

UCC on Medicare (Continued from page 7)

cluding health care, must be maintained to reflect our shared commitment to protecting vulnerable populations.

- Concern for the most vulnerable is at the heart of our sacred texts and an affirmation of our common humanity.
- Caring for our elders demonstrates how we value our responsibility to enable living out the fullness of life.

Pastor Trent's Message (Continued from page 3)

Ben Franklin knew, so many years ago, that if the Colonists had any hope against the British, they would have to use every tool at their disposal. The old technology, handwriting letters to important officials, wasn't going to cut it. So, Franklin took to his printing press, and soon Thomas Paine and the words of "Common Sense" were spreading all over the young nation.

Our risks might not be so dramatic as those faced by the Revolutionary generation, but we are faced with a challenge—do we embrace the change, or live in the past? I am confident that St. Luke's is eager to move into the exciting future that God has in store for us, and I can't wait to see where this ride will take us. So, my friends, there's just one thing to do—get on board! This journey has just begun!

Thanks be to God!

—Pastor Trent

News From Emily G.

Emily Guendelsberger, our music director/pianist, who was attacked by a Flash Mob in early July, is doing well after her surgery to repair her fractured tibia. Emily says in her email, "I got outside purely on crutches the other day, which was hot and sweaty but at least possible." That's our Emily—nothing can keep her down! Emily wants everyone to know how much she appreciates all the cards.



Fellowship Picnic

We want to thank the George family for hosting a fantastic fellowship picnic in June. The food, conversation, games and laughter we shared as a church family made a hot summer day totally delightful. We hope the Georges will do it again next year.

August Birthdays



Glenn Lehman	2
Richard George	3
Tori Middleton	12
Mary Keeler	23
Joan Coverdale	29
Julia Heckman	31

Nice to hear from...

BARBARA Weidman
Evelyn Sonet
Gavin White



August Anniversaries

Gavin & Jane White	10
Todd & Glenn	17

The Comma



St. Luke's United Church of Christ

August 2011

Have a Brew and Feed Your Faith, Too

What does beer have to do with faith? Probably nothing—but the two could soon go together as peanut butter & jelly. In the month of August, we will be trying out a new way of exploring our faith together outside the traditional church setting, through a monthly gathering called Theology Pub. Many churches around the country have found Theology Pub or Theology on Tap gatherings to be great ways of engaging people that might not be comfortable coming to worship, but have spiritual questions or themes they want to talk about. The basic idea is to gather at a local bar or pub on a weeknight, with a predetermined theme for the gathering, and allow the conversation to flow naturally around that theme. Sometimes, a guest speaker will be present to talk about a particular topic. Pastor Trent would like to know, first of all, what night of the week would be best for most people, and secondly, what kinds of topics you'd like us to explore. Some possible themes include interfaith relations, the Bible, Christianity & science, faith and public life, etc. He was thinking that Katie O'Donnell's in Franklin Mills (across from Raymour & Flanagan), would be a good place to meet.



The Perfect Brew of Faith and Fun!

Pastor Trent would love to hear your suggestions for topics, days and dates. Email him at revtrent@gmail.com or give him a call at 1.254.723.4443

Pastor Trent says, "Thanks"

I just wanted to thank you all so much for the wonderful Installation service and reception on Sunday, July 10. Everything turned out beautifully, and my friends and family couldn't have been more pleased. They all felt truly welcomed, so thanks for receiving them so warmly. There are many people to thank, too many in fact to name here, so let me just offer my heartfelt thanks for all those who helped to decorate the sanctuary, keep us cool, keep the building clean, prepare the food and host the reception, usher, and everything else that it took to bring the day off. I'm overjoyed to be with you at St. Luke's, and looking forward to an exciting future together.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Sunday School to Begin

This Fall, Pastor Trent plans to re-start our Sunday school offerings for children, and he'd like to ask for your help. Since we have a fairly wide diversity of ages among the children in our congregation/community, Pastor Trent thinks the best program is a curriculum called Godly Play, which is ideal for a single classroom with different ages present. Godly Play is a Montessori-based program that offers a creative and imaginative avenue into scripture stories and the mystery of God's presence in the world.



The program requires two teachers to be present, and also requires some training beforehand to get you acquainted with the program. He would like to set up a training in the month of August, and is hoping that a few of you will be interested in helping to nurture our children, and will want to learn more about this program.

Godly Play is an exciting, creative, imaginative program, and it is definitely NOT a traditional form of teaching. Please let Pastor Trent know by the end of July if you'd be interested in helping teach our children in the coming year. If you'd like to find out more about the program, explore their website: <http://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/newsite/Main.php>.

Everything Peach — Sunday, August 21st

St. Luke's is known for its "Everything" hospitality food events. We have *Everything Apple & Pumpkin* in the fall, *Everything Strawberry* in the spring and *Everything Peach* for the summer. "Everything Peach" will be held after worship on **Sunday, August 21st** in the church lobby. Bring something made from peaches for our "Everything Peach" hospitality table.



Prayer and Reflection

Our prayer and reflection group will take the month of August off, but will meet again in September. The September PAR group will meet on **Monday, September 12** (due to Labor Day). Our "mindfulness" group meets the first Monday of every month and folks are welcome to pop in at any time. So, if you find yourself yearning for a quiet space and the company of other spiritual seekers, you may want to step into this experience.

We're Moving

Joan & Don Coverdale have sold their house, packed everything up and is now getting ready to move to Willow Valley Retirement Community in Lancaster. We wish them well in their new home and know they will make a lot of new friends and have a wonderful time in this beautiful retirement community. Their new address is:

Don & Joan Coverdale
724 Willow Valley Lakes Dr.
Willow Street, PA 17584

United Church of Christ leaders urge no federal cuts to Medicaid, Medicare

Written by UCC Staff Reports

The United Church of Christ has joined a broad coalition of interfaith religious groups that are calling on the Obama Administration and Congress to protect Medicaid and Medicare in their budget negotiations.

The statement, delivered today (July 26), comes from faith leaders representing millions of Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists and emphasizes that the two government programs provide critical health care for the most vulnerable in U.S. society.

"Our organizations, as well as people of faith throughout our society, strongly support Medicaid and Medicare," reads a statement co-signed by the UCC's Collegium of Officers, as well as leaders of more than 50 faith national and state groups. "In the faith community, we are often the first to witness need and distress from all causes. As providers of services and care, both physical and spiritual, our members, congregations and institutions, including religiously affiliated

health care providers, are very familiar with the importance of Medicaid and Medicare."

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, the UCC's general minister and president, says it is imperative that the religious community speak in a loud, clear voice.

"Our nation has a moral imperative to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of our society," Black says. "Millions of people depend on Medicaid and Medicare for their health care, and we must insist that it be protected."

Barbara T. Baylor, the UCC's minister for health care justice, says she knows firsthand the importance of protecting the nation's health care safety net.

"There was a time when I needed Medicaid for my children when they were small," Baylor says. "It was there for me during a time of great challenge and crisis in my life. Without it, I would not have been able to provide health care for my children."

Today, she says, many more women and families find

themselves in dire straits, wondering what will happen to them without these two crucial government programs.

Medicaid provides comprehensive health coverage to low-income persons, the elderly and people with disabilities. It ranges from paying for nearly 40 percent of births to funding long-term care of seven out of 10 nursing-home residents.

Medicare is the primary source of health insurance for the nation's seniors.

"It is very disheartening to me that as a country, we are considering balancing our nation's budget woes on the backs of vulnerable citizens, especially women, children and seniors, through deep funding cuts to Medicaid and Medicare," Baylor says.

The diverse faith groups cited five "shared" principles they urge elected officials to consider.

- All individuals deserve equal access to quality, affordable, inclusive and accountable health care.
- The social safety net, in-

(Continued on page 8)

Pastor Trent's Installation

We knew when the date was set for Pastor Trent's installation service that it could possibly be hot—but no one was prepared for temperatures in the mid-90's. Yes, it was hot but you would never know it by all the electricity that was in the air that Sunday, July 10th.

Folks worked to decorate the sanctuary with fabric featuring all the colors of the rainbow, creative and beautiful floral arrangements were made, and an array of decadent desserts were made along with a delicious assortment of sandwiches and salads for the reception following the service.

Church members and friends, family of Pastor Trent's, clergy of the Philadelphia Association and Rev. Geneva Butz, co-conference minister were present to witness this special event and to install Pastor Trent.

After the service and reception everyone went home somewhat tired and a little wilted—but excited about the future of St. Luke's United Church of Christ with Trent as our Pastor and Teacher.



Living the Questions 2

It's always nice to take a break from studying, but with the summer soon coming to an end it will be time to hit the books again. Our bi-weekly study Living the Questions 2 will begin on **Tuesday, September 13th**. Rich Keeler will again lead the study as we look at the final seven lessons of LtQ2. The final theme is "Call to Covenant." The study meets the second and fourth Tuesdays at 12 noon. All are welcome.

Wedding Invitation

Carla Toth and Debbie Tyre will join together as one on **Saturday, September 3rd, 2011**. Carla and Debbie would like to let everyone in the congregation know that they are having their wedding at St. Luke's on that day at 11:00 and they are inviting everyone to join them on this very special day.

Carla and Debbie also extend the invitation to join them at their wedding reception at Chez Nicole following the ceremony. Let them know if you will be attending the reception afterwards. Carla can be reached at 267-229-6342.

Baptisms in June

Pastor Trent baptized his first babies since he began his pastorate at St. Luke's. On June 12, Aiden James McGee, son of Erin McGee and Erin Magee was baptized, and on June 26, Michael and Braylon, twin boys of Michael and Caitlyn Gallagher were baptized. We welcome these "little ones" into the Christian faith and family of St. Luke's.

Dear Friends,

Recently, some of my dad's family were passing through Philadelphia on a long road trip from Texas, headed to visit my Uncle Mike, whom some of you met at the Installation service on July 10th. They decided to stop and spend the day exploring the historical sights of our city, and asked if I would play "tour guide," which I was happy to do. We went into Center City and saw the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the sights of Old City, and, what turned out to be among the favorite sights, Benjamin Franklin's Print Shop and the site of his home. The tour guide at Franklin's print shop demonstrated how printing would have been in his day; the old press, with type set by hand; the hand-operated machinery that put pressure on a single sheet of paper at a time, to eventually produce a document or a book, which would then have its binding stitched together by hand. She even demonstrated how the freshly printed sheets were hung over rafters to dry before being posted or bound into a volume. It was a fascinating trip back in time, made all the more interesting for me because my dad had been a printer himself, and as a child I watched the 20th century version of that printing press run off thousands of copies of a newspaper in a matter of minutes.

Leaving Franklin's print shop got me to thinking, though, about more than just the advances in printing technology since the 18th century. That brief visit reminded me of the critical importance of communication in our society, and of the dramatic ways that communication is shifting at such a rapid pace these days. The invention of the printing press was one of the most revolutionary advances in history, and changed the way that the world communicated. For the church, the printing press enabled the mass production of Bibles in the native tongue of the reader; the Protestant Reformation succeeded largely because of the printing press. By Franklin's day, the church had access to the heights of modern technology to spread its message.

But today, we're living through another seismic shift in the way we communicate, on at least as big a scale as the invention of the printing press. Whether we acknowledge it or not, we are living through another kind of reformation, one that will change how we in the church relate to the world forever. The Internet, e-mail, and most recently, social media such as Facebook and Twitter are changing the landscape in dramatic ways. Our responsibility as the church is to help integrate these new forms of communication into our lives and the life of our congregation, not for their own sake, but so that we may better reach the world with the good news of God's extravagant welcome in Jesus Christ. We have a story to tell at St. Luke's, and in the United Church of Christ—a story of radical inclusion, extravagant welcome, continuing testament, and changed lives. My hope is that we will embrace new ways to spread that good news to a world that desperately needs to hear it. I've created a Facebook page and a Twitter feed for St. Luke's, and will continue to work on upgrading our web presence and communication strategies, so that we will be equipped to respond to a rapidly changing world.



(Continued on page 8)

Meet Our New Members

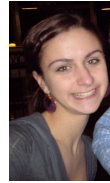
Pentecost was a happening day at St. Luke's on June 12th. Not only were we celebrating the birthday of the church universal—we were also celebrating the reception of eight new members into St. Luke's "circle of friends."

Our newest members would like to share a little about themselves:

- **Carla Toth & Debbie Tyre & Shannon Fuhr** — Carla has worked for Wells Fargo for the past 27 years and Debbie has worked for Wendy's for 27 years as well.

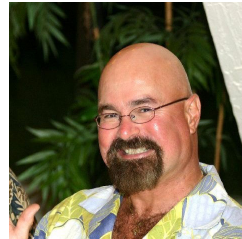


They have a daughter Shannon who is 16. They also have a daughter named Katie who is 22. Most of their free time is spent with their families and friends and making their new house a home. Shannon will be a junior at Bensalem High School this coming fall. She plans on becoming a teacher and will spend this summer working at a local daycare. She is very active in the drama club at the high school, as well as cross-country and track and field.



Carla and Debbie will be married at St. Luke's this September 3rd.

- **Michael Williams** — In Michael's words, "I'm just a simple country boy from East TN and Southwest VA who now travels the world. Although I left the family farm decades ago, I still get up very early to pray and mediate." Michael is a published poet and playwright, gallery artist and entrepreneur. Recently he was invited to be part of the Allard Institute of San Francisco. Michael's interest are many: cooking, walking, gardening, singing, theater (NY and London), opera, classical music to jazz fusion to salsa to gay disco fever to bubble gum to good ole rock and roll! His main interest is IMPROVING the QUALITY of LIFE through Random Acts of KINDNESS! He says he is "Totally Plastic." Not sure what that means—but I think it has to do with credit cards! Michael, since coming to St. Luke's, has been "totally" involved. He ran the Easter Egg Hunt, polishes the piano and organ, picks up all the trash that accumulates on our church grounds, waters the plants and keeps our shrubs trimmed.



- **Kelly Magee and Erin McGee** — Kelly is a foreman at an asphalt paving construction company. She runs a crew of 5 men doing seal coating and striping (line painting). She has been there 15 years and loves her job. Erin and Kelly have also a side business of seal coating driveways, as well as being a hair stylist. Erin is a new stay at home Mom, taking care of Aidan James. She is a waitress at Currans Irish Inn in Tacony and takes care of their home, bills and the estimates for their seal coating business. According to Kelly—Erin is a fabulous Mother to their son. Erin and Kelly have been together for 7½ yrs. Their anniversary is New Years Day.

(Continued on page 5)

New Members (Continued from page 4)

"We attended the same elementary and high school together and met again as adults working at Currans together," says Kelly. She goes on to say, "We both come from large families and love spending time with them. We love going up the mountains as both of our families have homes up there as well as down the shore. We also have a 3 yr old furry son named Cole. He is a black lab mix and our baby boy. We love taking our boys out for long walks or just staying home relaxing and spending time together. Erin and I are extremely lucky to have found each other. We have an amazing relationship filled with immense love and respect. God has truly blessed us with each other, and an incredible family filled with unconditional love, support and respect. Most important we are grateful to have found St Luke's. Another extension to our family. Thank you for your interest in getting to know a little bit about my family."



- **Mark Pryzby** — Let's see—what can we say about Mark. Well one thing for sure is he loves his music and guitar! His prized possession is his Fender Stratocaster (that's a guitar, folks). When he was asked to write a paragraph about himself—his response was, "Ok...I'm a Dead Head who plays a guitar. There is my info." Well, we know there's more to Mark—just check him out on Facebook. Mark was a member of St. John's UCC in Frankford a number of years ago. His favorite pastor at St. John's was Pastor Dawn Schwartz. I'm just betting she was a Dead Head, too—or at least a hippie. Mark works at ArtCraft Machine company with his son and has been married to his wife, Marge for 23 years. One other thing Mark wants you to know about him...he likes ice cream! We hope that we will get to hear Mark play his guitar along with Greg and Adam on the drums. Mark will tell you he's not very religious—but there was just something about St. Luke's that made him want to join. We're glad you did, Mark.



- **Pam Hurlburt** — Pam had been a member of St. Luke's in the 80's where she and her husband Gary were married 31 years ago. When they moved to Mayfair, Pam wanted a church close to home and found Mayfair Presbyterian Church. Can you guess who one of her pastors was at Mayfair Presbyterian? None other than Pastor Chris Paules. After Chris left that church, Pam had not been attending church that regularly. Pam worked at Praxair, a medical supply company, where Janice Benz also works. Janice was instrumental in getting Pam back to St. Luke's when she told Pam about Pastor Chris. Pam has been retired from Praxair for over a year. When asked if she misses work, her answer was a resounding "no." You can always find Pam signing up for our Soup Kitchen feedings and coming out to do her part in this important mission of our church. Pam also helps bag up the potpie orders at our bi-annual Fisher's Potpie fundraiser. Another fact about Pam—she makes great cakes!