

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

The month of April brings with it the promise of the arrival of spring and the beginning of the 2015 Pirates campaign to win the World Series. The air is filled with the sweet aroma of springtime and the wonderful chirping of the birds. The tomb is empty, Christ is risen and we live as Easter people sharing the good news of the Gospel message to those around us.

On April 13th at the Poke Run Church beginning at 7PM, the Redstone Community of District 1 will gather for another evening of Networking and Leadership Development. The theme of the evening is: "Living as Easter People Today". This event is open to everyone.

One of the things that crossed my mind the other day about the month of April are what at first might seem like 2 unrelated events—April 15th—the deadline for filing taxes and April 18th—the opening of Trout season in PA. However as I thought about these two events, I recalled that passage in Matthew 17: 24-27. The collectors of the temple tax came to Peter and asked him, "Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?" Peter replied, "Yes, he does". When Peter got back to where the disciples were staying, Jesus told him to go fishing... and when the first fish comes up, there will be a coin in its mouth. Take that coin and pay the temple tax.

By now you have received the letter describing the present General Fund situation, so if you are planning on fishing on April 18th remember to look in that first fish mouth! I am not making light of our present financial situation, but I would ask you to prayerfully consider how we might be good stewards of what God has entrusted to our care... to reflect on ways we can express our gratitude to God for all that God has done for us in Christ and to support the ongoing ministry and mission of our congregation with our time, our talents and our treasury. Continue to remember the various programs and events in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Cliff





W O R S H I P L E A D E R S F O R A P R I L

Liturgists

E L D E R S

John Blank

Sue Blank

Dave Foresman

Kathy Hamilton

Carol Hohman

Jim Kepple

Scott McIlnay

Bob Schweppe

Linda Youngbauer

4/5

4/12

4/19

4/26

Ronda Weinell

Tim D'Aurora

Caroline D'Aurora

Dorothy Martz

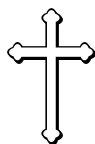


If you would like to serve as a liturgist please see Cliff.
If you are interested in becoming an acolyte please see
Dave or Pam Foresman.

Those scheduled to serve communion on April 2nd:

Scott McIlnay Carol Hohman Sue Blank

Debbie Perino Jay Perino



S E P A R A T E D B Y S P A C E U N I T E D I N P R A Y E R

D E A C O N S

Dorothy Brant

Sue Derek

Evelyn Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Nancy Lauffer

Debbie Perino

Jay Perino

Amber Sellinger

Mim Schweppe

4/5

4/12

4/19

4/26

Avonmore

✠ Larry Armstrong, Interim

Delmont

✠ Cliff Buell, Interim

Lower Burrell, Grace Community

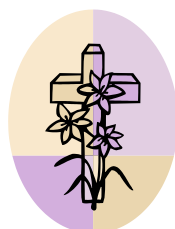
✠ Ken Foust, Pastor

Lower Burrell, Puckety

✠ Kirk Orr, Pastor



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.



APRIL CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

4/2	Ashley Bish		Phyllis Frye
4/6	John Ahlborn	4/18	Steve Derek
	Elaine Kaufman		Dan Lapcevic
	Meryle Kaufman	4/19	Ada Kepple
4/7	Alyssia Thomas		Christine Kuzmkowski
4/8	William Kaufman	4/20	Gene Brant
4/9	Jill Blank		Shirley Stoltz
	John Blank III	4/23	Mimi Kaufman
4/11	Rich Youngbauer	4/26	Sue Derek
4/15	Missy Martz	4/30	Tom Hamilton
4/16	Lisa Heasley		Perry Miller III
4/17	Colton Boggs		



ANNIVERSARIES



4/7/1984	Darrell & Diane D'Aurora
4/13/2005	Michael & Kim Matvey
4/27/1969	Ron & Geri Kaufman
4/27/2002	Bob & Mimi Kaufman

EASTER SERVICES

4/2	7:30PM Maundy Thursday
4/3	7 PM Good Friday at CUP
4/5	Easter Sunday
	8AM Early Children's Service
	9AM Continental Breakfast
	9:45 Sunday School
	11AM Worship Service



SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the following families:

The Orr family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Tom's death.

The Lloyd/Orr family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Mary's death.

The Henry family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Nancy's death.



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

MOWING BIDS



NOTICE: Session is accepting bids for the mowing of the cemetery and the church yard for this season. Submit your bids to the church office by 4/19/15. Mark "Mowing Bid" on the envelope.



MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE

The Redstone Mission Team will be leaving on Sunday, April 12 to go to Bayville, New Jersey and will be staying at Morningstar Presbyterian Church. So far, there are 17 volunteers from seven different churches. Thank you to all who supported us at the Pancake Dinner. We made a profit of \$1175 which will go a long ways to finance this trip. We count on you for your support. Please pray for the team . We will be returning on either Friday or Saturday of that week.

The 5th annual PW trip to New Windsor, Maryland to work at the Church World Service Warehouse and the SERRV store is set for October 4-6, 2015. There are 30 spaces reserved. Reservations need to be in to Judy Koontz (724-668-2843) by May 1, along with a \$25 non-refundable deposit.



WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of Redstone Presbytery will be held at Pleasant View Presbyterian Church on Saturday April 11, registration at 9a.m.. The main speaker will be Rev. Susan Rothenburg who will give a presentation on her recent trip to South Sudan. South Sudan is Redstone Presbytery's world Mission project. We will hear from the recipients of last year's love gifts and also learn about what other churches in our area are doing for mission. The Love gift (which supports local young people go on mission trips) and the Synod Mission Project (the Free Wheelchair Mission) offerings will be taken. It promises to be a very interesting day, so why not come out and join us? Registration is \$10 payable to PW of Redstone and sent to Susan Blank by April 4. See the flier on the bulletin board.

TAKE OUT TURKEY DINNER Saturday May 9th 3-6pm pick-up. Tickets, \$9, must be pre-ordered and pre-paid with April 25 deadline. Call Debbie Perino 724 668 7561 or church office 724 668 7740 for ticket information. Please read this article the whole way through! Some of you may have heard through the grapevine that the Women's Association decided to not have the Spring Turkey Dinner and you heard right. At an earlier meeting, after much prayer, discussion, and with heavy hearts, we did vote to discontinue the Spring Turkey dinner and just have one turkey dinner a year, in the fall, and we will still have that. The reasoning was that in the spring we have a really hard time getting help. We just can't get commitments from people to help and you cannot have 500 people come to eat and have no one to serve them. BUT God had other plans and women have the prerogative to change their minds. He put into someone's head the idea of having a Take-out Only Turkey Dinner. That's right! You get the same delicious home cooked meal, but take it home to eat it. We don't have all the details ironed out yet, but we won't be calling people for donations of food, but suggest that you might want to make a monetary donation to the Congruity Women's Association in the amount you would spend for the food donation you would normally give. However, we will have a sign-up sheet in the greeting room for the usual food donations and help. Please pray for us as we step out in faith that this will be a success, as the needs of our congregation and community increase.

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

JOHN BLANK

RENDERING

“Jesus said to them, ‘Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ And they were utterly amazed at him.” Mark 12:17 NRSV

As we approach the April 15th deadline to file our income taxes and have just received our bill for the “spring property taxes,” we need to remember that Jesus not only said to pay our taxes but to give back to God what is God’s.

Recently, you received an appeal for the general fund. Congruity needs your support. Please give back “to God the things that are God’s.”



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The chicks are back! Once again as we hear about the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) throughout the Lenten season, hatching chicks will track our progress. For each \$10 designated to OGHS a chick will hatch. Our goal is to hatch 90 or more chicks by the end of the collection period, 4/26/15. Check out the hatching chicks in the Greeting Room



SPAGHETTI DINNER

On April 25th we will hold a Spaghetti Dinner to support the General Fund. There will be a donation list in the Greeting Room as we get closer to the date. Help is needed from 2:30 until cleanup is completed. Dinner will be served from 4:00 to 6:30.

Adults - \$7.00, children 6-12 \$3.50, children under 6 are free.

There will be a basket auction and donations for the auction would be appreciated. Contact Tim D’Aurora if you have any items for the auction. Invite some friends and have a good time socializing while you enjoy your meal.



Submitted for the MIS Committee by John Blank



TREASURER'S REPORT

Page 7

JOHN BLANK

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 12,938.26	
January	\$ 5,933.00	\$ 11,997.04	\$ 6,874.22	\$ (6,064.04)
February	\$ 4,759.23	\$ 8,269.62	\$ 3,363.83	\$ (9,574.43)

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January	\$ 428.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (222.00)
February	\$ 504.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (368.00)

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 185.50	\$ -	\$ 185.50
Cents-Ability	\$ 30.76	\$ 8.00	\$ 38.76
Change for the Future	\$ -	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00

Included in General Fund Balance

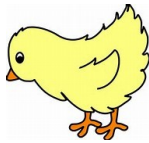
Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$ 20,547.98**

	From 2014	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local Mission	\$ 2,841.50	\$ (50.00)	\$ 2,791.50
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,745.44	\$ 355.00	\$ 3,100.44

OFFERING TOTALS

1/4/15	\$1,430.00	2/15/15	\$ 351.00
1/11/15	\$1,605.00	2/22/15	\$1,309.00
1/18/15	\$ 698.00	3/1/15	\$1,230.00
1/25/15	\$1,405.00	3/8/15	\$1,680.00
2/1/15	\$ 918.00	3/15/15	\$1,770.00
2/8/15	\$1,664.00	3/22/15	\$2,102.00





ITEMS FROM SESSION

Page 8

JOHN BLANK

Session met on March 23, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) Linda Youngbauer led us in devotions reading from 1 Cor. 9: 24-27
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Rev. Foster and Elder Delegate Dave Foresman reported on the 3/21/15 Presbytery Meeting
- 4) The next meeting of Redstone Presbytery will be Tuesday, 5/19/15, starting at 6:00 PM @ West Newton. An elder delegate will be elected at the next session meeting.
- 5) **REMINIDER** of the following tentative dates for fundraisers: Spaghetti Dinner – 4/25/15, Hoagie Sale – 5/21/15, Hoagie Sale – 9/24/15, and Spaghetti Dinner – 11/7/15. All profit, including basket auction and raffle proceeds, to go to the General Fund unless changed by session.
- 6) Session noted that some of the clearances for employees and volunteers have been started or completed.
- 7) **REMINDER** that ALL volunteers working with children, including the nursery during worship and those helping with Vacation Bible School, need to have child welfare clearances. Go to: <http://www.elblanko.com/clearances> for more information and web links. If you need help with this or printed copies to submit through the US Mail see John Blank. It takes some time for the submissions to be processed, so please do not wait until the last minute.
- 8) MIS reported that the General Fund deficit has been **REDUCED** by approximately \$2400. Congruity still needs your help with balancing the budget.
- 9) Don't forget about helping with the Per Capita portion Congruity's First Fruits/Benevolence pledge to Redstone Presbytery. (\$34/member)
- 10)Remember: First Fruits = Benevolence = Mission. It is all the same account.
- 11)Approved participation in a Family Game Night at CUP on 4/26/15 starting at 6:00 PM.
- 12)Noted that the young people will be presenting a skit during the 8:00 AM Easter service.
- 13)Agreed to read and study Chapter 4 of ***This Service of Love***
- 14)Discussed Chapter 3 of ***This Service of Love***
- 15)Noted that the next regular session meeting is scheduled for 4/20/2015.

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 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN

Please join us for our 2015 Easter Sunday schedule. The Sunday School children and youth classes will be in charge of the early service at 8:00 am and then we will have our delicious Continental Breakfast and time of fellowship downstairs in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. Our Sunday School classes will be at their regular 9:45 time followed by our 11:00 am Easter service. We look forward to spending this joyous holiday with you and your families! Hallelujah!!

YOUTH GROUP

DAVE FORESMAN



All the families with children and youth up to age 18 from our church (and other churches in the New Alexandria Ministerial Association) are invited to a Family Game Night on Sunday, April 26th from 6:00pm-7:30pm at Community United Presbyterian Church. This will be hosted by the churches and Pine Springs Camp. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm and will be pizza and salad.

Pine Springs Camp will have a talk about the many activities of the camp, show a short video, and then play some really fun games! And afterwards, there will be dessert and a time for fellowship.

So we can plan appropriately for the food and games, we ask that you RSVP by April 20th. Please let Dave Foresman know how many adults and how many children/youth will be attending and if there are any dietary restrictions.

Thanks so much! We look forward to seeing you at C.U.P. for this informative and fun-filled evening!!



DEACONS

PHYLLIS FRYE & DEBBIE PERINO

The proceeds from the White Elephant Sale are \$844.75. Thanks to all who participated. We would like to send "Finals Care Packages" to our college students. Please give the name and address to Debbie Perino or any Deacon by April 15th so we may include them. In May will be Blanket Sunday and June tools. Blanket and tools Sundays are special collections that support Church World Service. Blankets are used in disaster relief and tools go to underdeveloped countries.

The work-day at Mantle House Mission went very well with a lot being accomplished. Evelyn and Phyllis washed up and cleaned off a lot of glassware and other items for the re-sale store while the men did carpentry and electrical work in the apartment in the Mantle House and then went to the George House and tore out a chimney. It was a very productive day. If it looks like from the outside of the George House there is a lot to do, you should see the inside. The next work-day is scheduled for Saturday April 4.

Good News! Mantle House Mission has received a grant for \$3000 from the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women to put a furnace in the George House. Thank you, Lord!



The George House



Evelyn washing glassware for the resale store



Dave tearing out a chimney at the George House



Buffet at World Day of Prayer

To the Churches of the Presbytery of Redstone

As you may know from the news, this week a majority of presbyteries have approved the amendment(14-F) to the marriage section in the Directory of Worship which will now make it part of that section of the Book of Order. The language will now describe marriage as a *“unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.”*

In that same amended section on marriage, it makes clear that *“In making this decision, the teaching elder may seek the counsel of the session, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service.”* Additionally, it includes the protection of conscience from obligation when it codifies *“Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the session’s discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.”*

While I do not believe that anyone will be surprised at the passing of this amendment, nonetheless, there will remain strong convictions on multiple sides of this issue. For those who have advocated for this action, there will be a sense of fulfillment in removing any barriers to their exercise of pastoral and session discretion concerning the pastoral care and marriage of same gender couples. For those who have opposed this action, there will be disappointment and frustration over removing shared boundaries for pastors and sessions that have supported only traditional expressions of marriage.

Within this change in the Book of Order, the path that has been chosen is one that will require mutual forbearance. Certainly, this practice is expected within the body of Christ. There is no doubt that such restraint is far more challenging when the issues with which we disagree with one another are a matter of strong conviction. Yet, it is precisely at those points of greatest difficulty where such forbearance is necessary. Keeping our focus upon the Lord Jesus Christ this side of the kingdom in its fullness, demands not only that we seek to live and think faithfully, but that we do so with humility concerning our own understanding and toward others, especially within the body of Christ.

As we go forward, there will be differences not only over this issue, but plenty of others. Those differences will be apparent not only across our denomination, but within the Presbytery of Redstone. With conviction and with humility, we will need to be able to speak to each other, support one another and pray for each other not only in our similarities, but in our differences. We know that by grace our sovereign God claims us, forgives us, leads us, sanctifies us and will one day purify us.

Two years ago at the March meeting, I attended my first meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone and delivered the sermon. Although I had not officially started, my message focused on the identity of our savior Jesus Christ described in the Gospel of John as being “full of grace and truth.” I believe that this description is also an appropriate model for the people of Christ. Not only two years ago, but even more so today, I am convinced and I pray that as a presbytery of God’s people connected in this region of the Church that we might be “full of grace and truth.”

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Skip Noftzger
Executive Presbyter

- An online video by the Stated Clerk, The Rev. Gradye Parsons and a letter from Moderator and Vice Moderator may be viewed at www.pcusa.org/marriage

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670

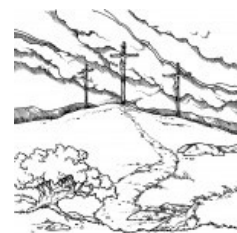


We're on the web!
congruitychurch.org

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No 5
NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670



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



ATTENDANCE

	Worship	Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
2/22	39	10	12	22
3/1	18	6	13	19
3/8	51	12	17	29
3/15	18	11	19	30



CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

Pastor	Cliff Foster
Clerk of Session	John Blank
Deacon Moderators	Phyllis Frye
	Debbie Perino
Treasurer	John Blank
Financial Secretary	Michelle Kepple
Church Secretary	Dorothy Martz
Music Director	Janet Henry
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne McIlnay
Webmaster	John Blank

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

