

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



CLIFF'S NOTES

I am sure by now that you have heard the sounds of Christmas music filling the air, be it at store, the mall or maybe even on the radio. The other day I was changing stations on my car radio and I heard these words “Oh the weather outside is frightful”, and I found myself saying “Why yes it is”.

As I write these words the temperature is in the teens, we have seen or heard about the lake effect snow (over 6 feet) outside of Buffalo, New York, and the sound of the wind howling is being heard. The air is filled with excitement and anticipation as we get ready to celebrate Christmas. The words of another Christmas carol says “it the most wonderful time of the year”, and for us as Christians we know that to be true because of the birth of the Christ Child.

We are in the season of Advent, a time of preparing ourselves to receive God’s gift to us wrapped in strips of rags and laying in a manger—Jesus Christ. The themes of the Advent season are: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy... and it is my hope and prayer that in the business of the Advent Season that you might experience the hope, peace, love and joy that God gives us through our faith in Jesus Christ.

I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Cliff





WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

Liturgists

12/7 Doug Stine
 12/14 Caroline D'Aurora
 12/21 Dave Foresman
 12/28 Janet Rugh

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 scheduled to serve Communion on December 21st are:

Sue Blank Jim Kepple Carol Hohman
 Debbie Perino Jay Perino

SYMPATHY



We extend our sympathy to the following families as they walk through
 the valley of the shadow of the death of loved ones. May God's
 presence give you comfort and strength in your time of loss:

-to the Frye family on Gladys' death
 -to the Marchelletta family on Mike's dad's death

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.



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 December are as follows:

- 12/7 Apollo, Pine Run ✠ Lanny Mellinger, Pastor
 12/14 Apollo, Poke Run ✠ Pete Goetschius, Pastor
 12/21 Avonmore ✠ Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
 12/23 Delmont ✠ Cliff Buell, Interim Pastor



CHRISTIAN ED
PAM FORESMAN



We hope you all had a Wonderful Thanksgiving! This year has gone by so fast! It feels like just last month we were talking about our Christmas Program at Congruity and here it is December and time to do it again! We've decided to do the program in place of the sermon (during the church service) again this year since it went so well last year. We will be having it on Sunday, December 14th and following the church service we will have our covered dish dinner and of course the Jolly Ol' Elf himself will make a special trip to see all his friends too! Please bring a Christmas table decoration to make our tables more festive and either cookies or a dessert to have after the dinner. We are also planning to go outside for a bonfire where we will sing some Christmas carols! Sounds like a wonderful way to get us in the Christmas spirit at Congruity this year, doesn't it? So please mark your calendars for December 14th and don't miss this special day at our church ~ and make sure to invite all your family and friends to join us too!



MISSION
PHYLLIS FRYE

Congruity sent out 14 shoeboxes to Samaritan/s Purse- Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who participated.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

12/4 Kathy Hamilton
 12/6 Caroline D'Aurora
 12/7 Sue Aaron
 12/10 Bob McDonald
 12/12 Greg Kaufman
 12/15 Jay Perino
 12/17 John Aaron
 12/18 Owen Eidemiller
 Marty Kuzmkowski

BIRTHDAYS

12/20 Terri Hoffman
 12/22 Kerstin Stellato
 12/23 Fred Sehring
 12/25 JESUS
 12/27 Joe Stopansky
 12/28 Alex Kuzmkowski
 12/31 Michael Jobe
 Jill Klems



ANNIVESARIES

12/23/1957 Harold & Meryle Kaufman

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DEACONS

SCOTT MCILNAY



Thanks to your caring and generosity we were able to distribute food to six local families in hopes to make their holidays brighter.

Poinsettia Sale ~ We are taking orders for our annual poinsettia sale.

The prices are: 4" for \$4.00 ~ 6" for \$8.00 ~ 8" for \$20

Order envelopes are in the church pews. If paying by check, please make payable to "Congruity Deacons" and mark poinsettia on it. Order and payment deadline is December 14th. If you will not be able to attend church in time to order, please call Scott at 724-668-7543 or email to ydmcilnay@yahoo.com. We ask that you please leave your poinsettia in the sanctuary until after Christmas Eve service.

Happy Holidays to all from the Congruity Deacons!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

DAVE FORESMAN



The Winter Jam Concert --2015 Tour Spectacular is back and coming to Pittsburgh on Saturday, January 31, 2015! The concert will be held at Consol Energy Center and tickets are \$10.00. The Christian groups/singers performing are: Newsong, Skillet, Jeremy Camp, Francesca Battistelli, Building 429, Family Force 5, For King and Country, Blanca, About A Mile, and Veridia. The speaker is Tony Nolan. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for anyone interested in going. If there are any questions, please contact Dave Foresman or anyone else on the Congregational Life Committee.



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Congruity Women's Association will be having the Christmas Party for ALL women of the church (you are welcome to bring a friend) on Thursday, December 11 at 6p.m. We will begin with a covered dish dinner at 6p.m., followed by games and fellowship. Bring a \$10 gift for your secret sister, or if you don't have one, a \$10 grab gift. We will be picking new secret sisters, so if you can't come to the party and want a secret sister, let either Janet Rugh or Phyllis Frye know. The only requirement for secret sisters is to send cards at life events and buy a gift at Christmas (and not to put your return address on your cards).

YOUTH GROUP

DAVE FORESMAN



The Youth Group will not be meeting during the month of December with the exception of participating in church services. Just a reminder, the youth group is for young people aged 12-18, as long as they are still enrolled in high school. On January 4th there will be a POST HOLIDAY BLOW-OUT YOUTH GROUP RALLY from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at C.U.P. So if you know a young person in that age group let them know about this. If anyone else is interested in joining the youth group, please contact Dave Foresman.



MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

TIM D'AURORA

I wanted to thank everyone that participated in our fund-raising auction. It takes a lot of people to make an event like this a success. Special thanks go out to Bill Anderson & Missy for their awesome auction skills and to LaRue Gray and Debbie Perino who brought in the most items to auction. Also, special thanks to Dot D'Aurora for taking care of the kitchen duties and for making 2 fantastic looking pies that sold for \$90.00. We also want to thank Mark Latshaw who donated 50 gallons of home heating oil that brought in \$140.00. Mark always treats the church well. While we are waiting for a final bill on the newspaper ad, we actually took in just over \$2000.00. This is by far the highest total we raised in many years and it puts our Local Mission Fund in good shape. We also raised over \$150.00 from the kitchen for the general fund. It was a fun evening and several people got some great deals. Hopefully, if you didn't participate this year, you will be able to next year.

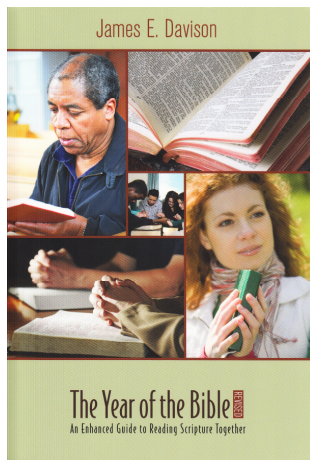
While we were a little disappointed with the turn-out for the Spaghetti Dinner, we did understand there were several competing events that evening. We served over 120 people and will have to wait for the expenses to clear, but our estimate would be a profit of over \$500.00. Also, our basket auction was a tremendous success. Thanks to Lisa Heasley's fantastic job of arranging the baskets, we collected \$245.00 on the basket auction. Thanks to everyone who donated or helped with a special mention to Michelle Kepple for filling in as the pasta queen.

As we approach the end of the year, our financial situation is less than ideal. At the end of October, we are still \$8,172.87 in the red for the year in our General Fund. We usually make up some ground in November and December but we aren't this far behind. We hope you give prayer consideration to giving a little extra before the end of December.

Of equal concern, our First Fruits collection is \$910.00 behind at the end of October. Again, we usually do a little better in the last 2 months. Obviously, this year we need to do a lot better. For those unaware, this is a pledge we make to Presbytery that we have always fulfilled from the General Fund if we came up short. Hopefully, we can collect the \$1660.00 needed to meet our pledge by the end of the year.

We have decided to reinstitute the per capita collection to help this from happening in 2015. The per capita amount is \$38.00 per person and we will send out reminder letters in the beginning of January. It is important to remember that this collection is in addition to your normal First Fruits giving.

As we close 2014, it seems we are always asking or begging for more giving. While we do have greater needs, it is important to note that our expenditures have been held to a minimum. We certainly do no frivolous spending and while it might seem hard for some to believe, our building operating expenses have actually decreased since we did our expansion in 2008. The building is so much better insulated and electric has been cheaper and more efficient than our old oil fired boiler. I personally wanted to address those concerns I have heard expressed.



Ya'll Come!

THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE

Covered Dish Dinner and Fun Night

Please join us for an evening of good food, fellowship and an opportunity to test your Bible knowledge as *The Year of the Bible* group has its final meeting. Even if you haven't been attending our monthly meetings, or even if you were not part of the original group, you shouldn't miss this fun evening.

EVERYONE IS INVITED.

When: December 10, 2014

What: Covered Dish dinner starting at 6:00 PM in Congruity's Fellowship Hall followed by "Bible Games."

Supplied: We will provide drinks, ham and potatoes. Please bring side dishes or deserts

Questions: Contact John Blank @ 724-523-6460

THANK YOU JOHN

As a church we are very grateful to John Blank for organizing the "Year of the Bible". He has put a lot of time and work into it. We have appreciated all of his efforts. Starting January 1st, we are going to re-read the Bible following a two year plan. Reading the Bible in two years will enable us to absorb what we are reading and study the scriptures more carefully. We will continue to meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7-8pm. We are looking forward to sharing the different translations from individuals in attendance. A two year reading sheet will be available sometime in December. Please join us as we dig a little deeper into God's Word and get to know Him more.

Respectively Submitted by Janet Henry and Sue Derek



ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

Session met on November 17, 2014 and reports the following:

- 1) John Blank led us in devotions reading from Philippians 4:4
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) The next meeting of Redstone Presbytery is set for 11/18/14
- 4) Phyllis Frye will serve as our Elder Delegate to the Presbytery Meeting
- 5) Noted that the Christian Education Christmas Program will be on 12/14/14
- 6) Christian Ed reported that Bibles were presented to Madeline Andolina, Jessica Carnathan, Blaine Dulkis, Garrett Dulkis, Cody Kaufman, Courtney Kaufman, Emma Kaufman, Roni Kaufman, and Dana Randolph.
- 7) It was brought to session's attention that some members were questioning the posting of the weekly offering in the newsletter. After discussion session directed the treasurer to continue to report income to the general fund by the week, but to have the information listed inside of the newsletter and to attempt to separate the offering and other income to the general fund.
- 8) Approved 12/11/2014 for the Women's Association Christmas Party
- 9) Noted that The Year of the Bible group in conjunction with the Congregational Life Committee will hold a covered dish dinner and game night on 12/10/14. Everyone is invited even if you did not participate in The Year of the Bible Program.
- 10) Approved reimbursing Sue Blank for a used computer purchased through the seminary and Rev. Foster for an office chair he purchased.
- 11) Approved sending \$25 to the New Alexandria VFD and \$50 to the Salem Township Bureau of Fire.
- 12) Approved sending \$100 from the Local Mission Fund to the "Coats for Kids" program.
- 13) Approved recommending to the congregation Rev. Foster's Terms of Call for 2015 reflecting a 1.5% increase in his Base Salary. The congregation will vote on Rev. Foster's terms of call at the 12/7/14 Congregational Meeting.
- 14) Approved the budget for 2015. The budget will be presented for informational purposes at the 12/7/14 Congregational Meeting.
- 15) Received the report of the Nominating Committee for various offices. The congregation will vote on the nominations on 12/7/14.

- 16) Approved Pledging \$7,800 to the First Fruits Offering to Redstone Presbytery for 2015.
- 17) Elected for the Class of 2015: John Blank, Clerk; Jim Kepple, Asst. Clerk; John Blank, Treasurer; and Caroline D'Aurora, Asst. Treasurer
- 18) Reminded members of the Congregational Meeting set for 12/7/14 for the purpose of approving Rev. Foster's Terms of Call, electing various officers, and receiving the budget for 2015.
- 19) Set the following dates for Communion in 2015: 1/11 Baptism of the Lord; 2/15 Transfiguration; 4/2 Maundy Thursday; 5/24 Pentecost; 8/2; 10/4 World Communion; 11/22 Christ the King; 12/20 4th Sunday of Advent
- 20) Set 1/25/15 for a Congregational Meeting to receive reports about the activities at Congruity during 2014.
- 21) Session will study the Book of Confessions during 2015.
- 22) Noted that the next regular session meeting is 12/15/2014.

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)



HANDS ON MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Hands-on Mission will meet on Thursday December 4th and go to Redstone Highlands, Greensburg to decorate the Christmas tree sponsored by the Congruity Women's Association. We will carpool from the church at 9:45a.m. or meet at Redstone at 10a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

General Fund

	NET	NET	Actual	To Date
	Receipts	Expenses	Balance	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)
June	\$ 7,787.15	\$ 6,410.59	\$ 5,277.08	\$ (9,163.45)
July	\$ 4,862.94	\$ 8,269.37	\$ 1,870.65	\$ (12,569.88)
August	\$ 7,255.17	\$ 8,192.92	\$ 932.90	\$ (13,507.63)
September	\$15,592.96	\$10,017.57	\$ 6,508.29	\$ (7,932.24)
October	\$ 5,668.37	\$ 5,909.00	\$ 6,267.66	\$ (8,172.87)

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)	
June	\$ 675.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (910.00)	
July	\$ 573.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (1,062.00)	
August	\$ 532.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (1,255.00)	
				(Includes
				\$543.65
September	\$ 1,226.65	\$ 725.00	\$ (753.35)	Hoagie Sale)
October	\$ 568.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (910.35)	

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 7:30PM



	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 110.00	\$ -	\$ 110.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 163.20	\$ 82.94	\$ 246.14
Change for the Future	\$ 100.79	\$ 13.00	\$ 113.79

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 984.02	\$ 900.00	\$ 84.02
Pentecost	\$ 401.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1.00
Peacemaking	\$ 545.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 145.00

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$20,067.98**

	From 2013	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ 175.00	\$ (175.00)	\$ -
Local Mission	\$ 1,739.50	\$ 900.00	\$ 2,639.50
Building Maintenance	\$ (289.56)	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 2,150.44

General Fund Offering	10/05/14	\$ 2,330.61
	10/12/14	\$ 990.00
	10/19/14	\$ 1,029.00
	10/26/14	\$ 1,119.00
	11/02/14	\$ 1,419.00
	11/09/14	\$ 1,634.00

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670



We're on the web!
congruitychurch.org

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45AM
WORSHIP AT 11:00AM
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	Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
10/26	50	11	18	29
11/2	44	11	17	28
11/9	50	14	17	31
11/16	81	16	18	34



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