

CONGRUITY CONNECTION

Cliff's Notes



The other day I was reminiscing about when I was in grade school. I recall that whenever the calendar turned to June, the countdown to the end of school kicked into high gear. I remember back then, the days seemed to last about a week and the weeks were like months! Now that I have become “seasoned”, the days seem to pass like minutes and the weeks like an hour! But do you remember the excitement that filled the air as the day that school released for the summer? Thoughts were filled with playing all day, going swimming, enjoying cookouts, camping out in the backyard, looking forward to that week at summer camp. .

With the arrival of the month of June, we begin our Summer Worship time at 10 AM. I hope that as you look towards the summer months that you still have some of that excitement that comes during this season of the year. We may be looking forward to vacation, those relaxing nights of grilling out, and enjoying the produce of our gardens, eager to read a book sitting on the porch or deck or under a tree in the backyard. The summer months afford us the opportunity for rest and relaxation. I think that the summer is also a time for us to spend some time reflecting on our faith and to think about all of the ways through which God has richly blessed us.

The month of June also brings with it some transitions for people: graduates and retirees moving into a new chapter in their lives, there are those who will begin new schools in the fall, those changing jobs, those dealing with illnesses and those in time of recovery and transitions. It is my hope and prayer that the excitement we felt as kids continues to fill us especially as we continue to be embraced in God’s loving arms. I hope this summer is filled with many wonderful experiences for us all.

Yours in Christ,
Cliff



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

E L D E R S

John Blank

Sue Blank

Dave Foresman

Kathy Hamilton

Carol Hohman

Jim Kepple

Scott McIlroy

Bob Schweppe

Linda Youngbauer



D E A C O N S

Dorothy Brant

Sue Derek

Evelyn Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Nancy Lauffer

Debbie Perino

Jay Perino

Amber Sellinger



Liturgists

6/7

Phyllis Frye

6/14

Doug Stine

6/21

John Blank

6/28

Ronda Weinell



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.

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 June are as follows:

6/7

New Alexandria, Congruity

✠ Cliff Foster, Pastor

6/14

New Kensington, United

✠ Becca Siddle, Temporary Supply

Marnie Silbert, Associate Pastor

6/21

Slickville

✠ Tom Holmes, CRE

6/28

Vandergrift

✠ Neal Galley, Pastor



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

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.

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

6/3	Briona Williams	6/16	Tom Munsell
6/4	Kaitlin Johnston	6/17	Ashley Passante
6/6	Gale Wilhelm	6/18	Sophia Watt
6/11	Judy Wilhelm	6/21	Rosemary Orr
6/13	Charles Frye		Jonathon Schrecengost
	Ryan Gallagher	6/26	Dean Frye
6/14	Sydney Hoffman	6/28	Kathy Kepple Fink
6/15	Scott Hamilton		Mary Lloyd



ANNIVERSARIES



6/1/2014	Jim & Allison Sullivan
6/14/1995	Larry & Carol Zabkar
6/19/2009	Bob & Tristan Brant
6/20/1981	Bob & Nancy Schweppe
6/21/1975	Ced & Sarabeth Stopansky

TWO YEAR BIBLE PLAN

Two year Bible plan time has been changed to 6:30PM instead of 7:00PM. It will still be held on the second Wednesday of each month.



2015 GRADUATES



We will be recognizing our 2015 graduates in the July/August newsletter. I would like to have a photo and small write up for each student. Please email me at congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com or put it in the newsletter folder at the church. All photos will be returned. Thank you.

MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE

A total of 18 volunteers from 9 churches in Redstone made the trip to Bayville, New Jersey in April to help with recovery from Superstorm Sandy. We were divided into three work groups doing a variety of different jobs from hanging cabinets, repairing floors, gutting out walls, hanging and finishing drywall, emptying out a basement, hanging blinds, you name it, someone probably did it. We heard stories from our homeowners exemplifying faith and courage beyond belief. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. You are the home team and we count on you for that.

One of our team members (John) is a student at Robert Morris College and took more than a dozen of his friends to N.J. in March with a Redstone team from Uniontown and some of them are going back in May to finish an electrical job for one of our homeowners. John heard of a house in McKees Rocks that is being remodeled for a women's shelter and invited our team to help, so three of us joined John and his friends to do drywall on this home. We can be very proud of these young people and our prayers go with them.



REDSTONE MISSION TEA

The Redstone Mission Tea will have a Christmas theme with an English flavor. It will be held at Congruity on July 18, at 1p.m. Tickets are \$20 and includes tickets for the basket auction. We will be needing donations of tea cookies, scones, etc, both regular and gluten free. If you don't really want to "go" to the tea, but would like to be a mouse in the corner, we will be needing help (Scully maids) in the kitchen keeping the water hot, the buffet filled, etc. Tickets are limited to 100. so get yours now. For tickets, or more information, contact Linda Youngbauer (724 668 2941) or Phyllis Frye (724 468 3740). This tea benefits STOP HUNGER NOW. We need to raise \$6000 by October 18 in order to pack 20,000 meals.



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)
April	\$ 10,608.32	\$ 8,935.41	\$ 12,553.12	\$ (385.14)
	\$ 37,592.82	\$ 37,977.96		

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
April*	\$ 1,157.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,325.00

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 185.50	\$ -	\$ 185.50
Cents-Ability	\$ 46.76	\$ 8.00	\$ 54.76
Change for the Future	\$ 21.22	\$ 6.00	\$ 27.22
Per Capita	\$ 1,156.00	\$ 517.00	\$ 1,673.00

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 824.23	\$ 900.00	\$ (75.77)

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 Maintenance	\$ 2,745.44	\$ 875.00	\$ 3,620.44

Recent Offering	04/02/15 \$	415.00
	04/05/15 \$	149.00
	04/05/15 \$	2,000.00
	04/12/15 \$	1,233.00
	04/19/15 \$	2,036.00
	04/26/15 \$	1,131.00
	05/03/15 \$	1,282.00
	05/10/15 \$	766.00

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

JOHN BLANK

PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE ON STEWARDSHIP (Part II)

In 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.)

In this issue I will take a look at the first of these four points: "Giving should be an act of worship..." The offering was to be part of the worship life of a Christian and it was to be received on the day when "the message of the risen Lord was celebrated with joy and with thankful hearts." (Landfried p32.) But how do we do this in actual practice? Do we present our offering with "joy and with thankful hearts" or do we at the last moment as the ushers begin to circulate with the offering plates dig into our wallets or begin writing a check? Do we truly "Praise God from whom all blessings flow..." when we sing the Doxology or are we checking our watches to see if church will end on time? Our offering should be dependent upon and inseparable from our worship life. (*This Service of Love*, Landfried) Submitted by John Blank

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Congruity raised \$864 for the One Great Hour of Sharing. We came very close to our goal of \$900.

PENTECOST OFFERING

60% of the Pentecost Offering (5/17 – 5/31) is used for youth advocacy missions through the PCUSA. Congruity retains 40% of this offering and has designated this portion to go to the Welcome Home Shelter. Our goal for the Pentecost Offering is \$400.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Traditionally, the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to feeding the hungry by collecting the Centsability Offering (what was at one time called the 2-cents/meal offering) and by receiving non-perishable food items to go to local families in need. You can either bring your own items or purchase items from the **KID'S STORE**. We are always looking for children to help with the sales.

If you are not at worship on the first Sunday of the month, you can still bring in items at other times. Just put them in the grocery cart in the storage room located at the east end of the greeting room.

State of the General Fund

At the end of February the General Fund was \$9,574.43 in the red. 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 of the end of April this deficit was down to just \$385.14 in the red. The Spaghetti Dinner (\$1081 profit) and some large contributions had a significant impact on this reduction in our deficit. We are making progress but still need to prayerfully consider our contributions to the General Fund.



WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Thanks to all who helped in any way with the Take-out-Turkey Dinner. We cleared about \$1200. We learned a lot, but all in all things went pretty well. There were some glitches that would need to be worked out if we are to have another one. If anyone would still like to make a donation, you may send a check to the Congruity Women's Association. Watch for the July newsletter for a date for the Women's picnic. There will be no meeting in June.

Briona helping to stuff
a turkey for the dinner





ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

Session met on May 18, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) Scott McIlhenny led us in devotions
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Kathy Hamilton will serve as elder delegate to the 5/19/2015 of Redstone Presbytery with Dave Foresman as elder delegate. This meeting of Redstone Presbytery will be Tuesday, 5/19/15, starting at 6:00 PM @ West Newton.
- 4) **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.
- 5) John Blank reported on the progress with clearances for volunteers and employees.
- 6) **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.
- 7) Approved participation of the youth in the “30 Hour Famine” activity.
- 8) MIS reported that the General Fund deficit has been **REDUCED** to just a few hundred dollars in the red. Congruity still needs your help with balancing the budget. See the MIS article in this issue of Congruity Connections
- 9) Remember: First Fruits = Benevolence = Mission. It is all the same account.
- 10) MIS reported that as of 5/17 the PDA appeal had received \$85.75 and the Pentecost offering had received \$35.
- 11) MIS reported that \$40 profit from the Kid's Store was given to the Centsability offering.
- 12) Noted that the elevator system passed the semiannual inspection on 5/13/15. Schindler still needs to replace the phone
- 13) Discussed some options to help reduce the high electric bills, especially during the heating months.

- 14)Noted that all propane service has been switched to AmeriGas.
- 15)Approved insurance coverage for the upcoming year.
- 16)Approved a vacation request from Rev. Foster for September 19-26, 2015
- 17)Approved weddings: 7/4 – Joe Stopansky; 7/25 - Brandy Sellinger; and 8/8 – Krystal Kulic
- 18)Agreed to read and study Chapter 6 of *This Service of Love*
- 19)Discussed Chapter 5 of *This Service of Love*
- 20)Noted that the next regular session meeting is scheduled for 6/22/2015.
There will not be a regular session meeting in July. The September meeting of session is set for 9/14/15

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

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.

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fennelstown 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

WORSHIP AT 10:00AM
PLEASE JOIN US!



ATTENDANCE

	Worship	Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
4/26	40	8	18	26
5/3	31	6	18	24
5/10	43	11	19	30
5/17	45	7	18	25

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 McIlroy
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