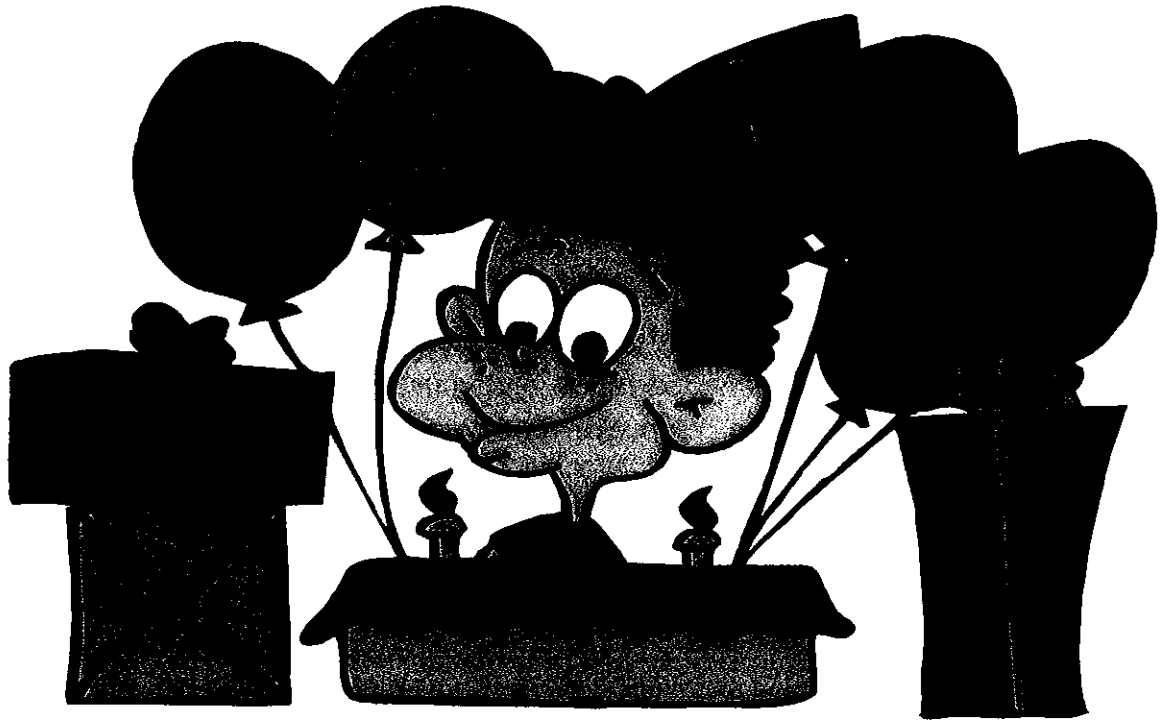
If you have any party decorations that you would like to donate or loan to us to transform the church into a giant party, please let me know. We are seeking items like balloons, party horns, party hats, large pieces of sturdy cardboard to make our props, paints, cardboard boxes of various sizes for us to gift wrap like presents, cake decorations, white butcher paper.

Additionally, we are looking for donations of craft supplies like, festive children's stickers, plain party hats for the children to decorate, assorted sizes and colors of pom poms, assorted colors of curling ribbon, tulle circles for party favors,

Volunteers are always welcome at VBS. Please let us know if you'd like to help by heating and serving meals, kitchen clean up, making crafts, organizing games, decorating and designing props, photographing the nightly activities, acting, or with some other talent not mentioned. Finally, if you would like to make a monetary donation to defray VBS expenses, please place your donation in a sealed envelope labeled VBS, and place it in the offering tray or mail it to the church:

Christ's Church at Lowhill UCC
Attn: VBS
4695 Lowhill Church Road
New Tripoli PA 18066

YOU'RE INVITED



WHO:

YOU AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS AGES 4-12!
(Children age 3 and under are welcome to attend with an adult)

WHAT:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK-LONG PARTY
to
CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

WHEN:

MONDAY, JULY 18TH - FRIDAY, 22ND, 2011
6:00-8:30PM

(Dinner served at 6:30PM for children and staff)

WHERE:

CHRIST'S CHURCH AT LOWHILL, UCC
4695 Lowhill Church Road, New Tripoli PA 18066
(Next to Christ's Church at Lowhill Food Pantry)

RSVP:

BY JULY 10TH TO REGISTER OR VOLUNTEER
Church Office 610-298-2527 or Michele Schock 610-298-8727
www.christschurchatlowhill.com







Vacation Bible School Registration Form

CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

July 18-22nd, 2011 from 6:00-8:30 PM

Christ's Church at Lowhill, UCC, 4695 Lowhill Church Road, New Tripoli PA 18066



Parent's Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone #: _____

Emergency Contact: _____
 Relationship: _____
 Emergency Phone #: _____

Below please list your children who will be attending vacation bible school. Provide a detailed description of pertinent allergy and medical information for each child. If additional space is needed, please write information on back of form or attach a separate sheet of paper that clearly identifies to which child the information pertains.

<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Allergies and Reactions</u>	<u>Medical Conditions</u>

My children will be attending VBS on the following nights. (Please circle all that apply) M Tu W Th F

My child(ren) have permission to participate in Christ's Church at Lowhill, UCC's Vacation Bible School program from July 18th through July 22nd, 2011.

Parent's Signature: _____

Mail completed registration by July 10th to *Christ's Church at Lowhill UCC, Attn: Michele Schock, 4695 Lowhill Church Road, New Tripoli PA 18066.*