

# CONGRUITY CONNECTION



## CLIFF'S NOTES

What comes to your mind when you think about the month of February? Is it Groundhog Day to see what Phil's prediction will be? Is it Valentine's Day when we express our love to those special people in our lives? Is it the Annual Deacon White Elephant to have some laughs and get rid of unwanted items? Is it gearing up for the Super Bowl game or the commercials?

This February the world's attention will be focused on the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. Some of you will remember the opening narration from ABC's Wide World of Sports show—"Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of sport... the thrill of victory... and the agony of defeat... the human drama of athletic competition... This is ABC's Wide World of Sports." The Games in Sochi will provide us with the opportunity to watch a variety of winter sports and to watch the grace, finesse, grit and determination of the various athletics competing.

Those Olympic athletes have spent so much time training and preparing for these Games. Not too many of us will ever have such an opportunity to represent our country in such a venue. But we do represent our faith in Jesus Christ as we live our lives day in and day out. The Apostle Paul on a few occasions equated people of faith with that of an athlete. We all know that in the living out of our faith we experience "the thrill of victory... and the agony of defeat". Like an athlete, may we continue to allow our faith to grow so that our faith becomes stronger... and when our faith is weak or tired, the Good News for us is that we go not alone—for Christ is with us and so are our brothers and sisters in the faith.

As I was thinking about the upcoming Winter Olympic Games, I was thinking about the words of that old Spiritual, "He's got the whole world in His hands..." May the Good News of being in the God's hands continue to enable us forward in the living out of our faith.

Yours in Christ

*Cliff*



## WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY

### Liturgists

2/2	Evelyn Foresman	If you would like to serve as a liturgist please see Cliff.
2/9	Deacon Sunday	
2/16	Caroline D'Aurora	If you are interested in becoming an acolyte please see
2/23	Ced Stopansky	Dave or Pam Foresman.

### SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER

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

2/2	Avonmore † Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
2/9	Delmont † Cliff Buel, Interim
2/16	Lower Burrell, Grace Community † Ken Foust, Pastor
2/23	Lower Burrell, Puckety † Kirk Orr, Pastor



### ATTENDANCE

#### Worship

#### Sunday School



			Adult	Youth	Total
12/22	58		13	15	28
12/24	95	Christmas Eve			
12//29	38		8	8	16
1/5	51		5	18	23
1/12	48		14	18	32
1/19	39		5	11	16

## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Charlotte Foresman	2/20	Arlin Smith
2/3	Dan Frye		Kathy Schrecengost Soule
2/4	Kathy (Blank) Todd	2/21	Daniel Writt
	Jeff Karstaedt	2/22	Elise Bish
2/7	Dottie D'Aurora		Diane D'Aurora
2/8	Tom Dudek	2/25	Clay Kaufman
2/9	Elijah Miller	2/27	Brian Kaufman s
2/17	Austin Heasley		Alenah Thomas
2/18	Ken Sellinger Jr		



Love is patient, Love is kind,  
It always protects, Always trusts,  
Always hopes, Always perseveres.

*Love Never Fails.*

1 Corinthians 13:45-78

**Happy Valentine's Day**

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.

## SYMPATHY



We extend our sympathy to the following families:

-to the Orr family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Nancy's death

-to the Hawkey family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Jean's death

May God's presence give you comfort and strength in your time of loss.

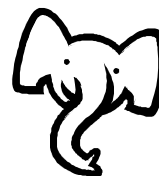
## HELP WANTED

We are still in need of some folks to learn how to operate the video projection system. No experience with Power Point is needed, but volunteers would need to be comfortable with using a computer.

If you are interested, contact John Blank: [jblank@frsfcu.com](mailto:jblank@frsfcu.com)

## DEACONS

SCOTT MCILNAY



Our annual White Elephant sale will be Sunday, February 9th after worship. Please bring a covered dish to share and a wrapped gift for the auction. Table service, bread and drinks will be provided by the Deacons. After lunch the fun begins!

Please remember that this is the only fundraiser the Deacons have all year. We would really appreciate everyone's support. Hope to see you there!

The Flower Chart for 2014 has been posted. Please sign up to help provide fresh flowers for our services. The cost is \$30.00 payable to Congruity Deacons. The chart will be posted until March 2nd. Artificial flowers will be used for the unassigned dates due to the cost and the Deacon's budget. Thank you.

## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE



Our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes have gone to the Balkans and the Baltics. How many know where they are? The Balkans include Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, and the European part of Turkey. The Baltics include Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. At least they did when my old Webster's was written. On January 17, Franklin Graham Ministries was to airlift 65,000 shoeboxes to the children of Syrian Refugees.

We will be selling BonTon Community Day coupon books for \$5 each. Community Days are February 28-March 1. You pay \$5 and get a booklet with a \$10 coupon, plus a bunch of other coupons and offers. The coupons are, again, good on bonus buys. The \$5 will go to the PW project Stop Hunger Now!

The Congruity Women's Association has set the date and time for the World Day of Prayer service for 9:30am, Saturday March 1, 2014 at Congruity with a continental breakfast. The country we will be focusing on is Egypt. We extend an invitation to all women of the church (we would not turn away any men). Please come out for fellowship and prayer. Hope to see you there.

Start saving your "stuff". Congruity will be having it's annual RUMMAGE SALE, Bake Sale, Lunch on Saturday, April 5, from 9a.m. till 2p.m. The Tins Mill Community Center will be taking our "leftovers". But don't forget to keep out your gently worn shoes to put in the box in the greeting Room to support Stop Hunger Now!

## WELCOME HOME SHELTER

PHYLLIS FRYE

We will be taking a meal into the Welcome Home Shelter on Tuesday, February 11. If you would like to donate toward the meal or just come along, we meet at the church at 3:30, serve at 5 and are back at the church by 6:30. Contact either Phyllis or Debbie if interested.



## THANK YOU

*I would like to express by heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the generous gift that the congregation gave me at Christmas. Thank you very much.*

*Cliff Foster*

*I want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and flowers. It is so nice to have a church family praying for me as I go thru this journey. Blessings to you all.*

*Sarabeth*

## MISSION TEAM

PHYLLIS FRYE



Please, come out and support us at the mission team PANCAKE DINNER on March 4th (see flyer) This is the team's only fundraiser before we go on our trip to Pleasant Point, N.J. and we really count on and appreciate your support. There will be good food, a silent auction and good fellowship with your friends and neighbors (and a good feeling from supporting us).

The Redstone Mission Team will have a meeting at Phyllis Frye's home on Sunday February 9 at 3p.m. to plan the pancake dinner and also start planning for our trip to New Jersey April 6-12.

## MANTLE HOUSE

We just finished our second work day at Mantle House Mission in West Newton. We worked on house #3, stripping the walls in the kitchen, making them ready to finish; changing light fixtures and painting the dining room. Mantle House expects to have this house ready for occupancy by March or April. House #2 is on hold till the weather breaks in the spring as there is no heat in there. This is a great opportunity for those of you who find it impossible to go on a weeklong mission trip. We'll be planning another workday soon. You can check out Mantle House Mission on facebook.

**General Fund**

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	<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
April	\$ 7,890.42	\$ 10,129.95	\$ 15,651.03	\$ (178.20)
May	\$ 6,432.03	\$ 7,246.25	\$ 14,836.81	\$ (992.42)
June	\$ 9,062.45	\$ 6,698.84	\$ 17,200.42	\$ 1,371.19
July	\$ 6,452.27	\$ 13,650.53	\$ 10,002.16	\$ (5,827.07)
August	\$ 4,837.50	\$ 9,815.07	\$ 5,024.59	\$ (10,804.64)
September	\$ 10,414.99	\$ 6,962.10	\$ 8,477.48	\$ (7,351.75)
October	\$ 6,991.35	\$ 7,557.68	\$ 7,911.15	\$ (7,918.08)
November	\$ 8,655.80	\$ 8,839.33	\$ 7,727.62	\$ (8,101.61)
December	\$ 15,804.58	\$ 9,091.67	\$ 14,440.53	\$ (1,388.70)
Year to Date	\$ 104,817.86	\$ 106,206.56	\$ 14,440.53	\$ (1,388.70)

**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)
April	\$ 478.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (695.00)
May	\$ 691.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (729.00)
June	\$ 582.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (872.00)
July	\$ 513.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (1,084.00)
August	\$ 436.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (1,373.00)
September	\$ 1,688.65	\$ 725.00	\$ (409.35)
October	\$ 474.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (660.35)
November	\$ 616.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (769.35)
December	\$ 1,494.35	\$ 725.00	\$ -

Includes \$781.65  
from Hoagie Sale

	<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>	\$ 239.54	\$ 79.62	\$ 319.16
<b>Change for the Future</b>	\$ 143.20	\$ 38.32	\$ 181.52
<b>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</b>	\$ 197.56	\$ 275.87	\$ 473.43

	<b>Received</b>	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	\$ 942.96	\$ 850.00	\$ 92.96
<b>Pentecost</b>	\$ 281.54	\$ 400.00	\$ (118.46)
<b>Peacemaking</b>	\$ 437.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 37.00
<b>Christmas Joy</b>	\$ 415.00	\$ 450.00	\$ (35.00)

**General Checking**

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) \$ 19,082.88

	<b>From 2012</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Elevator Fund	\$ 125.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 175.00
Local Mission	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,589.50	\$ 1,739.50
Building Maintenance	\$ (1,676.92)	\$ 1,387.36	\$ (289.56)

Paid for Riding  
Mower





## ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

Session met on January 20, 2014 and reports the following:

- 1) John Blank led devotions reading from Isaiah 50:4b and Lamentations 3:22-23
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Noted that Presbytery meets on 1/25/14 at Community United Presbyterian Church
- 4) Elected Sue Blank as elder delegate and Tim D'Aurora as alternate delegate to the Presbytery Meeting
- 5) Reorganized the Committees for 2014
- 6) Elected Bob Schweppe as President of the Board of Trustees
- 7) Approved Rev. Foster's goals for 2014
- 8) Noted that Dave Foresman will lead our devotions in February and Tim D'Aurora will lead the devotions in March
- 9) Agreed to read and study chapter F-1 of the Book of Order for the February Meeting.

**10) *The Year of the Bible:***

- a. Approved a bus trip to the Kelso Museum (Bible Lands Museum) at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with a date to be determined
  - b. Set the second Wednesday of each month for use of the facilities for ***The Year of the Bible*** with the understanding that the date may be changed if there is a conflict
  - c. Approved hosting an event featuring Rev. James Davison author of ***The Year of the Bible*** as guest speaker
- 11) Noted that the Bon-Ton coupon proceeds will go to the Stop Hunger Now program
  - 12) Approved the baptism of Ashley Nicole Evans for 2/2/14
  - 13) Approved March 1 for World Day of Prayer at Congruity starting at 9:30 AM
  - 14) Approved March 4 for a Pancake Dinner to support the Mission Team
  - 15) Approved April 5 for the rummage sale
  - 16) Approved February 9 for the Deacon's White Elephant sale and covered dish dinner
  - 17) Approved the use of Fellowship Hall by Perry Miller for a wrestling meeting on February 16 starting at 1 PM
  - 18) Approved the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering to go to the Westmoreland County Food Bank



19) Approved other uses of the Fellowship Hall as follows:

- a. February 2 - Evans Family
- b. March 15 - Amanda Fetter for a birthday party for Janet Henry
- c. March 22 – Ruth Thompson for a shower
- d. March 29 – Christie Roemer for a Shower
- e. March 30 – April Johnston for a Shower
- f. December 7 – Hohman Family Christmas



20) Approved the use of the sanctuary for a wedding conducted by an outside minister on 12/31/14 for Kelsey Olinski (non-member.)

21) Noted that the next regular session meeting is set for 2/17/14

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)

## BLOOD BROTHER

JOHN BLANK

### ***BLOOD BROTHER***

The Office of Continuing Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is hosting a special one-time screening of the new film, ***BLOOD BROTHER***, on January 31, 2014, 7:00pm at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Hicks Auditorium!

The movie offers an intimate portrait of Rocky Braat, an American graphic designer, who stumbled upon an HIV orphanage in India and left all that he had to create a family with the kids. Although Rocky never set out to be a humanitarian, his dedication proves genuine in this heart wrenching film from Rocky's best friend, director Steve Hoover.

A free will donation of \$5 is suggested.

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Here is the trailer for the film: <http://vimeo.com/bloodbrotherfilm/trailer>.

To learn more about the film you can check out their website: <http://www.bloodbrotherfilm.com>



**CONGRUITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**136 Fenneltown Rd, New Alexandria PA 15670**

**2014 COMMITTEES**

**Christian Education**

Elders: David Foresman (C)  
 Deacons: Evelyn Foresman  
 Sue Derek

**Auditors as elected by the congregation**

Debbie Perino Class of 2014  
 Rich Youngbauer Class of 2015  
 Caroline D'Aurora Class of 2016

**Congregational Life**

Elders: Carol Hohman (C)  
 David Foresman  
 Deacons: Debbie Perino  
 Dorothy Brant  
 Congregation: Janet Henry

**Worship**

Elders: David Foresman  
 Sue Blank  
 Deacons: Scott McIlnay  
 Evelyn Foresman

**Mission Interpretation and Stewardship**

Elders: Tim D'Aurora (C)  
 Carol Hohman  
 John Blank (Treasurer)  
 Deacons: Mim Schweppe  
 Congregation: Phyllis Frye  
 Michelle Kepple (Financial Sec.)

**Nominating**

Elders: Jim Kepple (C)  
 Congregation: Doug Stine  
 Sunday School: Janet Henry  
 Pres. Women Assoc.: Janet Rugh  
 TLC: Becky Swatchick  
 Youth Group: Amber Sellinger  
 Deacons: Scott McIlnay

**Property**

Elders: Tim D'Aurora (C)  
 Bob Schweppe  
 Gene Brant  
 Deacons: Sarabeth Stopansky  
 Congregation: Perry Miller

**Communications/Publicity**

Moderator: Rev. Foster  
 Elder: John Blank  
 Congregation: Lisa Heasley  
 Yvonne McIlnay

**Personnel (Sub-committee of session)**

Elders: Linda Youngbauer (C)  
 Jim Kepple  
 Sue Blank  
 Deacons: Scott McIlnay

**Youth Group**

Youth Group: David Foresman

**NOTE: Any member of the congregation is welcome to volunteer for any of the committees EXCEPT the Personnel and Nominating Committees**

## MISSION INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

TIM D'AURORA

As we begin the second month of 2014, we need to take the time to reflect on 2013. Financially, 2013 was a little disappointing. We began the year with a balance of \$15,829.23 which was an adjusted total that now includes all the accounts that make up the general fund. Before this accounting adjustment, it was \$2413.84. We ended the year with a balance of \$14,440.53 realizing a net shortage of \$1388.70. Besides our regular giving, this includes money from the Presbyterian Women, a hoagie sale, 2 spaghetti dinners, a basket auction, and Watt's Truck Show. So overall, we really had a significant deficit. We also came up a little short on our First Fruits pledge. We had to take \$647.35 from the general fund to fulfill our pledge to Presbytery. Our response to our special offerings was mixed. We exceeded our goal of \$850.00 for our One Great Hour of Sharing by \$92.96 and our goal of \$400.00 for the Peacemaking offering by \$37.00 but fell short of our goal of \$400.00 for our Pentecost offering by \$118.46 and our goal of \$450.00 for our Christmas Joy offering by \$35.00. We do appreciate the commitment made by everyone who supported these special offerings.

This is an important time in the life of Congruity. While the life of the Church is not centered on finances, but rather doing God's work, we have to be aware that it does take money to do much of this work. As a committee, we will strive to do a better job keeping everyone informed of our financial situation and of opportunities to improve it. It is our hope and prayer that 2014 will be a much healthier year financially.

We also want everyone to understand that being a good steward means not just giving money, but also means being involved. I'm sure everyone has heard the phrase, Giving of your Time, Talents, and Treasures. If you take the time to really think about it, this means giving of yourself to show you appreciate all the gifts God has given you. For us to be a successful Church, we need more people to get involved in all aspects of the Church's life. That doesn't mean you have to volunteer for every committee or participate in every event, but if we all increase our involvement even a little, then the results of our efforts will substantially increase. We all need to prayerfully consider what it is that God is calling us to do. How can we participate in doing His work? Everyone has something to offer. We all just need to take that next step and make it happen.

I know in my ramblings, I tend to concentrate on the financial aspects of MIS. I also realize that we need to be aware of our mission component as well. We do some great mission work and this year we will strive to do a better job of keeping everyone abreast of the mission activities. Thanks to everyone who participates in either mission work or fundraising for mission trips.

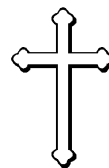
Congruity Presbyterian Church  
136 Fenneltown Road  
New Alexandria PA 15670



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



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



**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
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**NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670**

## CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

Cliff Foster	Pastor	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>DEACONS</b>
John Blank	Clerk of Session	John Blank	Dorothy Brant
Scott McIlnay	Deacon's Moderator	Sue Blank	Sue Derek
John Blank	Treasurer	Gene Brant	Evelyn Foresman
Michelle Kepple	Financial Secretary	Tim D'Aurora	Scott McIlnay
Dorothy Martz	Church Secretary	Dave Foresman	Debbie Perino
Janet Henry	Music Director	Carol Hohman	Jay Perino
Yvonne McIlnay	Newsletter Editor	Jim Kepple	Mim Schweppe
John Blank	Webmaster	Bob Schweppe	Nancy Schweppe
		Linda Youngbauer	Sarabeth Stopansky



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)