



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

610-298-2527

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## ***The "Good News" Letter***

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AUGUST 2009

Greetings Congregation,

I have observations to share. Recently, my porch hosted a house wren nest in a large flower pot a parishioner gave to me for my birthday. Sparrows also built a nest above the church doors on the ledge. I am ever reminded of the creativity and innovation of birds and how our church may transform through their example. Birds adapt to their neighborhood and use the resources and tools from their environment to proliferate around my house and at the church. How our church can learn from their model! The birds have literally made the church their home. What are we doing with our church to attract people? How can we open our church doors and invite the community into our church? The birds are doing a good job of inviting their friends, neighbors and family over. How can we make our church a bustling place of spirituality and activity?

For a discussion on this topic, I invite you to become a part of a group forming this fall. We will study and talk about the book "Spiritual Amnesia: Remembering What It Means to Be the Church" by Paul Nixon. If you would like to be a part of this discipleship group and I encourage everyone to consider this opportunity; please let me know so I may order the books. We will meet six times beginning September 23. More information will follow on location and time. We are going to try meeting at a local restaurant for something new. I ask that you consider participating in the book club, as we will examine issues of reviving church, discipleship versus membership, modernizing and inviting new people from the community.

In the meantime, let us learn from our feathered neighbors and invite a friend to church. The more the merrier; it works for the birds!

Blessings,

Rev. Rebecca J. McMichael

**In Loving Memory of Victoria S. Greenawald** submitted by Mike Schock

A great friend and member of our congregation passed away on August 3, 2009. I just wanted to pass along some memories, which I had of our past years together.

Vicky was a person that if you took the time to really get to know her, your life was greatly enriched for having her in it. Every encounter we had started the same way. I'd say, "Hello Victoria, How are you doing today?". She'd have a huge smile, say "I'm doing good" and she'd roll up her sleeves and get busy helping me with whatever fund raiser I happened to be working on that day. She'd show up an hour early to help me get hoagie bags ready or stay hours later than everyone else to help me package "just one more box of candy". She also helped out with the basket social committee and the penny parties.

She was a great country music fan and could tell me endless stories of the concerts she attended and the artists she would follow around the area. Some of them saw her so often they knew her by name.

Vicky also had a special bond with my children Ryan and Erin. She would always take the time to listen to their stories and in return whenever she would leave, they would need to walk her to her car to protect her from the T-Rex dinosaurs and tigers in the church parking lot. She really loved kids and went along with all of their very imaginative stories.

I just wanted to personally thank her for her friendship and all her help over the past years and let her know that she will always hold a special place in my heart. You will be greatly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of calling you their friend.



## Sandwich Sales

We will be selling Italian Hoagies, Turkey Hoagies and Ham and Cheese sandwiches again in September. The cost is \$3.50 per item. The orders will be due in early September. I'm currently finalizing some details from the supplier and will get the order forms out shortly. This is a very easy fundraiser for the church- so if you haven't sold hoagies before, please consider it. If you would like to join in some fun church fellowship come join the "hoagie crew" and help make them. To place an order or for more info, please contact Mike Schock at 610-298-8727 or 610-573-3297.

## Mortgage update

The mortgage balance on the social hall addition is exactly \$31,703.21 . If you would like to make a donation towards the mortgage principal, you can place it in the offering plate in an envelope marked Mortgage Debt Reduction. The sale of leaves and rocks for our Tree of Life in the social hall also goes directly to the mortgage principal. If you would like more info on sponsoring a leaf or rock in memory or in honor of your loved ones, please see Beverly Moyer.

We were recently blessed by an endowment from the estate of Paul Boger Sr. Our church received a gift of \$2,930.34 from the estate, which was applied towards the mortgage. Mr. Boger was the uncle of church member, Dorothy Watt.

## Save your aluminum cans!!

We would greatly appreciate donations of your aluminum cans. This is an on going fundraiser we just wanted to remind everyone about. There is a blue can located to the left of the lower church entrance to place your cans in. Tell your friends and families to save them for us too! A special thanks to Larry Levan and Joette Levan for coordinating this effort.

## Treasurer Report effective 07/31/09

Current checking account balance: \$39.97

### Income statement for June

Total income: \$9,211.40 (\$2,930 of this total was a one time estate inheritance)  
Total expenses: \$9,878.84  
Net income: -\$667.44

### Income statement for July

Total income: \$7,634.25  
Total expenses: \$9,248.09  
Net income: -\$1,613.84

### Income Statement- Year to date

Total income: \$68,369.97  
Total expenses: \$72,009.50  
Net income: -\$3,639.53



While our expenses have been less than budgeted year to date, at the end of August we have a property tax bill due in the amount of \$3086 and with winter approaching we foresee higher heating bills. Our income has been less than expected due to lower church attendance and total giving. Over the past two months, we have had to pull approximately \$3050 from the Smith Barney investment fund to compensate for the shortage in income.

While many of us take vacations during the summer, remember that the church expenses continue. Please consider mailing your weekly offerings to the church "Attention: Treasurer", if you are unable to attend.

Submitted by,  
Mike Schock, Treasurer

## PROPERTY

### Work projects

1. Toilet installed in Food Pantry
2. Air conditioner installed in Food Pantry

### Church work projects

3. Doors painted on outside
4. Concrete cracks fix and patched in front of church
5. Electric work done on the outside concrete stage
6. Material for Night in the Country
7. Washed and cleaned pavilion for outside services
8. Work on repair for sign out front
9. Cedar trees removed
10. Tree planted in back of food pantry
11. Work completed on furnace on number registration

Larry Hower 484-357-5881

## Evangelism

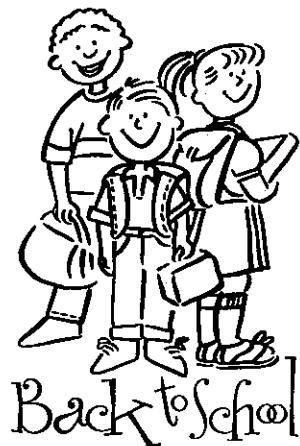
Just a quick update on our website: June was a great month for the site, with over 700 views and 150 visitors. Most of the people viewing the website in June were interested in the Food Pantry and Calendar pages. In July, the same pages were viewed the most. The community has been linking with our website through a number of other websites. In June, 18 requests were made through [www.carshownews.com/national/PA.htm](http://www.carshownews.com/national/PA.htm), followed by 20 in July. Weisenberg.com has also linked 21 people from their website.

Check out the website for information on the Food Pantry - volunteer, refer the needy!! Also check out the information for Apple Peels and Car Wheels Festival in Oct!!! - volunteer, tell all your friends!!

Thanks,  
Corin

## Christian Education Committee Newsletter

Now is the time that you hear the children moaning that vacation is over and it's time to go back to school. Well now is the time that vacation is over for the Sunday School, but we won't moan because we have a fun time planned for the fall again. Our Rally Day Sunday is September 13, 2009. I think something will be cooking in the kitchen so why don't you join us for this multigenerational class. Normal classes will resume the following Sunday with classes for the very young all the way up to adult (I won't say the very old). Classes will again be from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Hope to see you there for some fun times..



I want to say Thank You to everyone for the phone calls, cards and prayers. Thank you also to Pastor Becky for her visits.

Sincerely, Annabelle Smith

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**PENNY PARTY**

Our last Penny Party for 2009 will be Friday, November 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:00 PM. We are looking for any donations (this would be a good time for Christmas items), food items or whatever.

We will accept monetary donations to help defray expenses. Thank You – Anna Raub

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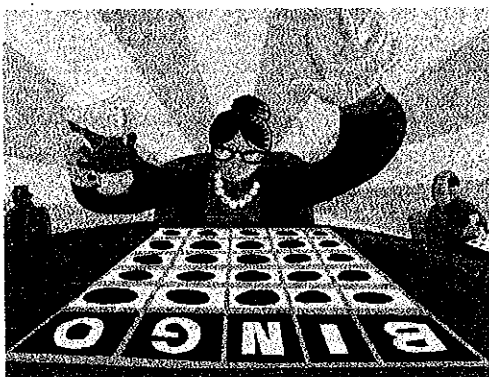
On May 18th we had our 11th annual Basket Social. It was a great success and we brought in a profit of about \$1500 for the church. Many thanks go out to everyone who devoted their time to make this event the great success that it was. Also, many thanks to everyone who donated baskets, items for baskets, and monetary donations. It takes many people to make a fundraiser successful and thankfully we had many who were willing to make this work. Look for us next year!

Jen Locher

**SPIRIT**

It's BASKET BINGO TIME!!! Saturday, November 14, 2009  
Christmas Party - Saturday, December 5, 2009

Thanks,  
Corin



**BASKET BINGO**

**Saturday, November 14, 2009**

Featuring Longaberger Baskets and Products

Hosted by: SPIRIT

Invite your family and friends for an afternoon of FUN, FUN, FUN!

See enclosed flier for details.

If you'd like to help coordinate this event by serving on the planning or kitchen committees, please speak to Jen Locher, Corin Watt, or Michele Schock.

# BASKET BINGO



FEATURING:  
LONGABERGER BASKETS & PRODUCTS

**Only 100 tickets available for this event!!**

**WHEN:** **Saturday, November 14, 2009**  
12:00 pm: Doors/Kitchen Open  
1:00 pm: Bingo Begins

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

**COST:** **\$20/ticket (Includes 20 games of bingo & door prize chance.)**  
*(Ticket is required for admission.)*

**To order tickets**  
**contact Michele Schock at 610-298-8727 or [schockmm@ptd.net](mailto:schockmm@ptd.net).**

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## DIRECTIONS

**From Schnecksville:**

Take 309 North to Route 100; turn left onto Route 100S and follow for 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Herber Road for about 2/10 of a mile, at the white brick schoolhouse turn left onto Lowhill Church Road into the Church parking lot.

**From Fogelsville:**

Follow Route 100N for 5.5 miles; turn left onto Herber Road for about 2/10 of a mile, at the white brick schoolhouse turn left onto Lowhill Church Road into the Church parking lot.



## **SAILING THROUGH LIFE'S STORMS WITH GOD**

by: Michele Schock

Come sail away, come sail away, come sail away with us. Vacation Bible School was held July 20-24<sup>th</sup>. The altar and sanctuary were transformed into the USS Lowhill upon which the children and staff "Sailed Through Life's Storms with God" each evening. They learned about Noah and the flood and Paul's sea travels and shipwreck. As part of VBS's mission program the sixteen children in attendance and their families donated \$58.04 and 60 pounds of food and personal care items to the Christ's Church Food Pantry.

View the photos on our website at [www.christschurchatlowhill.com](http://www.christschurchatlowhill.com).

Many thanks to this year's staff who made it all so much fun!!

### **STAFF**

Michele Schock – VBS & Craft Director  
Marlene Ritter – Script Director  
Pastor Becky – Scripture Director  
Jason Ruhe/Corin Watt – Music Directors  
Melissa & Bryan Wessner/Alex Loch – Game Directors  
Jen Locher – Photography Director  
Mike Schock – Kitchen Director  
Joette Levan – Kitchen Assistant  
Larry Hower – Kitchen Assistant  
Linda Loch – Kitchen Assistant  
Shirley Ruhe – Kitchen Assistant  
Lucy Schlofer – Kitchen Assistant  
Jamie Marth – Kitchen Assistant

### **CAST**

Rhonda Dengler – Captain  
Dave Marth – First Officer  
Brittany Dengler – Second Officer  
Brandy Locher – Third Officer  
Melissa Wessner – Cruise Director  
Bryan Wessner – Safety Officer  
Alex Loch – Bosun  
Tyler Smith – Bosun  
Marlene Ritter – Staff Officer

### **SPECIAL THANK YOU**

Joette Levan and her Mom for Tuesday's craft idea.

Guest Speaker Nancy Holbrook, Vice Chair  
Christ's Church Food Pantry, for sharing the importance of the pantry within our community with the children.

Rob Frisch and Drako, his therapy dog, for spending time with the children Monday evening.

### **PROP & CRAFT DONATIONS**

Mitlyng Family  
Locher Family  
Haley Family  
Dengler Family  
Schock Family  
Corin Watt  
Ritter Family  
Anna Raub  
Levan Family  
The Children of VBS

## **Christ's Church at Lowhill Food Pantry**

We opened our doors May 21<sup>st</sup> to serve our first families. We only helped 2 families representing 8 people that first day. Since then we have really grown. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the sixth time we were open to serve, we had 31 families come representing 100 people! We now have 42 registered households at the pantry. We have had donations of food and money from ten churches. Many volunteers have donated hours of work to prepare the pantry initially and to help serve the families who come for help. We are very grateful for this help.

The idea of the food pantry began March 8, 2009. Christ's Church Property Committee voted to support it and the Church Council passed a resolution giving us the go-ahead to put it in place. The one-room school house was approved as the site for the pantry. Joe and Terry Mitlyng were charged with setting it up and running it. Early on Ralph Zettlemoyer and Joe Mitlyng went to the Lowhill Township and asked for money to pave the walkway to the parking lot and a truck pad in front of the school house. They gave us \$2000. Since then we have received donations of over \$20,000 to renovate the school house and stock it with food. These donations have come from individuals, businesses, churches and the Townships of Lowhill and Lynn. Seven area churches are sponsoring the pantry by providing operating funds and have representatives on a steering committee chaired by Terry Ryan-Mitlyng. These churches are Ebenezer UCC, Hope Community Church, Jacob's Union Church, New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Weisenberg Lutheran, and Zeigels Union Church. In addition our sister church St. Paul's has donated food and volunteers. Also St. Peter's Union Church and Heidelberg UCC have been strong supporters.

A dedication service was held at Christ's Church on June 14<sup>th</sup> for the pantry with several pastors from the supporting churches taking part in the service. A prayer of dedication was held in the pantry itself. Over 40 dedicated volunteers and their family members attended. Jason Ruhe provided music as Pastor Becky conducted the service. Pastor Hand from Weisenberg Lutheran, Pastor Kevin Fructal from Ebenezer UCC, Pastors Herbert Michel and Candi Cain-Borgman from Zeigels Union Church also participated.

Like we say in our brochure "Many of us are just one paycheck, just one illness, just one job loss from needing the help of others. Some are living on limited incomes. It is our belief that no one in this land of plenty should go hungry." Many others obviously feel the same way as the contributions we have received are almost overwhelming. We will need to have continuing support in order to be able to serve low income families in this area for some time to come. The pantry allows each one of us to serve those in need as part of our own private ministry to others. You are welcome to join us in this endeavor.

For those interested in either donating food or working in the pantry please check out our page on the Christ's Church website. [www.christschurchatlowhill.com](http://www.christschurchatlowhill.com). You will find the volunteer schedule there and also a list of needed food and personal items. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please email me at [terryrm@ptd.net](mailto:terryrm@ptd.net) or call 610-737-8758. Money donations may be put in the offering plate designated for the pantry or mailed to:

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

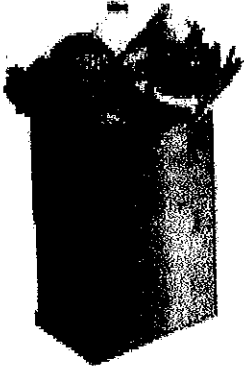
Attached is a copy of the flyer we are putting in local businesses. Please think of posting it in a place that will be noticed by those in need. Thank you.

Terry Ryan-Mitlyng

# Food Assistance Available

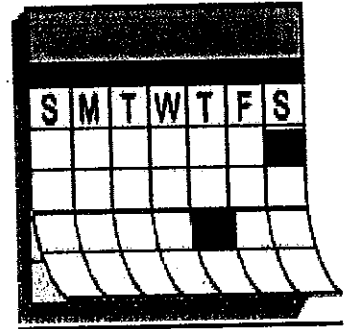
to residents of Northwestern Lehigh School District

**Christ's Church at Lowhill Food Pantry**  
 4695 Lowhill Church Road  
 New Tripoli, PA 18066  
 610-298-2054



**Open first Saturday from 9 am to Noon and  
 the third Thursday from 4 pm to 7 pm**

**Donations accepted 9-noon the third  
 Thursday or by arrangement**



**From Route 22 and Route 78 Take Route 100 North to Herber Road, Turn left, the  
 pantry is in the one-room school house on the left side**

All information given is kept confidential. Eligibility is based on the size of the household and the current yearly, monthly or weekly household income level as indicated below

	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
One person	\$ 15,600	\$ 1,300	\$ 300
Two people	\$ 21,000	\$ 1,750	\$ 404
Three people	\$ 26,400	\$ 2,200	\$ 508
Four people	\$ 31,800	\$ 2,650	\$ 612
Five people	\$ 37,200	\$ 3,100	\$ 715
Six people	\$ 42,600	\$ 3,550	\$ 819
Seven people	\$ 48,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 923
Eight people	\$ 53,400	\$ 4,450	\$ 1,027

Each household will receive 3-days worth of food at no charge when they come to the pantry. Food is available through a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and donations from individuals, member churches, local businesses and the Townships.

Apple Peels and Car Wheels 2009  
Saturday, October 3, 2009 2pm-8pm

Our Fall Event is rapidly approaching and we are looking forward to a fun and exciting event. We have booked the band Nite Flyte to play on our stage from 4pm to 7pm. They are a great, local band that play cover songs from bands like the Eagles, the Beatles, ZZ Top, etc. You will love them! We have also received permission from the Township to close Lowhill Church Rd. from the Herber Rd. intersection to allow us a safer, larger place to work and park cars.

Committees have been formed and there is currently a sign up sheet in the narthex if you can help us out in anyway. I am looking for all church members to volunteer some time leading up to and during the event. As you can imagine, it is going to require our entire church team to pull this event off.

The Car Show aspect of the event is being widely advertised with local car clubs, web sites and will soon be posted in the Northwestern Press and the Penn Northeast Conference web site. In addition to that, we have handed out hundreds of flyers at local car show events. Hopefully the word is getting out. I encourage everyone to grab a handfull of flyers from church and distribute them in your workplace and to friends and family members. This is the only way for us to get the word out by not spending a lot of money.

In addition to the Car Show, there will be games (for kids and adults), Food for sale, Baked Goods for sale, bloodpressure screening, and possibly an Icee Truck from Angel 34 handing out free Icees!

If you would like more information on the event or if you would like to volunteer, please see Mark Schlofer, Jen Locher, Michele Schock, Corin Watt, Pastor Becky, Marlene Ritter or Mike Tomscics. Remember, this event is an Evangelical event and is meant to bring new families, groups or individuals to the church and hopefully even more members! Your help is desperately needed to make this event a success.

Thank You, Mark Schlofer