



**Mount Nittany United Methodist Church**  
1500 E. Branch Rd., State College, PA 16801  
phone: 814-237-3549 e-mail: mtnittanyumc@juno.com  
Church Website is [www.gbgn-UMC.org/mtnittanyumc](http://www.gbgn-UMC.org/mtnittanyumc)

*October 2002 Newsletter*  
*"Reaching Out to Give Good News"*

## **You Are Invited to the Lord's Table**

**World Communion Sunday**  
**October 6, 2002**

**9:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.**

Come and share with the members and friends of Mount Nittany United Methodist Church in a time of Christian fellowship as we celebrate the gift of God's love to us in Jesus Christ. We worship with Christians around the world in this annual observance of Holy Communion. You are welcome to bring an international friend of another faith or culture. As United Methodists, we observe open communion. Anyone who wishes to respond may come to the table to receive the elements of communion. Persons of other faiths will be made welcome to our worship celebration even if they do not participate in the receiving of the sacrament.

**Morning Worship: 9:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.**  
**Sunday School for All Ages at 9:00 A.M. Service**  
**October Worship Service Helpers**  
**(\*9:00 A.M., \*\*10:30 A.M.)**

**Greeters**

**Oct. 6** Kari, Billie, Colin Corbett  
**Oct. 13** Wilbur & Margaret Geist  
**Oct. 20** Chip, Karen, Nicholas & Alexis Crawford  
**Oct. 27** Tracy & Thomas Marshall

**Oct. 6** Ryan Mullins & Kevin Spotts\*  
Allie DeCapria & Courtney McChesney\*\*  
**Oct. 13** Alex Vavrek & Alex Rowland\*  
Norman Harris & Alex Park\*\*  
**Oct. 20** Andrew Park & Cody Goss\*  
Julia Wilkinson & Kristin Bergman\*\*  
**Oct. 27** Tom Kondash & Mark Taverno\*  
Courtney McChesney & Kevin Spotts\*\*

**Liturgists**

**Oct. 6** Rick Boucher\* and Kathy Mulberger\*\*  
**Oct. 13** Ann Boal\* and Rik Harris\*\*  
**Oct. 20** Bob Kidder\* and Jerry Park\*\*  
**Oct. 27** Nathan Hartwig\* and Marjorie Rohrbeck\*\*

**Money Counters**

Rick & Debbie Harris and Bea Clouser

**Sound System Team Attendants**

**Oct. 6** Bob Kidder\* and Jim Young\*\*  
**Oct. 13** Ryan Spotts\* and Ron Taverno\*\*  
**Oct. 20** Shawn Kopp\* and Chip Crawford\*\*  
**Oct. 27** Allen Bonsell\* and Vinnie Scalamogna\*\*

**First Time Visitor**

Les Kline

**Ushers**

John Shawver and Frank Vongehr\*

**Tape Ministry Visitor**

**Oct. 6** BJ Wurst  
**Oct. 13** Bob Kidder  
**Oct. 20** BJ Holderman  
**Oct. 27** Ric Rowland

**Acolytes**

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

### The Central Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Men Fall Retreat

The Retreat is scheduled for October 4, beginning at 7:00 PM, until 1:00 PM on October 6, 2002, at Wesley Forest. ALL men of Mt. Nittany are invited to attend this Conference-wide event. Cost is \$75.00 per person, and includes two nights lodging, five meals, and two snacks.

The theme for this year's Fall Retreat is "How to Live in a Post 9/11 World", with several outstanding workshop presenters on tap for this program. For additional information, or for a registration form, please call Audrey Barner at the Church Office (237-3549).

### Mt. Nittany Seniors

The regular quarterly meeting of the Mount Nittany Seniors will be held **Wed., Oct. 9** at noon at Village Heights, on Village Heights Drive.

## ALTAR FLOWERS WERE GIVEN. . .



### Sept. 1

*To the Glory of God from the garden  
of Barbara Fry*

### Sept. 8

*A rosebud was placed on the altar  
to the Glory of God and in honor of  
Sydney Annalise Kramer, who was born on  
August 16<sup>th</sup>. She is the daughter of  
Tim & Julee Kidder Kramer and granddaughter of  
Robert & Patricia Kidder.*

### Sept. 15

*In memory of my parents, Robert & Marian Boal  
and sister, Norma Boal Horen and husband,  
Michael by Barbara Boal*

### Sept. 22

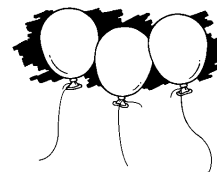
*In loving memory of William Fry by his wife,  
Barbara, his sons and their families*

### Sept. 29

*A rosebud was placed on the altar in honor of the  
birth of Madelyn Kidder Mitzel on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>  
Madelyn is the daughter of  
Lynette & Christopher Mitzel and  
granddaughter of Robert and Patricia Kidder*

### Aluminum Wanted!

Please save your aluminum cans and other recyclable aluminum containers. Bill Nuss and Les Kline collect these items from the Church, take them to a local recycling center, and the money received is placed in our Caring Fund.



**Happy Birthday!** Irene Grove will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please help make her day special by sending cards to: P.O. Box 292, Lemont, PA 16851.

## FOOD BANK NEEDS

Canned fruits, cooking oil (plastic bottles), instant potatoes, pie crust and cake mixes. Shampoo, toilet tissue, doubled brown paper bags.

### **Interfaith Mission Update** *If you don't volunteer, who will?*

Interfaith Mission helped 82 adults and 54 children in August.....

- \$11,621.86 was paid out for client services for housing, fuel, utility and medical assistance to help local families.
- 7 families were provided permanent housing to end their homelessness.
- 7 families were saved from being evicted from their homes.
- 13 utility terminations were prevented.
- 6 persons were provided emergency medical, prescription, or dental help.
- 93 pieces of furniture were given out to clients.

Food Bank celebrated its 20th anniversary in September. The number of families assisted increased by 26% from the period January to June 2001 to the same time frame in 2002, from 815 to 1,027. Client hours have been extended to 6:00 p.m. on Monday. Tait Farms has been supporting the Food Bank with their surplus produce.

Tri-County Habitat for Humanity is looking for a large enclosed space where they can pre-build walls and other components in preparation for spring. If you know of a space, you can contact them at 238-3113 or [habitat@vicon.net](mailto:habitat@vicon.net). Wells Fargo is repeating its matching program: if an organization can provide 10 workers for a day, Wells Fargo will provide a worker and contribute \$2,500, up to a total of \$25,000. If you have a group, call Habitat.

Interfaith Mission Furniture Recycling needs furniture: dressers, box springs and mattresses, tables and chairs, and appliances. The new storage location has plenty of storage space for furniture being recycled. If you have gently used furniture and working appliances which you would like to donate, call Interfaith Mission at 234-7731. Pick-up can be arranged.

Mark your calendars: The Alternative Christmas program at University Baptist and Brethren Church

will be Sunday, December 8. Mount Nittany UMC will be ringing bells for Interfaith Mission at Meyer Dairy on Sunday, December 1 and Saturday, December 21.

30th Annual Central Pennsylvania Conference Annual Seminar to the Board of Global Ministries: The 30th Annual Central Pennsylvania Conference Annual Seminar to the Board of Global Ministries in New York City is scheduled for February 2-5, 2003. The schedule will include two full days at Global Ministries Offices for presentations from the staff, and a full day visiting parishes in Manhattan and Queens. Cost is \$304.00, which includes bus fare from Harrisburg and 3 nights double occupancy at the Edison Hotel on West 47th Street. Meals and subway transportation in New York City are not included. Registration deadline is December 15. For more information, see the flier on the bulletin board.

### **Hospital Visitation**

For some time, the Pastoral Care Department at Centre Community Hospital, has provided area clergy with a list of patients to which your Pastor could refer to check on any admissions from Mount Nittany. A new federal regulation called HIPAA, an act which is written in response to a public concern about the use of private information, is designed to protect the privacy of patient information and therefore, will no longer be available to the clergy.

Therefore, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR PASTOR DIRECTLY, if you desire to be visited when you are hospitalized. If it is an elective and scheduled visit, Pastor Hill will appreciate being notified in advance, and family members or church friends are encouraged to notify him in emergencies or otherwise. *Your Pastor will have no other way of knowing of your hospitalization.*

# YOUTH NEWS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Did you know that studies show children learn in a variety of styles? Parents' own experiences attest to the fact that while one child may learn best by writing a paper, another might learn best by creating a video or even singing a song. **Rotational learning models** are based on this idea—that a variety of experiences help our children hang on to important information. This new year, Mt. Nittany will start an exciting new Sunday morning program for our elementary students that lets them experience the Bible through music, motion, drama, cooking, science, games, storytelling and art. Watch for more information about **PowerXpress** as our plans unfold and give everyone a chance to join in.

On October 11 and 12, the stewardship of the congregation will make it possible for most of our children's Sunday School teachers to attend a **conference-sponsored workshop** entitled "Sunday School Spectacular" at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport. This conference will feature age-level classes, dynamic speakers and presentations specifically designed for churches looking to reinvigorate their Sunday morning programs. We are VERY excited about attending and look forward to sharing our experience with the congregation. We know that this will be a valuable learning tool as we move forward to the PowerXpress kickoff in 2003.

**Operation Christmas Child** materials will be arriving soon. This is an effective, time-tested program that really helps children connect with their faith in a tangible way. Please remember that if you want your package to arrive for Christmas, your shoe box must arrive at the NC distribution center by November 24—think of this as a Thanksgiving project! Complete information is available in the Christmas Child flyers on the narthex bulletin board or Sunday School board. (next to the library)

## **Sunday School Dates to Remember.**

*December 1:* Advent Angel Celebration, held in the classrooms this year due to construction. If you have suggestions for items for the gift bags, please tell Joanna! We will also have a neat take-home gift for the children who attend.

December 8 and 15: Sunday morning rehearsals for The World Sings Noel.

Middle School Youth Group meets every Sunday evening at 6:30, immediately after interest groups. All youth grades 6-8 and their friends are welcome to join Bob Jones and Brenda Harpster for fun and fellowship. Right now there are about 12 of us meeting and using Reel to Real, a study of film and Christian values. Youth are reminded that they need a signed permission slip from a parent for our current film, *Shrek!* New permission slips are issued for every film, so parents will always know what the next film will be.

**Coat and Blanket Drive** - now through December. The Senior High Youth are doing this drive to benefit the Pee Dee Indians in McColl, South Carolina. In December, as many as five members of our Senior High Youth will be taking the coats and blankets to South Carolina to help the Pee Dee's stay warm this winter. We will be staying with local families, and the cost for the trip is \$50.00 per person. **Requirements for the coats or blankets:** We would like to give them coats that you or your own children would wear (no holes or buttons missing, no broken zippers, etc.). Blankets may be used, just no holes or unraveled edges. We will be laundering all items and packing them in boxes. Please contact Patty Taverno, Youth Coordinator at 238-6083 or Jerry Park, Youth Leader at 234-3041 to arrange for pickup or drop-off.

## Reminder to the Senior High Youth

Please remember your permission slip and money on Sunday (Oct 6th) so that you can participate in the cookout at Phyllis' house.

Reminder to ALL youth, please remember to bring your permission slip **before** next Sunday for the scavenger hunt (Oct 13<sup>th</sup>). \*If you need

a permission slip for either one of these events please see Jayme Michael, or Jess Mulberger

## Why Write a Will?

Following is a reprint of an article taken from a recent issue of "A Christian Perspective":

The planning and writing of a will is both a family obligation and a personal privilege.

We live in a nation of laws. During all of our lifetime, different laws apply to us. When we are born, our birth is registered as required by law. During life, we comply with legal requirements in purchasing a home, in paying taxes, in securing a passport and in many more of life's activities.

When we die, our life's passing is noted in securing a death certificate and in the probate process. In all of life's activities, the law is there.

One of the most important legal opportunities each of us face pertains to the future ownership of our possessions. Before we die, we can make a will that determines who will receive our estates. In the event we do not have a will, the court or others will decide for us, often ignoring our important preferences. Deciding not to write a will suggests a lack of civic responsibility and a lost opportunity to demonstrate our love to those whom we cherish.

Every person has the legal right to make a will. Details of your will include the naming of an executor, deciding who will serve as guardians of minor children, providing guidelines concerning how they will be raised, determining the use of accumulated wealth, and expressing gratitude for all of life's blessings by giving to the charity or charities of your choice.

Life involves a string of choices, and the most important choices we make involve the use and disposition of what we have. This is called stewardship, the management of our resources. Our acts during our lifetime become a statement of our faith. Our last act, our will, serves as a final testimony of our faith journey in life. We exercise a spiritual privilege when

we plan and write a will.

For additional assistance, you may want to contact your attorney. Or perhaps you would like to talk with our planned giving representative, Phyllis Bowers of our Central PA Conference United Methodist Stewardship Foundation. She can provide basic information about wills and bequests, as well as relate various ways others have included their church in their estate plans. You can reach Phyllis by calling her toll free number 1-877-619-5974, or e-mail her at [pmbowers@netrax.net](mailto:pmbowers@netrax.net).

### Notes from the Organist +

\*

Joy to the World! It's time to begin preparation for our annual Christmas Cantata. If you have joined us before, please come back! If you have not joined us before, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen – you will enjoy it! Perhaps you have a friend to bring along, so Go Tell it on the Mountain. We will practice every Wednesday beginning Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 P.M. Come, All Ye Faithful Singers and we will put a Song in the Air this Christmas Season!

### Following is an excerpt from the October issue of The Link:

**Commentary - Miner Miracle**  
by Sheryl Hart, Altoona District Lay Leader

"If anyone can't see God's hand in this, then they never will." These words, spoken by my best friend recently, have had me thinking about God's evidence in today's society. The "this" my friend was referring to is the rescue of nine coal miners trapped 240 feet below the surface for 77 hours on July 24. For those of us out here on the western fringe of the conference, it seemed as though it took place next door. For the entire time we watched and prayed for the men, their families and those working so hard to bring them up, alive and together.

The media calls it "The Miracle in the Mine" and it was that and more, a series of miracles, giving evidence that God was indeed guiding the operation. From a little miracle of a lunch

bucket floating by, which provided one sandwich and a soda that all the men shared, to dropping a 6-inch air shaft in the exact location where it was needed, at just the time the air in the place where the men were began to give out. Some say it was a matter of minutes.

Technology developed by minds given by God played a huge part, but if one looks at the terrain above the mine, that precision is mind-boggling. The rescue site was one mile from the mine entrance in a corn field. God sank those holes.

Another miracle came in the guise of a major setback: The 36-inch diameter drill bit broke off, causing a 14-hour delay in getting the rescue shaft down. But later it was discovered that the water level in the mine had to be below a certain level or opening the shaft would drown the men. When back on line, the shaft proceeded at the same rate the water was being pumped.

Yet another miracle. A local fire company had recently purchased a portable hot shower, so as the nearly hypothermic men were brought up, the emergency technicians were able to get the soaked clothing off the men and begin to warm them. This shower unit had been purchased in response to the threat of terrorism from anthrax. All were found alive, all were brought up, all are healthy and doing well. "Nine for nine." PRAISE GOD!

I wondered to myself as I watched the rescue unfold, "Is the man who wants 'One nation under God' removed from our pledge (because he is an atheist and as such is offended) watching this, too?"

"If anyone doesn't see God's hand in this . . ."

### **Girl Scout Silver Award**

Four members of Girl Scout Troop 1229, which meets at Mount Nittany Church, recently completed the Silver Award requirements. They were Sara Dittmann, Amanda Spotts, Erin Whitfield and Lindsay Knepp. Amanda, Erin and Lindsay are related to our Mount Nittany congregation. Troop leaders are Bonnie Spotts, Kim Knepp and Sue Whitfield.

Congratulations to the Scouts and their leaders.

## **INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY COUNCIL**

The International Hospitality Council invites volunteers to join their Friendship Program as a way of welcoming international visitors to the State College area. Following a very successful Welcome Picnic on Labor Day, almost 50 internationals met with their local hosts and families for socializing and food. Now, more than 30 additional international students and families are waiting to be matched with a community host.

Hosting for friendship (not housing) is fun and rewarding. The students and their families are eager to share stories, pictures, and food from their home countries when they meet with their hosts for a meal or a local outing. The visitors truly appreciate our hospitality. Many of them have commented that the program is the first of its kind they have found and that they hope to spread the word about its benefits when they return home.

Please call the IHC office @ 863-3927 (e-mail [ihc@ip.psu.edu](mailto:ihc@ip.psu.edu)) if you have questions or would like an application.

### **A Bit of Mount Nittany History**

The congregation moved into the new sanctuary building in 1981. The cost of the new facility was \$225,892 with an indebtedness of \$126,125. The debt was retired in December of 1986 with a final payment made by the United Methodist Women with proceeds from the annual bazaar. The Pastor at that time was James L. Williams (Pastor Jim). On December 15, 1986, he wrote a letter to the congregation expressing appreciation for the past and continued support of the congregation. It is interesting to note that the congregation borrowed \$15,000 from the Loan Fund of the Conference Board of Missions and \$85,000 from St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Grants totaling \$25,000 were received from the Conference Board of Mission and the National Division of Missions of the United Methodist Church. The congregation had tremendous support from the connectional church, just as we have received in our present facilities expansion project.

## Pastor's Ramblings

football game and roller skating.

In early September, the Administrative Council mailed a letter to the congregation presenting the opportunity to give contributions to the Building Fund as Memorial Gifts or Gifts in Honor of an individual(s). To date, several gifts have been received. *The list of suggested items and the contribution form are enclosed with this newsletter.* Those items for which contributions have already been made are noted on the suggestion list. There are many selections at various levels of giving still available. Please consider your gifts as over and above any commitment to the "Growing Together in Christ" campaign or your regular Building Fund giving. In order for gifts to be noted in the program for our Consecration Sunday celebration in late January, all contributions must be received by January 15, 2003.

**Thank you** to Pastor Jim Williams for providing leadership for the Sunday morning worship services on Sundays, September 1 and 9 and for his pastoral assistance while I was on vacation from August 29 - September 11. From Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, I attended the European Rotary Youth Exchange Conference in Rotterdam, Netherlands and then I spent nine wonderful days in Zagreb, Croatia with my Croatian exchange student sons, Vedran and Luka and their families. I experienced the Adriatic Coast, castles, churches, beautiful scenery, quaint towns and modern cities with excellent food and great hospitality.

**Thank you** to our excellent Christian Staff that provides leadership for our children, youth and adults in our Sunday morning and related educational and fellowship endeavors. A special thank you to Joanna Jones, our Education Assistance, for her leadership. Members of the staff that were honored on Sunday, September 29th were: Kelly Bair, Darria Dixon, Amanda Spotts, Nicole Fornicola, Lori Williams, Jennifer Boucher, Anne Boal, Brenda Harpster, Patty DeCapria, Jessie Mulberger, Rik Harris, Patty Taverno, Robert Jones, Jerry Park, Jayme Michael, Susan Park, and Phyllis Field. Special recognition was given to Jayme Michael for her volunteer service this past summer to the camping program of the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Erin Whitfield was a member of the paid staff at Camp Greene Hills serving as life guard. Thanks to Jayme and Erin for their commitment to the Outdoor Christian Education Program of our Conference. As usual, members of the congregation extended their warm hospitality to the Rotary Youth Exchange Students whom Jan and I hosted during the weekend of Sept. 20-22. Twelve youth from 12 different countries along with several adults leaders were present for the 10:30 A.M. worship service. On Saturday, the youth enjoyed the Penn State/Louisiana Tech

## **Update on Facilities Expansion Project**

Every day brings changes to our Mount Nittany Church facilities as we observe the new construction and renovation. Since the reopening of the bridge on Branch Road, we have had many more “lay observers and site managers” viewing the construction.

At the writing of this report, about 85% of the outside brick work is completed. Many members and community friends have commented on the excellent matching of the colors of the old and new brick and the mortar. There is much finishing work to be completed in all areas of the construction on the inside, but the Contractor contends that the work will be completed by the target date of Thanksgiving.

A decision was made by the Administrative Council to have new carpet placed in the sanctuary and to paint the sanctuary as part of the final stages of renovation. Construction of the outdoor playground should be completed within the new few days. Orders have been placed for the kitchen equipment and arrangements have been made for the moving and hook up of our current sound system.

The materials for heating and air conditioning units have arrived and will be installed in the near future. Members of the Building Committee continue to meet each week and have been working on the final details of the furnishings for the various rooms and offices.

Thank you for your patience with the many inconveniences that have been caused by the project over the past few months. Most of all, thank you for your past and continued financial support as we come to the final stages of our vision for new facilities at Mount Nittany. You are welcome to visit anytime that the church is open to view what has been accomplished to date.



# October 2002

## Mission Emphasis:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 7:00 P.M. Administrative Council	<b>2</b> 7:30 P.M. Choir	<b>3</b> 7:00 P.M. Building Cmt.	<b>4</b> UMM Fall Retreat at Wesley Forest thru 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> World Communion Sunday 1:30P.M. SPRC <b>5:30P.M.:</b> Youth Bell Choir Drama Ministry Group Praise & Worship Ministry Group <b>6:30P.M.:</b> Youth Groups Adult Bell Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> noon Senior Citizen's Luncheon 7:30 P.M. Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>5:30P.M.:</b> Youth Bell Choir Drama Ministry Group Praise & Worship Ministry Group <b>6:30P.M.:</b> Youth Groups Adult Bell Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> United Methodist Men	<b>16</b> 7:30 P.M. Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Laity Sunday</b> <b>5:30P.M.:</b> Youth Bell Choir Drama Ministry Group Praise & Worship Ministry Group <b>6:30P.M.:</b> Youth Groups Adult Bell Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:30 P.M. Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Turn clocks back one hour tonight! (2:00 A.M.)

<p><b>27 Fellowship Hour</b> <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b> <b>5:30P.M.:</b> Youth Bell Choir Drama Ministry Group Praise &amp; Worship Ministry Group <b>6:30P.M.:</b> Youth Groups Adult Bell Choir</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00 P.M. Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 7:30 P.M. Choir</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>		
---	--	------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------	--	--



**Mission Focus for October**  
**The Endless Mountain Mission Center**

The Endless Mountain Mission Center (EMMC) located in Troy, Pennsylvania, in the Wellsboro District, has served over 2,100 people since 1986. An Advance Special Project of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, Endless Mountain Mission Center helps people with immediate needs for food, shelter, clothing, medical assistance, transportation assistance, fuel assistance, and rent assistance. The Mission responds with crisis intervention for victims of domestic abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, and homelessness. EMMC works with area food pantries, Habitat for Humanity, regional human service agencies, other outreach ministries, and colleges to reach Pennsylvania's Northern Tier rural population in need.

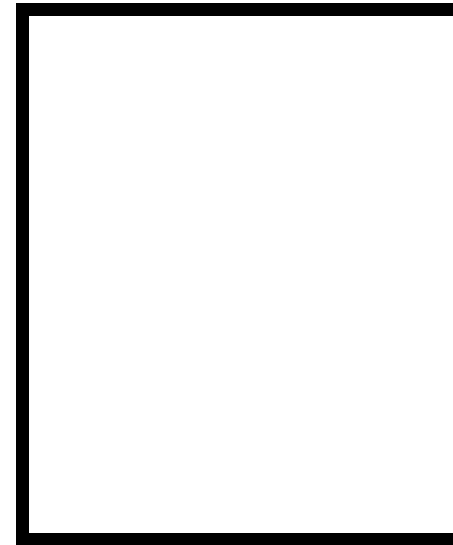
One of the components of EMMC is Big Blue, a facility in West Burlington, Pennsylvania, which consists of two efficiency apartments, administrative office space, and a large activity room. The efficiency apartments can provide emergency shelter for families or individuals; the large room will seat approximately 250 and will be used as a place for families and individuals to come to get refreshed and hear the Gospel.

Support for the work done by EMMC has come from area churches, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the National Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Community Development Block Grants, and other sources.

Our goal is \$500. Your contributions can be placed in the regular worship offerings or in the special cans located at the entrance to the sanctuary.

NON-PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 LEMONT, PA 16851  
 Permit No. 1

Mount Nittany United Methodist Church  
 P. O. Box 1167  
 Lemont, PA 16851



\* Return Service Requested \*

**October  
 Newsletter**