

# Congruity Connection



## CLIFF'S NOTES

Did you ever have a song or a saying stuck in your head? This happened to me the other day. All day long (and I'm a little worried that typing it stick it in my mind again), the words "April showers bring May flowers" keep echoing in my mind. As I thought about this, I found myself being hopeful – hopeful that it will get warm enough for the flowers to bloom! Another thought that struck me was how flowers play an important role in May – we may give flowers on Mother's Day... some place flowers on graves for Memorial Day... on Pentecost (May 19<sup>th</sup>) the sanctuary will be burst with red geraniums in celebration of the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ. So in the very merry month of May, we will be surrounded by flowers.

One of the themes that Jesus uses is that of the vine and the branches in John 15. Jesus says "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." What a wonderful image for our faith and our life as brothers and sisters!

In these next few weeks we will be surrounded by flowers – hanging baskets, our gardens will be planted, the shrubbery around our homes – and I think this is a wonderful image for us to hold onto as a church. May we continue to grow and produce fruit as we endeavor to be engaged in ministry and mission in our communities and to the very end of our global neighborhood. Another thought is that being connected to one another and to Christ, we are able to endure the storms and showers that come our way.

When I was growing up there was another version of the saying I began with: If April showers bring May flowers – what do May Flowers bring? Pilgrims! We are pilgrims on our life-long journey of faith and may we continue to be rooted in Jesus Christ and connected to one another so that our mutual ministry and mission continues to bloom.

Yours in Christ, *Cliff*



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR MAY

ELDERS

Laura Blank 5/5  
 Sue Blank 5/12  
 Gene Brant 5/19  
 5/26

Liturgists

John Blank  
 Dorothy Martz  
 Keith Orr  
 Linda Sellinger



Tim D'Aurora

Dave Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Bob Schweppe

Janet Rugh

Linda Youngbauer

Tylor McDonald Y.R.

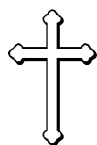
If you would like to serve as a liturgist please see Cliff.

If you are interested in becoming an acolyte please see Dave or Pam Foresman.

Those serving communion on May 19th are:

Janet Rugh Tim D'Aurora Sue Blank  
 Evelyn Foresman Dorothy Brant

DEACONS



Dorothy Brant

Dotty D'Aurora

Becky Davis

Sue Derek

Evelyn Foresman

Scott McIlnay

Debbie Perino

Jay Perino

Sarabeth Stopansky

SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER

The congregations and pastors from Neighborhood 1 for our prayer support during the month of May are as follows:

5/5 Murrysville, Union  
 † John Simpson, Interim Pastor  
 5/12 New Alexandria, Community  
 † Kathy Shirey, Pastor  
 5/19 New Alexandria, Congruity  
 † Cliff Foster, Pastor  
 5/26 New Kensington  
 † Colin Yuckman, Pastor

## MAY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

5/1 Dave Bish  
Lisa Kaufman  
5/3 Larry Swatchick  
5/12 Roni Kaufman  
5/15 Lucha Batera  
Ron Kaufman  
Linda Youngbauer



5/16 Bryce Kaufman  
5/17 Jim Fennel  
Linda Hazlett  
Joelyn Watt  
5/18 Susan Blank  
5/20 Cindy Karstaedt  
5/23 Nancy Henry  
Rose Ann Orr  
5/28 Becky Swatchick



### ANNIVERSARIES

5/3/1980 Steve & Sue Derek  
5/5/2007 Mike & Kerstin Stellato  
5/10/1986 Scott & Kathy Hamilton  
5/14/1983 Gary & Tammy Kulik  
5/16/1998 Tom & Becky Davis  
5/17/2008 Gale & Judy Wilhelm  
5/25/1968 Denny & Linda Hazlett

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class will be received into church membership on Pentecost Sunday—May 19<sup>th</sup>.



Remember if you need a ride to or from any activity at Congruity, we will be glad to arrange for someone to pick you up. Please call the office to make arrangements.



## S Y M P A T H Y

We extend our sympathy to the Orr family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of the death of RoseAnn's father George Lamprinakos. May God's presence give you comfort and strength in you time of loss.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. —Psalm 23:4

## C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

Congratulations to Alyssa Martz on her recent induction into Kappa Delta Pi at St. Vincent College.

Kappa Delta Pi is an International Honor Society in Education with its membership limited to the top 20 percent of those entering the field of education.

Alyssa is the daughter of Ken & Missy Martz.



MISSION  
PHYLLIS FRYE



Jamaica Village is located in a building owned by the First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, N.Y. which has the oldest congregation in the U.S. established in 1782 (351 years ago). The present church building was moved to this site quite a number of years ago. After Super Storm Sandy hit, part of this other building was converted into a camp for volunteers.

Although we stayed there, we were working under a group called World Care, which was a half hour to forty-five minutes away, depending on traffic. Once we were at World Care, we were given our assignments and picked up our tools and supplies (in short supply) and headed out to our job sites, which were sometimes another half hour to forty-five minutes away. We saw a lot of New York traffic. At the end of the day, we did a reverse. Since there were twenty of us and a group of nine from Tennessee, we were divided into many groups. We did a lot of mold abatement (wore the complete hazmat outfit), carried out lots and lots of garbage, shoveled mounds of brick and sand out of people's yards, gutted houses, dug out dead trees and shrubs, (the salt water killed them), and did a lot of general clean-up. Our job supervisors were young people from Americacore. We were disappointed that our workdays were so short because World Care hours were only from 9 to 3 and sometimes we had to take the tools and Americacore kids back by 3. Aside from the actual work, we heard stories from our homeowners, prayed with them, were able to visit Christ by the Sea Presbyterian Church, of which the sanctuary has extensive damage and the Sunday school/social hall is completely devastated. If you are driving down the street, things look pretty normal, but then you notice, the buildings are vacant. The damage is in the inside. We thank you all for your support and prayers for this trip. We all made it safely home. New York traffic is crazy. Please pray for the people of New York and for those who are trying to help them. There is a lot of disorganization there.

T L C

TLC has meals prepared. If you know of someone that is feeling under the weather or just had a baby, or any other reason and may need a prepared meal, please talk to a member of TLC or Cliff.

W O M E N ' S   A S S O C I A T I O N  
P H Y L L I S   F R Y E



TURKEY DINNER

Saturday, May 11, serving from 4-7p.m. adults \$9, children \$4, children under 6 free. Contact the church (724 668 7740) or Janet Rugh (724 668 7652) for reservations. Remember, we need help doing turkeys, baking pies, setting up, and peeling potatoes ahead of time and help all day of the dinner. Please be generous with your donations and time.

PW Spring Retreat- open to all women- at Pine Springs Camp on Tuesday, May 28 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The topic is prayer. Registration is \$16, due May 23. Registration forms are on the bulletin board.

PW Regional Gathering, June 7-8 at Jumonville. Topic is angels, cost \$90, registration due May 18. Forms and info are on bulletin board.



**MAY 1, 2013 – 6 PM**

There will be a Covered Dish dinner at **Congruity Presbyterian Church** on **Wednesday, May 1 at 6 p.m.** to meet and hear from Jacob and Aliamma George, who teach at Giffen Bible School, Malakal, South Sudan. Reservations should be phoned in to the Congruity Church office at 724-668-7740. Don't

forget to bring a covered dish to share!

Jacob and Aliamma teach at Giffen Institute of Theology in Malakal. Jacob teaches Bible and preaching and Aliamma teaches health-related subjects. They also are involved in Community Health Evangelism, a program that seeks to transform individuals and communities by integrating community-based development, evangelism and discipleship. "I believe the gospel can change communities and eventually the nation," Jacob says. Before entering mission service, the Georges, who are natives of India, lived in Houston, Texas, where Jacob served as a pastor for 32 years and Aliamma worked as a nurse. Both of them grew up with parents who were evangelists in southern India.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**JOHN BLANK**

**General Fund**

	<b>NET Receipts</b>	<b>NET Expenses</b>	<b>Actual Balance</b>	<b>To Date Balance</b>
<i>Balance as of January 1 (Adjusted)</i>			\$ 15,829.23	
January	\$ 6,940.21	\$ 6,737.87	\$ 16,031.57	\$ 202.34
February	\$11,888.39	\$ 8,431.18	\$ 19,488.78	\$ 3,659.55
March	\$ 9,447.87	\$11,046.09	\$ 17,890.56	\$ 2,061.33

**First Fruits**

	<b>Received</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>Balance</b>
January	\$ 643.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (82.00)
February	\$ 499.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (308.00)
March	\$ 585.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (448.00)

	<b>Previous</b>	<b>This Month</b>	<b>To Date</b>
<b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b>		\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00
<b>Cents-Ability</b>	\$ 62.13	\$ 10.57	\$ 72.70
<b>Change for the Future</b>	\$ 34.60	\$ 33.62	\$ 68.22

	<b>Received</b>	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	\$ 849.55	\$ 850.00	\$ (0.45)
<b>Pentecost</b>		\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
<b>Peacemaking</b>		\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
<b>Christmas Joy</b>		\$ 450.00	\$ (450.00)
<b>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</b>		\$ -	\$ -

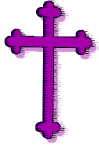
**C O N G R E G A T I O N A L   L I F E**  
**P H Y L L I S   F R Y E**



Pentecost Sunday May 19, cake after church.

Memorial Day Weekend Sunday May 26, after church, Memorial service in cemetery followed by lunch (kind to be announced)

We are still working on plans for a trip to Altoona Curves to watch a baseball game, possibly in June.



## ITEMS FROM SESSION JOHN BLANK

Session met on April 22, 2013 and reports the following:

- 1) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 2) Noted that 40 received Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. One Home Communion was served.
- 3) Received a report from Elder Commissioner Tim D'Aurora on the 3/23/13 meeting of Redstone Presbytery.
- 4) Noted that the next meeting of Redstone Presbytery is May 21, 2013. Janet Rugh was elected Elder Commissioner for that meeting.
- 5) Set the standard date for the Senior Citizens Luncheon as the second Saturday of September.
- 6) Noted that there will be cake or cupcakes for a Pentecost Celebration
- 7) Noted that a lunch is planned for the day before Memorial Day following worship. We will be hosting those participating in the Memorial Day service.
- 8) Noted that the total collected though 4/21/13 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was \$972.66
- 9) Designated the profit (\$725.43) from the Spaghetti Dinner to go to the General Fund
- 10) Designated the profit (\$185.00) from the Basket Auction to go to the Local Mission Fund
- 11) Designated that Congruity's 40% of the Pentecost Offering go to the Welcome Home Shelter.
- 12) Noted that the treasurer is to check with Rev. Foster approximately one week after an event in Fellowship Hall before returning deposits.
- 13) Authorized the purchase of a new lawn tractor for mowing the manse yard.
- 14) Awarded bids for the mowing of the cemetery and the church yard.
- 15) Set a work day for May 4<sup>th</sup>
- 16) Set summer worship for 10 AM from June 2 through September 1. There will be no Sunday School during the summer schedule. The regular schedule will resume on 9/8/13.
- 17) Approved the baptism of Trevor Derek for June 16<sup>th</sup>
- 18) Declined the request from GX Technology Corporation to place sensors on the church property while they conduct a seismographic survey.

ITEMS FROM SESSION CONTINUED  
JOHN BLANK

- 19)The following have volunteered to lead devotions for the next two session meetings as follows: May - Phyllis Frye and June - Sue Blank
- 20)Agreed to read and study Chapter G3 from the Book of Order for the next session meeting.
- 21)Discussed Chapter G1 and G2 from the Book of Order
- 22)The next regular meeting of session is scheduled for May 20, 2013.

The Mission of Congruity Presbyterian Church is to lead all persons to a biblical and theological understanding of reformed faith, to glorify God, to bear witness to Jesus Christ and to be the channel of God's saving power, so that His Kingdom may come and His Will be done in all the earth. We are the family of God. Therefore we focus on living as a loving family. Fellowship and worship will be the heart of our loving, caring church. (4/18/05)



CHRISTIAN ED  
PAM FORESMAN

Wow! It's getting closer....VBS is almost here! Mark your calendars and plan on bringing your friends to KINGDOM ROCK! Don't forget it will be held from June 24-28, 2013 from 9:00 to 12 Noon. It will be a community VBS this year and be held at CUP church with several churches combined. It's going to be a blast but we need YOU to make it AWESOME! Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and also the next newsletter!!

We could still use helpers too! If interested in helping out during VBS, please see anyone on the Christian Education Committee.

\*\*\*KINGDOM ROCK....WHERE KIDS STAND STRONG FOR GOD!\*\*\*

Congruity Presbyterian Church  
 136 Fenneltown Road  
 New Alexandria PA 15670

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We're on the web!  
[congruitychurch.org](http://congruitychurch.org)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM**  
**WORSHIP AT 11:00AM**  
**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**A T T E N D A N C E**

**Worship**

3/2	58	
3/31	57	8am
3/31	77	11am
4/7	62	
4/14	52	
4/21	57	

**Sunday School**

	Y	A	Total
3/24	6	18	24
3/31	10	16	26
4/7	6	16	22
4/14	6	15	21
4/21	9	18	27

**C H U R C H   S T A F F  
 A N D   O F F I C E R S**

Cliff Foster	Pastor
John Blank	Clerk of Session
Scott McIlnay	Deacon's Moderator
John Blank	Treasurer
Michelle Kepple	Financial Secretary
Dorothy Martz	Church Secretary
Janet Henry	Music Director
Yvonne McIlnay	Newsletter Editor
John Blank	Webmaster

Dorothy is in Monday & Thursday mornings.  
 Cliff is in the office most mornings.

Please put newsletter items in the folder at  
 the church or email to [ydmcilnay@yahoo.com](mailto:ydmcilnay@yahoo.com)