

Grace Notes from the Pastor

February 2012

"Love Letters for Christ"

Looking ahead toward Valentine's Day on February 14th, I couldn't help but think of one of the greatest memories of my childhood...getting Valentine cards from my classmates at school. Do any of you remember those days? You'd get those old Kleenex boxes, you'd decorate them, and then would come that magical moment when everybody in the class would rush from one desk to another putting in those tiny cards of "Be mine, Valentine!" And who can forget those tiny candy hearts that sometimes adorned the cards which had stamped on them such profound statements as, "love me?" "You're mine" ...Ah, yes...the simple joys of childhood!

As much as I miss those days, however, I was reminded by the Apostle Paul recently that there is something even better than receiving Valentine cards and that's BEING a Valentine card, a love letter to others! In 2 Corinthians, chapter 3 Paul writes, "Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it...not with ink but with God's living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives...and we publish it" (from The Message).

Wow, folks! Did you ever see yourself as a letter that can be read by everybody you come into contact with? But that's what we are! When we reach out to someone who is a widow, when we make that hospital visit to someone who is anxiously awaiting a surgery, when we greet a first time visitor in our church with a warm handshake and a smile...we have allowed our card to be seen with not only our beautiful picture on it, but with Christ-like words that say, "You're special!" "Jesus Loves you, this I know!" and other greetings that come from your heart to those hurting or feeling abandoned.

Never, EVER friends, underestimate the power of a smile, a hug, and a prayer because all of these small kindnesses reveal a greeting card that will be published and long-remembered in the hearts of all those you greet and care for in the name of Jesus Christ, the Love of our life and the Lover of our souls!

In Christ always,

Pastor Jeff Levy

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 5th 5th Sunday After the Epiphany

Scripture Reader: Dan Schilling
Greeters: Barb & Jesse Buxton
Ushers: Dave & Janice Lamm
Acolyte: Sam
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Children's & Youth Choirs

February 12th 6th Sunday After the Epiphany

Coffee Hour: Barb Buxton / Carole Phillips

Scripture Reader: Michelle Elmquist
Greeters: Howard & Cindy Mc Intosh
Ushers: TBA
Acolyte: Rhianna
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Festival Ringers

February 19th Transfiguration Sunday

Annual Soup Luncheon (sponsored by Youth Group)

Scripture Reader: Carol Verrone
Greeters: Donna Mela, TBA
Ushers: Deb Hafler, TBA
Acolyte: Brooks
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Festival Ringers

ASH
WEDNESDAY

February 22nd Ash Wednesday

Greeters/Ushers: TBA
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Adult Choir

February 26th 1st Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Debbie Hafler
Greeters: Tom & Paulette Fotta
Ushers: Ken & Carol Reuther
Acolyte: Robin
Nursery: Betty Koss
Music: Adult Choir

Church Office Information

New Church Staff Member

Jori Poplawski joins our family as a new office assistant. Some of you may already know Jori. She works in our pre-school with Jeanne Garubba. Please stop by and introduce yourself. Jori will be working in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

New Church Office Hours

(Michelle, Jori or Pastor Jeff will be available during these hours and the church will be open)

Tuesday: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm



March Newsletter

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Information for March, Easter and spring events.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Verrastro

As of December 31, 2011 all the General Fund Account bills were paid, and we saved \$566 by continuing to take advantage of Plociniak Oil's discount program. However we only met 50% of our ministry shares commitment. We needed an additional \$12,683 to pay 100%.

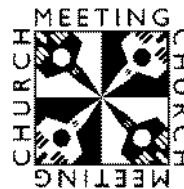
In 2011 our church reached others outside our walls by donating the following funds which were collected either through the designated envelopes in your packet or special requests.

Human Relations	68
Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose	25
Native American	102
North Pocono Food Pantry	93
One Great Hour of Sharing	212
Pacific Emergency	110
Peace with Justice	101
Sky Lake Camp Scholarships	400
Student Day	50
Susquehanna Flood Relief Fund	680
U.S. Disaster Response	105
World Communion	<u>173</u>
TOTAL	2,119

We had 12 participants in the Automatic Bank Deposit Program whose pledges were deposited into the church's bank account on the first Monday of each month. The program is available all year, and your contribution can be changed at any time. Please contact me at 689-2843 for information or forms to enroll.

Based on our 2012 budget, we need \$13,960 per month to meet expenses including ministry shares. Our 2012 ministry shares commitment is \$24,560. A comparison of the budgets for 2011 and 2012 is included in this newsletter.

We are grateful for your continued support of the general operation and maintenance of the church, and a special thank you for the 2011 heating oil donations that totaled \$3,280.



COMMITTEES

Trustees

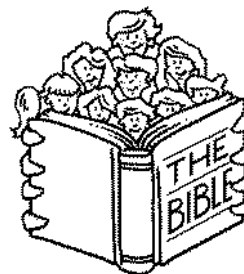
Next meeting will be held on
Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Ad Council

Next meeting will be held on
Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

SPRC

Next meeting will be held on
Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 6:00 PM.



Lenten Bible Study Coming Soon!

Join us beginning on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 pm as we look at Adam Hamilton's DVD Bible study series, "Final Words From the Cross." In this series we will look at new ways of seeing Jesus' final words from the cross and how we can apply them to our lives. Don't miss it! Place for study TBA.

Moscow United Methodist Church

2012 Budget

	2011	2012	Change	Percent
INCOME				
Basket/Ministry Share	4,500.00	7,200.00	2,700.00	60%
Envelope Offerings	150,381.00	141,155.00	(9,226.00)	-6%
Ivey Trust	90.00	60.00	(30.00)	-33%
Fundraiser Income	8,500.00	8,500.00	0.00	0%
Misc. Income	4,500.00	3,500.00	(1,000.00)	-22%
Plate Offerings	3,500.00	4,000.00	500.00	14%
Special Offerings	3,100.00	3,100.00	0.00	0%
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TOTAL INCOME	174,571.00	167,515.00	(7,056.00)	-4%
EXPENSES	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>Ministry Share* & Conf. Funds:</u>				
Health Insurance	14,483.00	14,992.00	509.00	4%
Ministry Shares*	25,433.00	24,560.00	(873.00)	-3%
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<i>Total Conference Funds</i>	39,916.00	39,552.00	(364.00)	-1%
<u>Lay Salaries:</u>				
Bell Choir Director	2,428.00	2,528.00	100.00	4%
Church Office Manager	7,880.00	7,900.00	20.00	0%
Director of Music	8,243.00	8,343.00	100.00	1%
Financial Secretary	1,545.00	1,645.00	100.00	6%
Nursery Caregiver	1,721.00	1,821.00	100.00	6%
Organist	12,085.00	12,185.00	100.00	1%
Treasurer	1,545.00	1,645.00	100.00	6%
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<i>Total Lay Salaries</i>	35,447.00	36,067.00	620.00	2%
<u>Local Operating Expenses:</u>				
Administrative Expenses	150.00	150.00	0.00	0%
Custodial Supplies	500.00	600.00	100.00	20%
Electricity	2,700.00	2,800.00	100.00	4%
FICA Tax Expense	2,587.00	2,633.00	46.00	2%
Fuel Oil & Gas	11,700.00	16,000.00	4,300.00	37%
Garbage Removal	540.00	650.00	110.00	20%
Office Supplies	2,000.00	2,400.00	400.00	20%
Postage	800.00	600.00	(200.00)	-25%
Safe Sanctuary	200.00	200.00	0.00	0%
Telephone	1,700.00	1,700.00	0.00	0%
Water & Sewer	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0%
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<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	24,077.00	28,933.00	4,856.00	20%
<u>Local Programming Expenses:</u>				
General Church Program	800.00	800.00	0.00	0%
Music Program	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0%
Stewardship	1,000.00	1,200.00	200.00	20%
Substitute Organist	600.00	600.00	0.00	0%
Substitute Preacher	800.00	800.00	0.00	0%
Sunday School Program	900.00	900.00	0.00	0%
Youth Ministries	500.00	500.00	0.00	0%
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<i>Total Programming Expenses</i>	6,100.00	6,300.00	200.00	3%
<u>Pastor & Ministerial:</u>				
Pastor's Exp. Reimbursement	5,600.00	3,000.00	(2,600.00)	-46%
Pastor's Continuing Education	0.00	750.00	750.00	
Pastor's Pension	5,895.00	6,303.00	408.00	7%
Pastor's Salary	50,536.00	41,410.00	(9,126.00)	-18%
Pastor's Utilities	7,000.00	5,200.00	(1,800.00)	-26%
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<i>Total Pastor & Ministerial</i>	69,031.00	56,663.00	(12,368.00)	-18%
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TOTAL EXPENSES	174,571.00	167,515.00	(7,056.00)	-4%

**Moscow United Methodist Church
Leaders and Committees for 2012**

The Administrative Council

Chair: Bill Fischer
Lay Leader: Howard McIntosh
Trustees Chair: John Havenstrite
SPRC Chair: Howard McIntosh
Treasurer: Linda Verrastro
Sunday School Treasurer: Gail Simpkins
Historian: Muriel Smailes
Worship Chair: Michael Shoff
Missions: Hugh Miller
Membership Secretary: Michelle Elmquist
***UMYF: Leaders Jr High:** Michelle Elmquist
Barb Buxton
Sr. High: Deborah Hafler
Janet Brown
Sr. High Student Reps: Taylor Brown

Secretary: Laura Havenstrite
Lay Member: Gary Boam, Jim Smailes
Finance Chair: MaryEllen Pidich
Financial Secretary: Don Ehrhardt
***Sunday School Superintendent:** Sharon Kelly
Susan McLain/Michelle Marsh(asst.)
Disaster Coordinator: Merle Lyon
UMW/Funeral Dinners: Paulette Fotta
Beth Czulada
Memorial Fund: Gail Johns, Carol Reuther
Camping Rep: Sarah Shoff
Red Cross Representative: Lois Linko
Transportation Ministry: Vicki Herman
Cong. Care/Card Ministry: Dawn Biesecker,
Lorie Reigal
Parish Nurse Ministry: Barbara Buxton
***Safe Sanctuary Chair:** JB Bensinger

Members at Large: Jack Carling, Gus Herman, Lorie Reigal, Ray Roese, Peg Benjamin, Cis Lyon

Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee

(The Church Lay Member and Lay Leader are also on this committee)

2012	2013	2014
Elise Hanna Corey Fabricatore Audrey Pierre	Merle Lyon Pat Reid Paulette Fotta	<u>Lynn Reese</u> <u>Mike Buser</u> <u>Janet Brown</u>

Trustees

2012	2013	2014
Dawn Biesecker (Parson Rep) Bill Wright Beth Czulada (Treas.)	<u>Dan Schilling</u> John Havenstrite (chair) Harriet Hanna (Secretary)	<u>Brian O'Donnell</u> <u>Paula Bowen</u> <u>Donna Mela</u>

Committee on Lay Leadership

(Lay Leader is also on this committee)

2012	2013	2014
Mike Buser Gary Wodder Nancy Schwenk	Sue Shotwell Dan Schilling Deb Hartzell	<u>Diane Croom</u> <u>Dan Hanna</u> <u>Wendy Simons</u>

Permanent Endowment Committee

(Finance Chair, Treasurer, Trustee Representative are also on this committee)

Jack Carling y(2012)

Gary Wodder (2013)

Nate Bifano (2014)

Finance Committee

(Lay Leader is also on this committee)

Chair: Mary Ellen Pidich **Financial Secretary:** Don Ehrhardt **Treasurer:** Linda Verrastro
Bill Fischer (Ad Council Chair), ----- (Trustees Representative), Glenn Czulada

Auditors

Carol Verrone, David Hess, Donna Long

Worship Committee

Chairperson: Michael Shoff

***Acolytes:** Consuelo Brown
Paula Tischler

Communion Stewards: Jean Hubbard
Nancy Schwenk

Flower Committee: Lois Linko
Audrey Pierre (Treasurer)

Worship Tech Chair: Al Plociniak

Scripture Readers: Karen Morgan

Greeters/Ushers: Yvonne Bifano

***Nursery:** Betty Koss, Sue McLain
Michelle Marsh

***Organist:** Robert Reynolds

***Director of Music:** Norm Campbell

***Director of Bell Choirs:** Michael Shoff

***Children's Choir Director:** Deb Hafler

***Youth Choir Director:** Deb Hafler

Bell Choirs Chair: Sue McClain
Sharon Kelly

Hospitality

Heidi Franssen, Harold & Theresa Galey, Cis Lyon & Sarah Marsh

Parsonage Committee

Howard McIntosh (SPRC Chair), John Havenstrite (Trustee Chair)
Paulette Fotta (UMW Representative), Ray Roese (Wednesday Morning Rep)

Wedding Stewards Jesse Buxton

Safe Sanctuary Committee

JB Bensinger (Chair), Sharon Kelly (Sunday Superintendent), Norm Campbell (Music Rep), Deb Hafler (Youth Rep), Michael Shoff (Worship Chair), ----- (Trustee Rep),

Visitation Committee

Len Buxton, Tita Buxton, Cindy McIntosh, Betty Schillow, Muriel Smailes, Gary Wodder, Lynn Crannell

The Pastor is an ex-officio member of all Boards and Committees

Underlining indicates new committee members or chairpersons.

* Indicates background checks required under Safe Sanctuary Policy

Please Pray For



Bruce Hoelz and Family, Leo Woelkers, Kathleen Anthony, Troy Green, Family of Robert VanBrundt, Father Scott Sturuski, Theresa Galey,

Blanche Bonitz, Barb Abas, Margaret Brooks, Donna Swartz, Ronda Dunavant, Alice Balutis, Barb McNulty, Matthew Douaihy, Scott Musewicz, Meredith & Kenny Majusiak, Carmine Monacelli, Rev. Brolin Parker, Bob Reimer, Bob Davis, Hannah DeLar, Jake Kieper, Ed & Marie Hoevermann, Lynn Guse Lorenz, Bryan Oberdorf, Jennifer Holdren Mease, Meredith Ashton, Tiffany Barrineau, Ed Kovac, Mike Oitak, Wendy Cominsky, Diann Small, Harry Garris, Arthur Grogan, Elizabeth Barrera, John Korea, Jean Hoover, John Hollister, Polly Ciscoe, Caleb Price, Darlene Fruehan, Jack Jones, Ted Lysak, Marilyn Winkler, Kiara Gilchrist

Psalm 41:3

The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.

Military personnel

Brandon Swartz, Nathan Trygar, Kevin Wood, Amanda Price, and Michael DeLucy.



Sunday School News

Submitted by Sharon Kelly

We will be finishing our study of Jonah during the month of February. On February 19th, we will begin preparing for Easter with "Easter: Go and Tell".

The Sunday School is looking for snack donations. Items needed are pretzels, animal crackers, individually wrapped raisins, and juice boxes. You may give your donation to any of the teachers or drop them off in the School Office. Thank you in advance for your support. If you need to speak with someone about the Sunday School Program, please contact Sharon Kelly at 689-2163.



Mission Trip 2012 STILL ROOM LEFT Rutland, Vermont; June 17th-23rd

It is going to be an AWESOME adventure that you will never forget!!!!

Anyone that will have completed 6th-12th grades is able to attend.

You DO NOT have to be a youth group member. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their youth that are interested in this great experience.

Oh and did I mention – there is really NO COST except your commitment of a deposit. In the end, that will go towards travel and food money.

Please contact Debbie or the church office for more information.

Senior High and Junior High Senior High and Junior High Youth Groups

We had a great planning meeting on January 29th. Here's the schedule through March:

February 5 – Soup-er bowl Sunday

Basket offering will be for food pantry (soup pots) need volunteers to help with this. Meeting after church pre-super bowl party pizza and wings, games and bring your favorite finger food or dip. Also, come ready to sign up for soup luncheon.

February 19th – Soup Luncheon

Our annual soup lunch .. bring your soup and come ready to serve ..

February 25th – Retirement Dinner for Eva Ferrario

Eva has run the NP food pantry for many years and is now retiring. We need youth to help serve at the dinner. We need to be at Springbrook Firehall at 4:00pm. Let us know if you can help! **We NEED** a count ASAP in case they need to find more helpers.

March 4th - Movie Time

We will be getting together to watch a movie. Bring comfy clothes, maybe a pillow and blanket. More to come!

March 18th – Skylake Bring a Friend and a lunch!

We are planning a day Trip to Sky Lake! We will meet right after church and will be back around 7ish pm. If there is snow we will sleigh ride, have games, have a fire, and make some smores etc....

March 31st (Saturday)- Easter Baskets

Make and deliver Easter Baskets to shut-ins.

April 15th – Meeting

April 28th (Saturday) – Hoagie Sale 9 am – 12:00 pm

April 29th - Hot Hoagie Sale after Church on Sunday

FOR YOUR HEALTH and SAFETY AND OTHERS

SELF-DEFENSE COURSES FOR WOMEN ONLY



Could you effectively defend yourself if attacked?

- **Date:** Wednesday's in April 2012 (4th, 11th, 18th and 25th)
- **Time:** 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
- **Location:** Moscow Borough Police Dept
123 Van Brunt Street
Moscow, PA 18444
- **Cost:** \$25.00
- **Includes:** This fee includes four sessions of realistic and dynamic hands on training. Comprehensive reference manual, actual-live simulations with a certified instructor, and a lifetime membership policy. This means you can attend additional R.A.D. training classes in Moscow or anywhere in the U.S. for FREE!!!
- **Contact:** Chief Ivy L. Brenzel
(570) 842-2061
Police@Moscowboro.com

The North Pocono Pantries need our Help!!!

Dry Goods

Our item for February is Laundry Detergent, but all donations are welcome.

FOOD PANTRY

Always urgently needed are: Beef Stew, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna Fish, Oatmeal and Cereal.

Preschool News

Christmas festivities were enjoyed by families and friends of the Moscow United Methodist Church Preschool when Santa came to visit during the Preschool's annual Christmas parties.



Shown in the Pre-Kindergarten Preschool class photo IMG 0740 are:

Front row: Ave Page, Emilee Battle, Amaya Monacelli, Zander Cramer, Matthew Jennings,
Middle row: Max Malec, Karson Gibson, Lylah Placek, Cayden Knight, Lauren Gilgallon, Logan Walton
Back row: Ava Moran, Mrs. Poplawski, Logan Olsommer, Norah Smith, Ashley Wright (sitting on Santa's lap), Santa, Jimmy Klotz (sitting on Santa's lap) Ryan Knight, Colin McGoff, Matthew Poplawski, Kiara Ferri (seated)
Behind back row: Mrs. Garubba with Tommy Woods



Shown in the Nursery Preschool class photo IMG 0784 are:

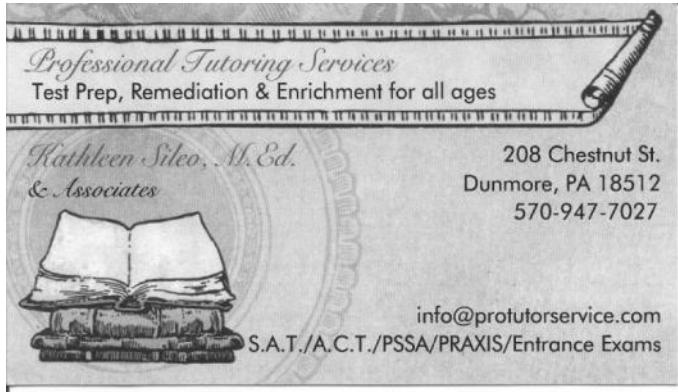
Front row: Gavin Chapman, Mason DeStefano, Emma Hollenbeck, Nathan Jacob
Middle row: Lexie Poplawski, Riley Rooney, Madison Forgione, Brady Pica, Sarah Reid (behind Brady), Sarah Luczak, Sydney Blumer, Victoria Williams
Back row: Isabella Forgione, Mrs. Poplawski, Jake Reese (on Santa's lap), Santa, Aaron Stangline, Mrs. Garubba with Elizabeth Bealer



Shown in the Parent-Child Funtime Workshop IMG 0834 are:

Standing in front: Lizzie Mendola
Sitting: (on Santa's lap) Sadie Placek, Santa, William Eisley (on Santa's lap)
Standing: Mrs. Jeannie Garubba, Director, holding Alden Ayers

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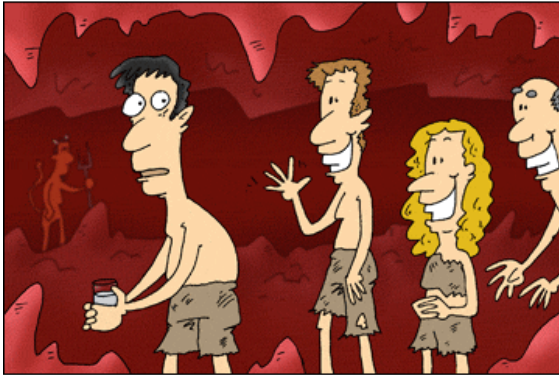
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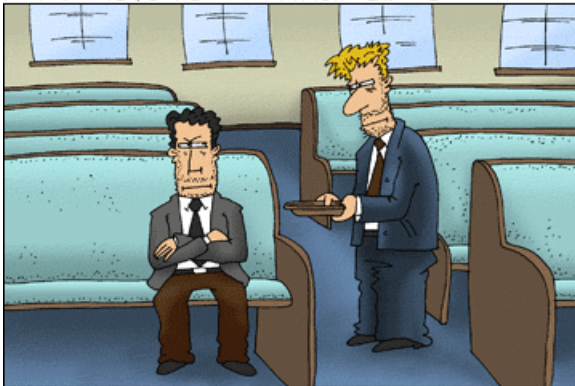
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07-15-2011

SURE ENOUGH, ONCE YOU TRADE ALL YOUR RICHES FOR SOME WATER YOU ARE APPROACHED BY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU HAD

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06-03-2011

SEVENTY TWO LONG HOURS LATER AND STILL THE STANDOFF CONTINUED ...

Believe!

E-TOUR EVENT PROVIDES LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR LAITY AND CLERGY

*Equip your church with exciting ministry resources!
Empower your leaders for today's mission field!
Engage in transforming workshop experiences!
Connect with other church leaders!*

The goal of this "tour" is to take our Connectional Ministries Team, Conference leaders, and resources "on the road" to a church near you. The event is designed to help leaders and future leaders in local churches discover the wealth of resources available to them through our United Methodist connection and the Susquehanna Conference. Through an offering of workshops, displays, media, and interactive learning experiences, participants will benefit greatly by attending and will receive a disc packed with helpful tools and resources to take home.

Many Leaders from Moscow UMC are going to this. If you wish to make your reservations through the office please do so by February 10th with your \$5 registration and Michelle will send in a group registration.

Sunday, February 26 (registration deadline is February 17) Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District from 2 - 7 p.m. at Trucksville UMC.

Lunch/supper is included in the \$5 registration fee.

You are welcome to attend any of the E-Tour events regardless of your district.

For all the details, including a downloadable brochure listing specific trainings and instructions on how to register, go to: www.susumc.org and click on the E-Tour under "Events". For more information, contact Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, Mike Bealla, (mbealla@susumc.org) or Lisa Bender (lbender@susumc.org) at 1-800-874-8474 or 717-766-7441.

