

# CONGRUITY CONNECTION



## *Cliff's Notes*

When I was in grade school, I remember asking the question a number of times to as many people as I could: “What do April showers bring?” The answer is May Flowers. Perhaps you remember asking that question as well. The month of May holds the promise of flowers, green grass and pleasant temperatures. But as I write these words, there are actually snow flurries in the air!

In the month of May we will be celebrating two special events: Mother’s Day (5/10) and Pentecost (5/24). Mother’s Day will be filled with cards, gifts, flowers, a special meal and memories. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ. Everyone is asked to wear red that day, there will be geraniums in the sanctuary and other decorations to remind us of the outpouring the Holy Spirit. There will be order forms in the pews for geraniums and the deadline for those orders will be May 11th.

My favorite Pentecost hymn is “Spirit” and each verse begins with these words: “Spirit, spirit of gentleness, Blow through the wilderness, calling and free, Spirit, spirit of restlessness, Stir me from placidness, Wind, wind on the sea...” I love those words! It is my hope and prayer that as we celebrate Pentecost that God’s Spirit will blow upon us and enable us to continue Christ’s ministry and mission, perhaps in new and creative ways.

Yours in Christ,

*Cliff*



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

### Liturgists

#### ELDER'S

John Blank

Sue Blank

Dave Foresman

Kathy Hamilton

Carol Hohman

Jim Kepple

Scott McInay

Bob Schweppe

Linda Youngbauer

5/3  
5/10  
5/17  
5/24  
5/31

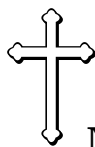
Ced Stopansky  
Sarabeth Stopansky  
Dave Foresman  
Evelyn Foresan  
Janet Rugh



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 May 25th:  
Dave Foresman Bob Schweppe Linda Youngbauer  
Dorothy Brant Amber Sellinger

## 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



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

#### DEACONS

Dorothy Brant

Sue Derek

Evelyn Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Nancy Lauffer

Debbie Perino

Jay Perino

Mim Schweppe

Amber Sellinger

Mim Schweppe

5/3  
  
  
5/10  
  
5/17  
  
5/24  
  
5/31

Murrysville, First  
✠ Chuck MacPherson, Pastor  
Chris Dericks, Associate Pastor  
Murrysville, Newlonsburg  
✠ Chris Paul, Pastor  
Marnie Silbert, Associate Pastor  
Murrysville, Union  
✠ Derek Campbell, Pastor  
New Alexandria, Community  
✠ Kathy Shirey, Pastor  
Redstone Member-at-Large  
✠ Lisa Dormire



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.

# MAY CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Dave Bish	5/17	Linda Hazlett
	Lisa Kaufman		Joelyn Watt
5/3	Larry Swatchick	5/18	Susan Blank
5/12	Roni Kaufman	5/20	Cindy Karstaedt
5/15	Lucha Batera	5/23	Rose Ann Orr
	Ron Kaufman	5/24	Jennifer Carnathan
	Linda Youngbauer	5/28	Becky Swatchick
5/16	Bryce Kaufman		



## 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
- 5/25/2014 Alex & Stacey Burns



## “ THE BOAT LAUNCH ”



The boat launch is a New Alexandria community project. Boaters launch their boats or kayaks at Latrobe and boat down to the old ball field at New Alexandria. They get there around lunchtime and the churches etc. have food booths set up and there is entertainment. There is a flyer on the church bulletin board.



## NEWSLETTER

Once I got my April newsletter in the mail I noticed that there was a problem with the last lines of a few paragraphs being cut off. Unfortunately it wasn't caught before printing. I believe it was caused by me using a newer computer program or the church's computer needing updated. My apologies for the problem and any information that was left out.

*Yvonne*

## MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

JOHN BLANK

### PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE ON STEWARDSHIP

Session has been reading and studying an excellent book on stewardship written by Rev. Mark Landfried, ***This Service of Love***. In chapter 4, Paul's "Instructions to the Galatians," we saw that Paul said, "Every Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what he has earned, and save it up, so there will be no need to collect money when I come," (1 Corinthians 16:2) Later in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 Paul goes into greater depth on the topic. "Giving should be an **act of worship**; it should be **approached systematically**; it should be **proportionate to income**; and it should be **planned for in advance**." (Landfried p31.)

Over the next several issues of the Congruity Connection we will be taking a closer look at these three points.

Take some time over the next few weeks and read and study First and Second Corinthians and give some prayerful thought to your giving habits.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

As of the April 19<sup>th</sup> offering Congruity raised \$724 for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Will we make our goal of \$900?

### STATE OF THE GENERAL FUND

At the end of February the General Fund was in a precarious situation. Essentially, Congruity was out of money in the General Fund. Since then we have had some large contributions **AND** the General Fund offering from Sunday to Sunday has increased. You can see the actual numbers elsewhere in this issue of Congruity Connections.

As I look at the numbers it appears that the deficit in the General Fund will be below \$2000 by the end of April. This is a big improvement over the \$9500 deficit we had at the end of February. We are making progress but still have a way to go to stabilize our financial situation.

### CHILD WELFARE CLEARANCES

New regulations in Pennsylvania require all employees and volunteers who have any contact with children to obtain certain clearances. I have set up a website to help guide you through the process. Go to <http://elblanko.com/clearances> to access the three required clearance checks. Session has authorized reimbursement for any costs incurred by employees and volunteers. Simply submit your receipts to me and I will take care of the reimbursement.

Please do not delay starting the process. The system will probably "bog down" as we get close to the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

John Blank 724-523-6460

[jblank@frsfcu.com](mailto:jblank@frsfcu.com)



## WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Take -out Turkey Dinner: As you read in last month's newsletter, the Women's Association has decided to try a TAKE-OUT only Turkey Dinner on May 9. Please pray for us as this is a new endeavor for us and we aren't sure exactly how it's going to go. We could still use some donations of pies, corn, (always money), and help. We will need help Friday evening and all day Saturday until everything is cleaned up. We will still peel potatoes on Friday evening at 6p.m. and maybe do some other things that can be done ahead of time, such as filling applesauce and cranberry containers, etc. Saturday if needed, we will do turkeys that haven't been done yet and cook the rest of the meal. Pick-up time is from 3-6p.m. Tickets need to be ordered and paid for by May 2nd.. For tickets or to offer donations or help, contact Debbie Perino, @ 724 -668-7561 or call the church @ 724-668-7740.

PW Women Spring Retreat will be held at Pine Springs Camp on Tuesday May 26, 9am.-2:30 p.m. with Rev. Sue Washburn and Rev. Jane Frayer-Griggs (Table Minister at the Hot Metal Bridge) leading. The theme is We are All Hungry for Something: Women, Jesus and Appetites. Registration (\$16) is due to Susan Blank by May 15. The mission project for the retreat will be ingredients for s'mores - Hershey bars, graham crackers and marshmallows.

Watch for the June newsletter for more info on the PW Mission Tea. It will be at Congruity on Saturday July 18, 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and will benefit STOP HUNHER NOW. The goal for SHN this year is \$6000 and 20,000 meals. Packing date is October 17 at Community Presbyterian Church.

## MANTLE HOUSE MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE



Mantle House Mission has received it's first installment of the grant from PW Thank Offering. Another workday is scheduled for Saturday May 2 at 9a.m. This is a good chance for you to do local mission work as it as only 45 min. away. See Phyllis Frye if interested. You can see pictures of what is happening down there on Mantle House Mission's face-book page.

## OFFERING TOTALS

Other Contri-	Date	Offering	Total to Date	Offering Ave
\$ 220.00	01/04/15	\$ 1,430.00	\$ 1,430.00	\$ 1,430.00
	01/11/15	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 3,035.00	\$ 1,517.50
	01/18/15	\$ 698.00	\$ 3,733.00	\$ 1,244.33
\$ 100.00	01/25/15	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 5,138.00	\$ 1,284.50
\$ 100.00	02/01/15	\$ 918.00	\$ 6,056.00	\$ 1,211.20
	02/08/15	\$ 1,664.00	\$ 7,720.00	\$ 1,286.67
	02/15/15	\$ 351.00	\$ 8,071.00	\$ 1,153.00
\$ 160.00	02/22/15	\$ 1,309.00	\$ 9,380.00	\$ 1,172.50
\$ 200.00	03/01/15	\$ 1,230.00	\$ 10,610.00	\$ 1,178.89
\$ 400.00	03/08/15	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 12,290.00	\$ 1,229.00
\$ 85.00	03/15/15	\$ 1,770.00	\$ 14,060.00	\$ 1,278.18
\$ 2,925.57	03/22/15	\$ 2,102.00	\$ 16,162.00	\$ 1,346.83
\$ 4,600.00	03/29/15	\$ 975.00	\$ 17,137.00	\$ 1,318.23
Maundy Thursday \$ 150.00	04/02/15	\$ 415.00	\$ 17,552.00	\$ 1,253.71
8:00 AM	04/05/15	\$ 149.00	\$ 17,701.00	\$ 1,264.36
11:00 AM	04/05/15	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 19,701.00	\$ 1,407.21
\$ 747.07	04/12/15	\$ 1,233.00	\$ 20,934.00	\$ 1,395.60
\$ 1,100.00	04/19/15	\$ 2,036.00	\$ 22,970.00	\$ 1,435.63



**MISSION**  
PHYLLIS FRYE

The Mission Team just came back from their trip to New Jersey. I will give a report in June's newsletter, but for now, it was lots of hard, heavy work and lots of fun, fun, fun. And lots of good food.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

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)
March	\$ 16,292.27	\$ 8,775.89	\$ 10,880.21	\$ (2,058.05)

## First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January	\$ 428.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (222.00)
February	\$ 504.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (368.00)
March *	\$ 1,836.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 818.00

\*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
<b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b>	\$ 185.50	\$ -	\$ 185.50
<b>Cents-Ability</b>	\$ 38.76	\$ 8.00	\$ 46.76
<b>Change for the Future</b>	\$ 17.00	\$ 4.22	\$ 21.22
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,156.00	\$ 1,156.00

	Received	GOAL	Balance
<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	\$ 326.50	\$ 900.00	\$ (573.50)

## Included in General Fund Balance

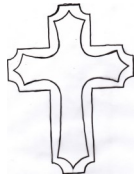
Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$ 20,642.98**

	From 2014	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local Mission	\$ 2,841.50	\$ (50.00)	\$ 2,791.50
Building Mainte-	\$ 2,745.44	\$ 685.00	\$ 3,430.44



## Attendance Correction From Last Newsletter

2/22	28
3/1	29
3/8	46
3/15	51



## ITEMS FROM SESSION

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JOHN BLANK

Session met on April 20, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) Kathy Hamilton led us in devotions reading from Jim Gilchrist's *Morning by Morning* ( based on Thessalonians)
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Kathy Hamilton was elected as elder delegate to the next meeting of Redstone Presbytery with Dave Foresman as alternative elder delegate.
- 4) The next meeting of Redstone Presbytery will be Tuesday, 5/19/15, starting at 6:00 PM @ West Newton.
- 5) **REMINDER** of the following tentative dates for fundraisers: 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 most 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) Session has set the age for the nursery during worship to children 5 and under.
- 9) MIS reported that the General Fund deficit has been **REDUCED** by approximately \$5500 since the end of February. Congruity still needs your help with balancing the budget. See the MIS article in this issue of Congruity Connections
- 10) Don't forget about helping with the Per Capita portion Congruity's First Fruits/Benevolence pledge to Redstone Presbytery. (\$34/member)
- 11) Remember: First Fruits = Benevolence = Mission. It is all the same account.
- 12) Noted that plumbing repairs have been made at the manse.
- 13) Discussed the possibility of new lights in the kitchen
- 14) Approved a short term lease of the lower parking lot to Salem Township.
- 15) Awarded bids for mowing of the cemetery and the church yard.
- 16) Set summer worship for 10 AM with no Sunday School for June 7 through September 6, inclusive.
- 17) Approved a vacation request from Rev. Foster for July 5 and 6.
- 18) Approved weddings: 7/4 – Joe Stopansky; 7/25 - Brandy Sellinger; and 8/8 – Krystal Kulic
- 19) Agreed to read and study Chapter 5 of *This Service of Love*
- 20) Discussed Chapter 4 of *This Service of Love*
- 21) Noted that the next regular session meeting is scheduled for 5/18/2015.

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

I'm sure everyone is rejoicing over the beautiful Spring days we have been experiencing lately. It seems that when we have had a long cold Winter behind us we appreciate the warmth and the gorgeous colors of Spring even more. And with the warmer days we can start looking forward to Summer and with Summer comes Vacation Bible School!

This year's VBS looks to be another fun-filled, inspirational one! It's called Everest and will be the coolest adventure of the Summer! That's right, even though it's in the middle of Summer at Congruity, the children will be embarking on an "icy expedition" to EVEREST: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power. Sounds interesting, huh? Well, there will be "glacier games" and cool experiments and surprising adventures! So, why not join us JULY 20-24, 2015 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon here at Congruity Presbyterian Church? And don't forget to bring all your friends along for the fun, too. For more information, please see Rev. Cliff Foster or any Christian Ed. Committee member.

**\*\*FYI\*\*** The following message has been approved by our Session.... After the children's sermon, there is a nursery available for children aged 5 and under. Children above that age should stay with their families in church for the remainder of the church service. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

### DEACONS

PHYLLIS FRYE & DEBBIE PERINO



Blanket Sunday: Mother's Day, May 10, has been designated as Blanket Sunday. On that day, for \$5, we can sponsor a blanket through Church World Service. These warm blankets are distributed to aid in relief and disaster aid efforts. They are very versatile and can be used in a variety of ways, such as covering, shelter, carrying, etc. You may "buy" them in honor or in memory of loved ones. There will be envelopes available the first Sunday in May to be turned by Sunday, May 10. In June we will be sponsoring tools for Father's Day.

*Congruity Presbyterian Church*  
*136 Fennelstown Road*  
*New Alexandria PA 15670*



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



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

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

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

	Worship	Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
3/22	48	9	20	29
3/29	56	13	19	32
4/2	45	Maundy Thursday		
4/5	8am 49	13	16	29
	11am 62			
4/12	42	4	17	21
4/19	41	5	20	25

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

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](mailto:congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com)