

October, 2009

Dear Friends at Zion's,

As we move into the Fall, one of the events we mark every year is World Communion Sunday. Since the end of World War II, Christian Churches around the world have set aside the 1st Sunday in October to celebrate communion and to proclaim our oneness in Christ that transcends race, clan, and geography. Surely today, with all of the strife in the world, it is still appropriate for us to know that despite other differences, we are still connected with people of faith no matter where they live, no matter what our political orientation.

Along with World Communion, Zion's Church family for many years has received the Fall Ingathering special offering. Our practice, as an example for everyone of good stewardship, is to use one of the Ingathering offerings for our own needs, (This year, the Summer Ingathering was designated for the general budget.) and the other offering for a mission oriented purpose.

The Consistory has designated this year's Fall Ingathering for Camp Mensch Mill. Mensch Mill is part of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference's "Ensuring the Future" campaign. Through it, they plan to pay off the mortgage on the Kline Adult Retreat Center, expand opportunities for groups, build a new pool, and provide scholarship assistance to ensure that no child is unable to attend camp because of finances. Our gifts, along with those of many churches and individuals will accomplish all of this work related to outdoor ministry in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

In addition, if we have individuals who are interested in make a direct donation for the camp, information is available in the church office. Others who have gone before us have laid a good foundation and now it is for us in our time to continue to build so that we may continue to reach out in this area of faith formation.

As always, I invite you to be present with us in worship. For worship is the heart of our gathering as Zion's and central to building and maintaining our lives of faith. I pray that all of us will have a good Fall and find new ways to be challenged to learn, to give, to pray, and to partake in the Body of Christ.

See you in church,

Peter C. Nichols, Pastor