

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



CLIFF'S NOTES

As you are reading this issue of the Congruity Connection, we will have officially entered into summer. Summer is a time when look forward to vacation, grilling out, enjoying picnics and get-togethers with family and friends, swimming and other fun filled activities. I was thinking about summer the other day and I remember when I was young thinking how slowly time seemed to pass as I anticipated school being finished for the year and the summer vacation to arrive. I also remember how quickly the summer passed by and in what seemed like the blink of an eye, we would pile into the car for back to school shopping. As we enter the summer months, I hope that each of you has a wonderful and enjoyable summer.

Summer in the life of our congregation brings Vacation Bible School the week of July 14-18 at St. James. This promises to be a fun-filled week as we learn more about “Weird Animals” where Jesus’ love is one-of-a-kind. The excitement will be each day from 9 AM- Noon. The month of July also brings our annual Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic on July 20th at Boggs Hollow Farm. Worship begins at 10:30AM. The Deacon’s will hold the annual end of the Summer picnic on August 24 following worship. Hot dogs will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish.

Summer is typically a time when as a church we struggle with our finances. You will see later in this newsletter some heartfelt words from John Blank, our Treasurer. Each year the summer months are lean financially. I hope that you will spend some time reflecting and praying about our present financial situation. I was thinking of this the other day and it occurred to me that when the government’s finances run low, one of the avenues to generate more cash flow is to raise taxes. Retailers in response to financial situation often raise prices. As a church we rely on voluntary contributions and gifts to enable our ministry and mission to happen. If you look at our budget there are not many places to cut expenses. But this is much more than a question of how to increase our cash flow... this is a question of stewardship—how we utilize all that God has entrusted to our care. I would encourage all of us to spend some time this summer in prayer, reflection and study around this question: “Is my stewardship (the giving of my time, talents and treasure) a reflection of my gratitude to God for all that God has done for me? One could say that this is not so much a financial issue as it is an issue of faith.

Congruity has been in ministry and mission for over 230 years, and we are the ones who have been entrusted with the responsibility of continuing our work in the present and into the future. I would like to invite you to be part of a study over the summer looking two of our Confession—The Nicene Creed and the Apostles’ Creed. We will meet on July 8th and 22nd and August 12th and 26th at 7PM.

It is my hope and prayer that this is a summer of great blessings to you and yours and to our church family as well.

Yours in Christ
Cliff



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JULY & AUGUST

Liturgists

7/6 Dorothy Martz
 7/13 Dave Foresman
 7/20 Church Picnic
 7/27 Phyllis Frye

 8/3 Evelyn Foresman
 8/10 Tim D'Aurora
 8/17 Sarabeth Stopansky
 8/24 Keith Orr
 8/31 Caroline D'Aurora

Those scheduled to serve
 communion on
 August 3rd are:

Dave Foresman
 Linda Youngbauer
 John Blank
 Dorothy Brant
 Sue Derek

SYMPATHY



We extend our sympathy to the following families:

-to the Youngbauer/Ruble family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Linda's father Fred's death.

--to the Kepple/Zimmerman family as they walk through the valley of shadow of Beth's mother's death.

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

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

John Blank	Carol Hohman
Sue Blank	Jim Kepple
Gene Brant	Bob Schweppe
Tim D'Aurora	Linda Youngbauer
Dave Foresman	

DEACONS

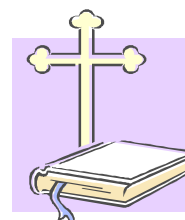
Dorothy Brant	Jay Perino
Sue Derek	Mim Schweppe
Evelyn Foresman	Nancy Schweppe
Scott McIlnay	Sarabeth Stopansky
Debbie Perino	

SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER

The congregations and pastors from Neighborhood 1 for our prayer support during the months of July and August are as follows:

7/6 Murrysville, Union ☩ Derrick Campbell, pastor
 7/13 New Alexandria, Community ☩ Kathy Shirey, pastor
 7/20 New Alexandria, Congruity ☩ Cliff Foster, pastor
 7/27 New Kensington ☩ Stephen Crocco, interim pastor

8/3 Slickville ☩ Tom Holmes, cre
 8/10 Vandergrift ☩ Neal Galley, pastor
 8/17 Apollo, Pine Run ☩ Lanny Mellinger, pastor
 8/24 Apollo, Poke Run ☩ Pete Goetschuis, pastor
 8/31 Redstone Presbytery ☩ Donald Sherrill, retired



FINANCIAL SITUATION

JOHN BLANK

As I write this (and this is my personal reflection) the morning after the June session meeting, I am very discouraged about the financial situation here at Congruity. The General Fund will be in the “red” by the end of July. Although, session has authorized me as treasurer to use some of the undesignated memorial funds to pay bills throughout the summer this is merely a band-aid on a gaping wound. (See Items from Session)

As I read today’s “Year of the Bible” passages from 1 Chronicles: 29, there is a description of King David accumulating the funding and materials for the construction of the temple. The people gave from what they had to support this project but what really struck me was “Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the LORD...” (1 Chr. 29: 9 NRSV.)

Wouldn’t it be great if at the end of the summer as we return to our regular schedule Congruity could **REJOICE BECAUSE WE HAD GIVEN FREELY TO THE LORD!**

JULY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

7/1 Bill Karstaedt
 7/3 Brennan Foster
 Heather Kaufman
 Robert Young
 7/6 Katie Frye
 Mim Schweppe
 7/9 Doug Stine
 7/11 Michelle Kepple
 7/12 Betty Lou Carr
 Cliff Foster
 Hillary Lapcevic

7/15 BJ Johnston
 7/16 Mark Writt
 7/20 Evelyn Foresman
 Alex Swatchick
 7/21 Jessica Carnathan
 7/22 Sue Bish
 7/24 Carol Zabkar
 7/26 Gary Kulick
 7/29 Debbie Perino
 7/31 Eric Heasley
 Ken Sellinger Sr



ANNIVERSARIES

7/14/1966 Ron & Shirley Stoltz
 7/15/1978 Fred & Hope Sehring
 7/25/2009 Anthony & Ashley Passante



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.

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.

DEACON'S END OF
SUMMER PICNIC

The Deacons Annual End of Summer Picnic will be August 24th following worship. Hot dogs and drink will be provided. Please bring a covered dish. Hope to see you there!

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

8/7 Tracey McDonald
 8/8 Sandy Cramer
 Tom Orr
 8/12 Marjorie Aaron
 Linda Sellinger
 8/13 Keith Orr
 Amber Sellinger
 8/14 Carol Miller
 8/15 Tom Kepple
 Chris Johnston
 Sara Johnston

8/16 Cara Kaufman
 8/18 Jim Kepple
 Amy Stine
 8/19 Becky Davis
 8/21 Titina Ott
 8/22 Jean Branthoover
 Dana Flowers
 Stacey Kepple
 8/29 Tim D'Aurora
 Ryan Schweppe
 8/31 Jeremiah Kaufman



*"As God by creation
 made two of one, so
 again by marriage He
 made one of two."*

ANNIVERSARIES

8/3/1991 Ken & Missy Martz
 8/3/1973 Ken & Nancy Walters
 8/10/2000 Scott & Yvonne McIlnay
 8/14/1964 Perry & Carol Miller
 8/18/1973 Rich & Linda Youngbauer
 8/19/1972 John & Sue Blank
 8/26/1989 Bob & Tracey McDonald



Happy
 50th
 Anniversary!

Perry & Carol
 Miller



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS VISITS THE PGH ZOO

A fun time was had by Debbie Perino's Sunday School Class to the Pittsburgh Zoo. Front row: Roni, Emma, Lucas, Juliaj Jessica, Matt, Jimmy, and Garrett

Middle:

Erin
Kaufman
(substitute
teacher)

Top Row:
Courtney,
Maddie,
Cody and
Blaine.



2014 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Congratulations to Katie Frye, Courtney Kaufman, Erin Kaufman, Cody Kaufman, Daniel Frye Jr & Clay Kaufman



ORDINATION CONGRATULATIONS TO LAURA BLANK

On March 23rd, Congruity hosted the celebration of Laura Blank's ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Folks from around Redstone Presbytery and beyond gathered for the worship service. In addition to the actual ordination, the worship included lots of music (led by some of Laura's seminary friends), a remembrance of baptism, a sermon preached by one of Laura's favorite seminary professors and a presentation of the symbols of ministry. John and Sue presented Laura with a stole (sewn by Sue, naturally!) and a robe. Laura's robe was a gift not only from her parents, but also from the congregation and the Congruity Women. Laura and her family would like to thank everyone who participated in the day: setting up the reception, providing food, participating in worship and surrounding Laura with love on a special day! Laura is not the first child of the congregation to become a pastor, but she is the first woman! Laura is now serving as Stated Supply Pastor for the Ebensburg and Colver Presbyterian Churches here in Redstone Presbytery.



2014 GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulation to Joe Stopansky, son of Ced and Sarabeth Stopansky. Joe graduated summa cum laude from St Vincent's College with a bachelors of Science in Mathematics and Economics. He will be attending University of Pittsburgh to pursue a PhD in Economics.



MISSION TEAM

PHYLLIS FRYE



Mission Burger Bash: Wednesday August 13 You've supported us at the pancake dinner, now we are asking you for your support at the Mission Team's Mission Burger Bash on August 13 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Come out and enjoy a meal of burger, corn on the cob, chips, baked beans, dessert and beverage. Add to that the atmosphere of the green hills surrounding Westminster's pavilion, take a spiritual walk on the labyrinth and just take in the fresh air. Watch for the bulletin and fliers for more details closer to the time.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Stacey Kepple and Alex Burns who were married May 25, 2014. Proud parents are Jim and Michelle Kepple. Also proud Grandparents are Ron and Dorothy Martz and George and Sue Kepple.

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Congratulations to Allison Elizabeth Derek and James (Jim) Patrick Sullivan who were married on June 1st, 2014. Allison is the daughter of Steve and Sue Derek.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN

"GOD filled the world with a lot of CRAZY creatures including YOU!" This Summer our Vacation Bible School will be a community VBS and it will be held at St. James Church from July 14-18, 2014 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The title of it is "WEIRD ANIMALS" and it looks to be a fun-filled yet very interesting curriculum because children will be able to experience God's Word in surprising and unforgettable ways!! So come and join the fun activities we have planned with other kids in our community at VBS this Summer! It just wouldn't be the same without you! (Oh yeah, and don't forget to tell your family and friends about it too). So let's experience WEIRD ANIMALS together... "Where Jesus' Love is One-Of-A-Kind"! Can't wait to see you all there!

*If you have any questions please see any Christian Ed. Committee member.

MISSION

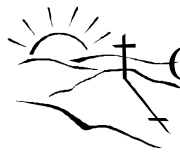
PHYLLIS FRYE



For those coming to the Christmas Tea to support Stop Hunger Now ~ remember to bring your ticket. It has your (winning?) number on it. When you come in the door, present your ticket and you will get 10 tickets for the gift basket door prizes. Then put your tickets in the baskets you want to win. There will be 10 baskets.

By now, the N.A. Community yard sale is over and we are no longer accepting textiles (clothing), but we will still accept shoes until October. As of this writing, the pod is over half full with yard sale stuff still to be put in. CUP will be having a ham loaf dinner September 20th to support SHN. There will be more information about that later. Don't forget to fill the piggy bank at Congruity and keep October 18th open for the big meal packing event at CUP.

The New Alexandria Hunger Walk will be on September 14th at Keystone Park. The proceeds will go to Stop Hunger Now. More info to follow.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

DAVE FORESMAN

Please join us for our annual Congruity Church Picnic at Boggs' Farm on Sunday, July 20, 2014. We'll have our worship service outside first with the wonderful sights and sounds of the farm surrounding us. Following that is our covered dish luncheon and time for fellowship. Afterwards, you can take a dip in the Boggs' pool and play a game of Stinky Bingo! So, mark your calendars for this Summer event that we all look forward to and plan to join in all the fun!

The Worship Committee has placed a dry erase board in the 'Greeting Room' with all the Sundays listed for Summer (and will continue through the rest of the year). This board is designed to give those who normally watch the children during the service a break. Please choose a Sunday that you will be available to do this and sign your name next to it. Thanks so much!

* See future church bulletins for more info.!



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Women's Association will not meet in July, but will resume on August 21. Hands-on-Mission will meet on the first and third Thursday as usual. We will be making tote bags to be used for school kits to be filled and taken to CWS at New Windsor at the end of September. Our sewing machines have been overhauled and should be working fine. We need more sewers and cutters in order to get the tote bags finished in time. The Community youth group will be asking the churches in the ministerium to collect school supplies to fill these bags. The list for each bag includes: 1 pair blunt scissors; spiral notebooks (8-1/2x11") containing 150-200 sheets (often come in 3 packs); 12" ruler; pencil sharpener; 6 new pencils with erasers; 1 large eraser; 1 box 24 crayons. You may either donate complete bags of supplies or donate items in quantities. We will also accept monetary donations to help buy supplies. Supplies are usually on sale in August, and while you're at it, don't forget to stalk up on items for your Operation Christmas Child box.



ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

Session met on June 16, 2014 and reports the following:

- 1) Rev. Foster led devotions reading from Acts 2: 1-4
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Session met with John Allen from Church Mutual to receive a proposal for insurance coverage
- 4) Given the declining balance in the General Fund session authorized the treasurer to use undesignated Memorial Funds to pay bills throughout the summer.
- 5) Rev. Foster reported on the May meeting of Redstone Presbytery noting that the next meeting of presbytery will be in September at New Hope Church. A thank you goes to Janet Rugh for serving as our delegate.
- 6) Noted that the Deacons set August 24th as the date for the end of summer picnic.
- 7) Noted that the community Vacation Bible School will be held at St. James Church in New Alexandria.
- 8) Session appointed a sub-committee to make the final decision on an insurance carrier for our property, liability, and worker's compensation insurance.
- 9) Noted that the "Glory to God" samplers have been removed from the pews.
- 10) Session authorized the removal and storage of the "Songs for Christian Worship" and "Folk Encounters" from the pews. These will be stored and distributed on the occasions when they are used.
- 11) Session authorized the purchase of 80 copies of "Sing the Faith" to be placed in the pews. An attempt will be made to secure donated copies from churches no longer using this resource and then purchase copies as needed. Many of the hymns that we have been projecting on the screen come from "Sing the Faith."
- 12) Noted that Carol Hohman will lead devotions for the August session meeting
- 13) Session granted a request from the Venture Scouts to use the facilities on 8/8 – 8/9/14 for an overnight event.
- 14) Granted Rev. Foster permission to serve the Lord's Supper at the Ott/Adams wedding in Bedford on 7/4/14.
- 15) Granted a vacation request from Rev. Foster for August 16-22, 2014.
- 16) Agreed to read and study Chapters G 3-4 of the Book of Order for the August session meeting.
- 17) Discussed Chapter G 2 of the Book of Order.
- 18) Noted that session will not have a regular meeting in July and that the next regular session meeting is moved to 8/11/2014 to accommodate Rev. Foster's vacation

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)

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

**TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT -2014****General Fund**

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	To Date Balance
<i>Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 14,440.53	
January	\$ 6,015.73	\$ 8,560.68	\$ 11,895.58	\$ (2,544.95)
February	\$ 6,093.85	\$ 9,512.40	\$ 8,477.03	\$ (5,963.50)
March	\$ 6,447.48	\$ 8,756.68	\$ 6,167.83	\$ (8,272.70)
April	\$ 9,421.93	\$ 8,826.01	\$ 6,763.75	\$ (7,676.78)
May	\$ 6,114.77	\$ 8,978.00	\$ 3,900.52	\$ (10,540.01)

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January	\$ 563.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (162.00)
February	\$ 503.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (384.00)
March	\$ 578.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (531.00)
April	\$ 653.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (603.00)
May	\$ 468.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (860.00)

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 110.00	\$ -	\$ 110.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 47.76	\$ 62.98	\$ 110.74
Change for the Future	\$ 84.85	\$ -	\$ 84.85

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 984.02	\$ 900.00	\$ 84.02
Pentecost	\$ 25.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (375.00)

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$19,882.88**

	From 2013	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ 175.00	\$ (175.00)	\$ -
Local Mission	\$ 1,739.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,239.50
Building Maintenance	\$ (289.56)	\$ 1,195.00	\$ 905.44

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670



We're on the web!
congruitychurch.org

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NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670

WORSHIP AT 10:00AM
PLEASE JOIN US!



CHURCH STAFF

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

ATTENDANCE

Worship

5/25	42
6/1	42
6/8	77
6/15	44



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
congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com