

# FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

May 2011  
Volume 1, Issue 5

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Dear Friends,

One of the wonderful privileges of being Pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ is that, as a part of my calling, you have offered me "Sabbatical" time upon the completion of every seven years of ministry. My preceding Sabbatical was taken end of the summer and into the fall, 2004. This year I will be observing a Half Sabbatical (six weeks rather than the usual twelve weeks), and when I bracket those weeks with three vacation weeks it means I will be away from the pulpit and normal parish duties for the period, June 20 through August 21. Your Pastor Parish Relations Committee and Consistory have supported this plan.

Not all goals for this sabbatical have been formulated but as for now I believe I will concentrate on doing some self-study work in the area of biblical storytelling. I have long been fascinated with the intimate day by day events related to us in the story of the shepherd David who was called to become the second, and the greatest king of Israel's history. David's personal life and family relationships were filled with many high as well as many troubled times, and they are chronicled closely in the books of First and Second Samuel.

Many of you know that I have shared the biblical storytelling model on some preaching occasions over the last several years. A study in this direction would help me to prepare to present strong biblical stories in a new way for our hearing and may help all of us come to new perspectives, regarding the Bible's impact on our own personal and familial faith stories.

I and Jean would also like to travel on a couple of occasions. We have family and friends across the upper reaches of New York State and into New England; we see ourselves making a sweep of visits through this area.

We trust that you had a chance to say "hello" to The Reverend Patricia Mullen who led us in worship on Sunday April 3. Pat has covenanted and is glad to provide all worship leadership and pastoral services for our congregation during the Sabbatical period. She and her husband, Michael, reside in the Lewisberry area of York County.

This reinforces the fact that I will not be available to participate in pastoral responsibilities nor will I be available to receive calls from members of the congregation throughout this June 20-August 21 period.

The roots of "sabbatical" come from our Old testament understanding of "Sabbath" the day of rest, renewal and re-creation which concluded the week of God's creation of the world. It is a time set apart from "usual" responsibilities in order that pastor and congregation, both, may become refreshed and strengthened for the journey ahead.

I share these thoughts and plans with you so that you may offer up prayers for me as I strive to fulfill these goals and so that you may offer prayers for the spiritual growth of the congregation during this new day ahead.

Faithfully Yours,



See you in church,  
Pastor Dennis

## MAY SPECIAL DAYS:

### Birthdays

3 Holden Gobrecht  
9 Mabelle Horick  
9 John Brenneman  
9 William Welsby  
10 Brendan Kern  
11 Jessica Hoffman  
14 Bradley Stough  
21 Joyce Kain  
21 Fay Herman  
22 Martha Emig\*  
23 Darlene Hoover  
29 Rachel Lau\*  
29 Steve Miller  
30 Kecia Lau  
31 Mark Bollinger

### **\*Over eighty:**

Rachel Lau  
425 Westminster Ave  
Creekside 1116  
Hanover Pa 17331

Martha Emig  
4735 Zeigler's Church Rd  
Spring Grove Pa 17362

### Baptismal Birthdays

4 Barb Pate  
9 Stephen Brooks  
10 Kayce Gentzler  
11 Tammy Wallick  
11 Chester Wallick  
17 Shelby Beck  
19 Ashlyn Fritz  
19 Layne Stover  
22 James Kain  
28 Karen Brooks  
29 Juanita Miller

### Wedding Anniversaries

May 14 Jason & Whitney Stover  
May 16 Rick & Theresa Beck  
May 16 Jason & April Gruver  
May 19 Chester & Jeannie Wallick  
May 21 Michael & Cathy Bollinger  
May 31 Jake & Barb Pate



**Please remember the following in your prayers:**

### Members

Bob & Deb Henry,  
Greyson Stough,

### Members & Friends in assisted living and nursing homes

Janet Booz  
Gerry Gentzler  
Grace Gladfelter  
Mildred Gobrecht  
John and Rachel Lau  
Anna Smith  
Jeannie Wallick  
June Whitecomb



### Members of the military and their families

Eric Brown  
Chris Glass (Husband of Sarah Glass)  
Matthew Mitzel  
Jake Pate (civilian)  
David Stricker Jr.  
Benjamin White

### Friends

Jo Feeser  
Mike Zeigler, Sr.  
Bonnie Shearer  
Noah Wischhusen



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### **Offerings:**

**Sunday School Offering** will be forwarded on to Harvest of Hope

**Worship offering** will be forwarded, May 8 Mother's Day, to Homewood  
Thank you!

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*Too much of a good thing can actually be bad for you. Just ask the Hebrews about that trip out of Egypt (Read Exodus 16 & Numbers 11)!*

On March 25, 2011, CBS affiliates began running a story regarding the emergence of yet another "superbug", known as CRKP. CRKP bacteria have been identified in 356 cases in LA County, California. As with several superbugs it began hitting nursing homes and hospitals, appearing in those patients on respirators and ventilators and in some patients with surgical wounds. It has been estimated that death can occur in approximately 40% of all cases.

CRKP now joins the ranks of other superbugs, such as: MRSA, Streptococcus pneumoniae, C.diff, VRE, Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Neisseria gonorrhoea, which have mutated/changed to such a degree that traditional antibiotics are no longer effective in treating these infections. How has this happened? Some antibiotics have been used so frequently and widely, that these organisms have 'adapted' to them, making the antibiotic much less or in some cases, totally in-effective. When antibiotics no longer work, the consequences include longer lasting illness, more office visits, extended hospital stays, and a need for increasingly expensive and sometimes toxic medications.

How do we combat the problem? As in any situation in which there is a potential for infection, prevention is key.

1. Do not visit friends and loved ones in the hospital or extended care facility if you are ill.
2. Watch for signs posted on the patient's door regarding the use of gowns and gloves. Gowning and gloving are meant provide self-protection as well as prevent the patient from acquiring infection.
3. Wash your hands before and after your visit, or use the alcohol-based hand cleaner (Note: if using alcohol-based products, be sure the gel has dried before putting on gloves – alcohol can cause breakdown of the gloves).
4. Avoid overuse – do not demand antibiotics from your physician (Upper respiratory infections account for 75% of all antibiotics prescribed by office-based physicians).
5. Do not hoard antibiotics that have been discontinued. The medication can break down, and lose effectiveness, allowing the bacteria to build a resistance.
6. Do not share antibiotics – the problem is compounded when the incorrect antibiotic is used to self-treat.
7. Follow all medication directions. Typically a physician will write a prescription that requires you take all of the medication unless informed otherwise. Ending treatment too early, may allow some of the bacteria to survive and re-infect.

Two controversial areas of concern which require further study, include:

1. The widespread use of antibacterial soaps and lotions, and
2. The agricultural use of antibiotics in livestock and fowl.

When Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin in 1928 he ushered in a revolution, which saved the lives of countless people, and changed medicine forever. It is now up to us to be responsible stewards of the life-saving antibiotics that have been developed in the interim.

*Spring Blessings*

*Debbie Best RN, BSW, MHA*

*(For additional information, check out [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))*

**Women's Luncheon and Social – May 7, at 11:30 am.** social hall. Sign-up at church or call the church office by Monday May 2.

It's time for **Homewood at Plum Creek's Annual tea**, Saturday, July 9 at 12:30 PM in the Windows Dining Room at the Community Center. Cost is \$17.50 per person. See Darlene Hoover by May 8<sup>th</sup> to make your reservation

**Sunday School Teacher and Graduate Recognition** will take place during the worship service on May 22. Please give 2011 high school, college or trade school graduation information to Shannon Kern or Jen Miller by May 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Congregational Survey:** The Pastor/Parish Relations Committee has prepared a survey which will be made available along with the worship bulletins beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is asked to complete the survey and return to the box by Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank you, Pastor/Parish Relations Committee.

**The Time, Talent, and Treasure Hunt** is on again this year. Many positive comments were shared from those who participated last year. "It feels good to do something for someone else," "I got to know other church members better," "I learned a new skill," "I was able to have something done at my home that I couldn't do myself." The Treasure Hunt raised over \$1,100 towards the Faith Challenge portion of our budget last year.

Each one of us has been made unique in God's image, and we each have different and unique talents and skills. Please complete one of the forms available in the narthex and return to the Treasure Box by May 28.  
Stewardship Committee

## This Month's Lay Helpers

### Acolytes

- 1 Ashlyn Fritz
- 8 Caitlin Hoffman
- 15 Braden Gobrecht
- 22 Brandon Wherley
- 29 Jena Hull

### Greeters

- 1 Terry & Nancy Miller
- 8 Jim Wherley Family
- 15 Mark Hull Family
- 22 Nevin Gentzler Family
- 29 Eric Kern Family

### Lay Readers

- 1 Shannon Kern
- 8 Barb Senft
- 15 Ginny Thoman
- 22 Steve Kern
- 29 Christina Stough

### Nursery

- 1 Shannon Kern
- 8 Maryann Brenneman
- 15 Connie Clancy
- 22 Kathy Sterrett
- 29 Deb Henry