

# PSEC *Communitas*

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE + UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

178 UCC churches in southeastern Pennsylvania



## FOCUS ON: Year End Generosity

*We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.* —2 Corinthians 8:1-4

We are approaching the end of a very challenging year. Opportunities abound for those able to express a generosity of spirit through financial stewardship. Giving that is well planned is more important than ever. Here are some ideas for you to consider.

### **Gifts of Cash**

Most people give cash. You can receive a charitable deduction for the full value of your cash gift if you itemize.

### **Gifts of Stock**

Appreciated stocks are a mainstay of gift planning. You will avoid paying capital gains and receive a charitable deduction based on the value of the stock when you transfer ownership. The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference can help you make stock gifts.

### **Gifts that Provide Income for You**

A charitable gift annuity is an excellent way to make a gift and also receive a guaranteed income for life. You receive a charitable deduction for the gift to your congregation or any other United Church of Christ entity. And a portion of your annuity payments might be tax free.

### **Gifts from your Retirement Plan**

If you have an IRA and are over 70½ years old, you may contribute gifts directly from your IRA and not be taxed for these withdrawals.

You can learn more about these ideas for thoughtful giving by contacting Dr. Bob Fogal at (610) 489-2056, ext. 307, or [fogal@psec.org](mailto:fogal@psec.org). As Minister of Philanthropy for the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, he will be pleased to help you explore how you can express your generous spirit through giving to your local congregation, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, or the wider church.

## FALL EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For brochures, flyers, on-line registration and a full list of meetings and events visit [www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org)

### **Thurs., Nov. 19 - Days Apart for Clergy**

*Days Apart for Clergy* are days when those who minister and nurture others are given an opportunity to attend to their own personal growth and spiritual needs. This year, the *Days Apart* will be held on 4 Thursdays, **9:30 AM - 3:00 PM at the Mensch House, Mensch Mill Retreat Center, November 19, January 14, March 4, and April 8.** We will begin each day with sharing the Eucharist, engaging in thematic spiritual formation/prayer, spending time in quiet reflection, sharing and praying for one another. We will be using the book, *Prayerfulness: Awakening to the Fullness of Life*, by Robert J. Wicks as the focus for *Days Apart*. Each participant is asked to secure a personal copy of *Prayerfulness*, and register by using the registration form in the download section of the PSEC website. Also bring a bag lunch, Bible, and journal to the event. For more information contact Rev. Wanda D. Craner, Minister of Spiritual Nurture, PSEC.



### **Sat., Nov. 21, Fall Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast from 9 AM to 3 PM at St. Paul's UCC, Douglassville**

The theme will be: "Breaking Down Walls, Bridging Gulfs." Our special guests for the meeting will include the Rev. Joachim Liebig, the newly-elected President of the Evangelical Regional Church of Anhalt in Germany, and Mr. Sebastian Sass, Cantor for the Regional Church. Special features include an update on the *Ensuring the Future* initiative, honoring anniversary churches, and the presentation of each congregation's OCWM commitment for 2010. During the Conferring Session we will take action on the Association/Conference Relations Proposal that was presented at the Spring Meeting, and the 2010 Program and Spending Plan. A special youth event will occur simultaneous to the meeting. Visit [www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org) to register on-line or download the meeting packet that includes a registration form and directions to St. Paul's UCC. If you need assistance, call 610-4889-2056.



**PRAYER PARTNERS** - Your prayers are welcomed today for the congregation of St. Peter UCC, Knauertown and their team of five ministers as they focus on local families in need with work projects and assistance with counsel, food, rental, repair, travel and health care.