From the Pastor
In Christ we are able to see what is happening around us from a new perspective—from the eyes of love—from God’s perspective. We now know that God has a plan and desires that everything we do is in line with the future God gives us. This is a good time to reflect on the year of 2016 and look forward to our bright future together.

Looking back
We shared with the community at our Sunday evening Gospel concerts. We connected with the residents as we brought the worship Service to the Brethren Retirement Center. Many hands shared God’s love in baking cookies for the Spring and Fall Kairos, which two of us attended. We had a regular family fellowship meal and activities on each third Saturday. We worked with Painter Creek to bring a picnic to the Pitsburg Park. Our Discipleship Director of youth, Andy Strawser, has made connections with many new youth which have been meeting in our Tower. We had other joint activities with Painter Creek like Love feast and joint Bible Studies. We had a marvelous Christmas Concert and play. And together through the year we had lots of prayers, singing, hugging, and love.

We have all these to look forward to plus much more: We are going to remodel our kitchen to make it more inviting and user friendly. We will have more skits and special music involving the young people and others. Andy is looking into a Passion walk through the village of Pitsburg for Good Friday involving youth and others, and I foresee many guests and visitors looking for love, checking us out.

Keep your spiritual eyes open as we enter the new year, and always seek to know and follow God’s will. In His name.  Pastor Ken

Isaiah 48:6NRSV
“You have heard; now see all this; and will you not declare it? From this time forward I make you hear new things, hidden things that you have not known.

Sunday 9:00 am - Sunday School
Sunday 10:00 am - Praise and Worship
Wednesday 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Youth - Tower

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 28  No  Bible Study
Jan 1     Sunday worship special - Bruce Shank
Jan 4     Wednesday 7:00 pm Fellowship/Bible Study
Jan 8     Sunday worship special -
Jan 11    Wednesday 7:00 pm Fellowship/Bible Study
Jan 15    Sunday worship special -
Jan 18    Wednesday 7:00 pm Fellowship/Bible Study
Jan 21    Saturday 4-8 Family fellowship meal and activities
Jan 22    Sunday worship special -
Feb 3-5  Men’s Retreat at Sugar Grove lodge
Feb 5     Sunday 6:00 pm Gospel Concert
Featuring: “You-get-to-pick” Hymn Sing
Note:
If we have not listed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Pastor so we can correct the list.

**Castine Area Food Bank**
Food item for January is Kool-aid or fruit juice

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

1  Dixie Magee
8  Jaylabryn Coby
10 Doyle Campbell
26 Duane Wetzel
27 Daryl Oren
29 LaVaun Yohe

Pictures from December Concert and Play

**No Sunday evening Concert in January**
From the Internet:
One Sunday on TV I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak.

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me. The only thing that would comfort was this verse

"Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, We are weak but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so."

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best. Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me":

Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim, Still He bids me trust in Him.

(Chorus)
YES, JESUS LOVES ME. YES, JESUS LOVES ME.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow, With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way.
(Chorus)

When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song,
Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near."
(Chorus)

When my work on earth is done, And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above, Then I'll understand His love.
(Chorus)

I love Jesus, does He know? Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say, That I love Him every day.
(Chorus)

Submitted by Bruce Shank
If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the Pastor at pitsburgcob@yahoo.com.

We love you, Darwin!

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Eve