

***So. Montrose Community Church
October, 2015 Newsletter***



Message From Our Pastor . . .

“Do all the good you can, at all the times you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can” John Wesley’s Motto

As a child, youth, and young adult, I have always had some sense of Wesley’s motto in my life. Even before I knew who John Wesley was my family lived the challenge to do all the good we could in as many places as possible and with as many people as we encountered. My parents taught me generosity of time, money and talents. My parents were examples of love thy neighbor as thy self. They would often drop what they had planned to help someone in need on a farm, in a yard, with their pets, or simply to be a friendly presence in the midst of illness or death of a neighbor. Sometimes it was frustrating as a child when one of my parents would say, “We can’t go to the fair today, our neighbor needs help. But in the midst of growing up I learned that it isn’t all about me, myself, and I. My parents weren’t rich in material possessions or money, but we always gave to our church and its ministries. Why did we give? Because we knew our church members were making a difference in the life of our community. My Mom would often say, “What we put in the offering plate this week, will come back to us 3 fold next week”. As I look back now, even in times of leanness, the Lord provided what we needed.

We often met folks on our journey of life that needed a helping hand. We had a big garden and my parents would often give lettuce, potatoes and tomatoes among other garden vegetables to

our neighbors, relatives, co-workers and to people we just heard through the grape vine had fallen on hard times and needed some food. Later on, I found out that some of those veggies were given to friends of mine at school that I had no idea had wants or needs.

With that kind of faith and generosity in my family background, I learned about stewardship. If God really does come first in my life, then giving to God should also come first. I use to think that after I paid my bills, I would then give to God, but in later years I realized that I had it all wrong. Because after I pay my bills, I can’t afford to give to God. For many years I put the cart before the horse. Putting first things first means giving first and then managing the rest of my income in a way that I can still pay all my bills.

Why support our church? Our church is a family, but it is also a world-wide family and is Jesus’ living body. We are a community that supports and strengthens all its members. It is our home of worship where we gather to praise and glorify God. Our church is the center of activity that renews our lives and helps us better understand God’s word, others and ourselves. Our church needs your support. What you give joyfully from your heart enables our church to share Christ’s message, care for others in our body, the community and the world. Your personal contributions bring about positive changes in the home, in the community and in the world. Just like any family, our church family has responsibilities for office expenses, our building’s maintenance and repair, salaries for the pastor and staff persons, for Christian education materials, youth gatherings, choir music, utilities, disaster relief, food and medical care in this country and overseas and ministry shares that do what we cannot physically do.

In just 3 months, we will begin a new year. Our church depends on your support! We can’t be the body of Christ without you! Please share your gifts, come to worship and pray faithfully and give generously. As you begin to pray about your gift to our church for 2016, please remember that the question is not “How much should I give?” The question is “Am I giving all I can?”

Faithfully, Pastor Jane



Thanks From United Fire Co.

SMCC was recognized at a ceremony on September 16th at United Fire Hall for their part in serving as an evacuation center on January 26th for the Gracious Living Estates residents and staff for the fire on January 26th at their facility. Fire company president Paul Johnson presented Bob Remington with a plaque and thanked all who helped out with feeding and taking care of the residents and staff during the fire.

We Have New Carpet!!



I'm so excited to say that we have new carpeting all through the upstairs of the church. It is beautiful and it makes the sanctuary brighter. Thanks to everyone who helped to move furniture and other items up and down the steps. Thanks to everyone who helped sort stuff before we put it all back in place. I would also like to say, "Thank You" to all everyone who donated toward the new carpet. We could not have done it without everyone's help.

Blessings, Pastor Jane

We Are Getting New Pew Cushions!!

We should hear from Waggoners' soon in regard to our pew cushions. The material that our church folks agreed upon is just beautiful and will enhance the beauty of our sanctuary. The cushions are sturdy and durable and should give us comfort for many years to come. The funds for our cushions will come out of our Memorial Fund. Thanks to everyone who worked so diligently to choose the correct fabric and firmness to meet the needs of our congregation.

September 21st Soup Night **SOUP NIGHT**

By Chris Smith

Well....that sure was awesome! Our first soup night which was September 21 was a lot of fun. We served 95 guests dining in & not quite sure how many take outs. But I only had 1 container of soup left & that went in the fridge for Ben Owen. Thank you to Kelly & Sue Pratt, who entertained us with their beautiful music. Thank you to all my kitchen helpers. Thanks to all you

bakers who make such tasty treats. The dessert table always looks way too good! We also had the pleasure of singing Happy Birthday to Matthew Hinds & watching him blow out 11 candles. I also want to say a special thank you to my favorite soup night helpers, Levi & Chloe Smith. This is the 7th year of soup night & they have been to every one. They get there an hour before to help me & stay an hour after helping clean up. They come straight from school, sit at the kids table to do their homework & then get right to work helping me. They also help kids from our community who come to soup night feel right at home & head in to play in the toy room. I love seeing my kids welcome people into our church. It brings tears to my eyes sometimes. (Happy tears of course.) Please join me & all my wonderful helpers on October 18 from 4:30-6:30 at our next soup night. We will be serving you taco soup and creamy baked potato.





KIDS JOY

By Chris Smith

Our monthly kids club has started. We will meet the first Sunday of every month. This month is October 4 from 4:00-5:30. There is music, bible lesson, crafts, games & snacks. Children kindergarten-6th grade are welcome. Invite children you know in our area. We'd love to meet some new friends



Susquehanna County/Feed A Friend Thanksgiving Baskets

This will be our 31st year. Last year 869 baskets were distributed connecting with 2955 individuals. If you know of any person or family who is in need of a Thanksgiving Basket, please let Trehab know as soon as possible so they can add them to the sign up list.

As in years past we are asking for the Susquehanna County Churches to contribute dessert fixings: Canned Pie Filling, Boxed Pie Crusts, Boxed Cake Mixes, and Cans of Icings.

Please put your donations in the box in the back of our congregation by Sunday, November 11th.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Hinds.

This article originally appeared in our July, 13' newsletter, but Pastor Jane requested it be printed again.

The Name Above Every Name

By Chris Smith

I smoked my first cigarette when I was 16 years old while riding around town in a car with some of my other 16 year old friends. It tasted quite nasty actually, but then I smoked again the next day and apparently for a few more days because I don't really remember when I considered myself "hooked" on smoking or if I even did for a while. I worked in a small diner and most of the customers smoked and they didn't seem to think it was a big deal. I even made my sister Lindsay try it at one point (my idiotic thinking was that if she tried it, she wouldn't be able to tell on me to my dad). He eventually found out anyway.

I kept smoking after he found out. I wasn't just addicted to nicotine. I liked smoking. I thought it helped me "chill out". I thought coffee and cigarettes were an awesome combination. I had habits of when to smoke. I smoked in my car, on my breaks from work and after I ate. I met Tim when I was 20 years old and he hated cigarette smoke. He liked me enough to put up with it I guess, but didn't allow me to smoke in his house. So, when I was at his house, I'd go outside to smoke.....spring, summer, fall and winter.

But the smoking part is only half of this story. I have to backtrack a little bit. I love Jesus and always have. I don't remember being "saved" like some people do. I don't ever remember not believing in Him.....for that I am so grateful. I have gone to church my whole life, Sunday School, worked at Sky Lake, sang in the church choir & said my prayers every night before bed. I called myself a Christian and am certain I was.

On February 14, 2005, I found out I was pregnant for Levi. Finding out you are pregnant brings on every possible human emotion. It also reminded me of how much more I needed God. I started praying more. For the next few years, I prayed about more things and more often. I began to feel much closer to God. Also, around this time, I started reading my Bible every day and making it a personal goal to understand what I read and worship God through it. I also started watching Joyce Meyer every week day

and learned a ton! I am thankful for everything I learned from her TV program. It literally changed my life.

I was applying everything I read in The Word, but I don't know if I was filled with "the spirit" as some say. I had a conscience that I know was from God and I tried to listen to it. But I had never heard Him speak to me personally or "felt" something was directly from Him. That all changed on June 29, 2009. Chloe was 2 years old. She was playing with a "big girl purse" she got from Aunt Paula for her birthday. I was sitting on the steps to my front door smoking. She kept coming to the door to show me what she was putting in her purse. She had a "pretend" cell phone, lip stick, some dollar bills. She then asked me if she could put cigarettes in her purse. Just like Mommy. That was a stab to my heart!

A few minutes later, I was washing the dishes and **I heard the Lord**. He said, "**I am done watching you smoke.**" That's it. That's all He said, yet I knew it was Him. I cried. I don't know how to explain what I felt. I was amazed, surprised, happy, scared, nervous and thrilled all at the same time! I was disappointed in myself and yet incredibly thankful to God for protecting me for 16 years of bad decisions.

I tried to quit before. I tried cold turkey many times. I tried the patch. I chewed that disgusting Nicorette gum. I tried smoking 1 or 2 less a day until I didn't smoke at all. None of that had ever worked. So that same day that the Lord spoke to me, I got my Bible and prayed while Levi & Chloe took naps. I simply said, "show me how Jesus." He said, "I have the name above every name. From this moment on, every time you want a cigarette, pray in my name." I ripped all the cigarettes that I had left and threw them away. From that moment on when I wanted a cigarette, I spoke things out loud (if I was alone and didn't look like a crazy lady!) I would say things like, "Jesus has been given the name above every name. That in and at His name, every knee must bow" from Philippians 2:9-11. I would say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. I would also read John 14:13. In that verse, Jesus promises to grant whatever we ask for in His name, presenting all that He is.

There is power in His name. I am here to tell you that God worked a miracle in me. After 4 days, I did not have another craving. Ever. But what other benefits besides being smoke free for 4 years have I gotten from listening to Jesus' voice that day? I have learned to respect God and His word more. I have learned to love and reverence His name. I learned to trust Him. I needed that close relationship with Him the next year when Tim was diagnosed with cancer. I needed Him to show me new ideas He wanted me to try. I trust Him to watch Levi and Chloe and protect them. I prayed for Lindsay's babies to be born healthy. I released all of those prayers in faith. Faith that came from experience with Jesus. I am more thankful for little things. I am thankful for big things. Psalm 138:2 I worship toward Your Holy temple and praise Your name for Your loving kindness and for Your truth and faithfulness; for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all your name.

The Lighter Side

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

On a recent flight...

An elderly passenger kept peering out the window. Since it was totally dark, all she could see was the blinking wing-tip light. Finally, she rang for the flight attendant. "I'm sorry to bother you," she said, "but I think you should inform the pilot that his left-turn blinker is on, and has been for some time."

Church Bulletin Bloopers:

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

"The outreach committee has enlisted twenty-five visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church."

"The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession."

A Sunday School Teacher...

was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining

the commandment to "honor they father and they mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

A Little Boy...

was listening to a long and boring sermon in church. Suddenly the red sanctuary lamp caught his eye. Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green, can we go?"



Saving Graces were invited to sing in New Milford at Midtown Park on August 28th. The concert was part of the "Music and movies in the park" series in New Milford. The weather was nice and there was a great crowd.



Matthew Hinds had the pleasure of celebrating his birthday at the first soup night! Kelly and Sue Pratt led the crowd in singing happy birthday to him, and he got to spend time

with his friends Levi, Chloe, and Elizabeth. Thanks Chris and everyone who participates in soup night!

God paints some beautiful pictures!



Red Bird Mission

Keep saving those labels! Thank you for all the donations thus far. See the fliers at the end of June's newsletter for the products UPC labels that we collect.

Happenings At Montrose Bible Conference

Fall Dinner Concert

Featuring: Damaris Carbaugh
Friday, October 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Montrose
Bible Conference Lake Ave. Dining Room

Adults: \$22.00 each

Children 12 and under \$5.00 each

Bed & Breakfast Option:

\$52.50 per adult includes dinner, program,
lodging, and breakfast

Plan to stay for Saturday's Quilt Show &
Auction

Quilt Show and Auction

October 10, 2015 @ 10am. till 2pm Quilts on
display. Lunch served and silent Auction

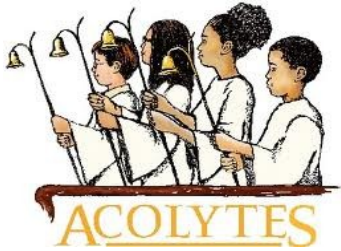
2 p.m. Quilt Auction

Donations Needed: Quilts and quilt related items for auction and Quilts For Display ONLY. For information call: 570-278-1001 or 800-598-5030

Location: Brown Gym at Camp Montrose on Conference Road. All proceeds to benefit the Montrose Bible Conference.

Greeters

- Oct 1st & 2nd Wks - Ray & Shelby Riker
 - Oct 3rd & 4th Wks – Ken & Linda Matthews
 - Nov 1st & 2nd Wks – Bev Way
 - Nov 3rd & 4th Wks – Salsman’s
 - 5th Wk – John & Sue Vandermark
-



- Oct 4th – Cole
- Oct. 18th – Clay
- Oct. 11th – Elizabeth
- Oct. 25th – Kohen

- Nov 1st Matthew
- Nov. 15th Elizabeth
- Nov. 8th Cole
- Nov. 22nd Clay
- Nov. 29th Cohen



Our Prayers

In the church: JoAnn Jerauld, Harry Snell, Aggie Holbert, Grace Harvey, Don & Joyce Blaisure, Nic Remington, Theresa Owen, Ben Owen, Craig Estelle, Marian Nye, Alice Porter, Doris Sebring Gladys Barber, Peggy Wood

In our community: Mary Alice Hawley & family, Betty Allen, Ken & Evie Walter, Tammy, John Frye, Herm & Maxine Zappe & their

children, Marie Benedict, Considine family, Augusta Ostrow, Adaline Williams, Elijah, Jim Taylor, Charlie & Norma, Bernie Boyer, Amos Hollister, Vickie Wickizer, Carol Jones, Jim Ochse, Joyce Lathrop Patty Bloomer, Mark Bush, Joyce Millard, David Snell, James Walters, Dorothy Wegman, Staff @ Children & Youth, Terry Cooke, Dottie Henry, Catalina, Pat Whitaker, Mickey Patrick, Sandra Lathrop, those struggling with addictions, our teenagers in Susquehanna County, Debbie Bush, Sarah & Bill, Robert Atticks, Sr., Randy Ward, Keith Pratt, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, Brooke Arnold, Dee Pierson, Dick Millard, Duane Snell, Dennis Snell, Helen Petersen, John & Daniel Snell, David & Mary Ann Pierce, teachers & students, those in the military, the unemployed, those in nursing homes, people in prison, our country, our world, our church and each other.

Church Website

<http://southmontrose.umchurches.org>

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