

CONGRUITY CONNECTION

Cliff's Notes



Each month as I sit at my laptop to compose this article, I find myself asking the question: What should I write about? As I was ruminating about this article, the shooting and killing of 9 people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina happened. I like most of you was in shock especially since the shooting happened at the end of a prayer meeting. On June 18th, a statement was released from the leaders of the PC (USA), Stated Clerk, Gradye Parsons; Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Linda Valentine; Moderator, Heath Rada; and Vice-Moderator, Larissa Abazia. I would like to share this statement with you for your reflection and prayers during the summer months. The statement goes like this:

“The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaches out to its sisters and brothers of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church of Charlestown, South Carolina, where nine people were killed when a gunman opened fire Wednesday night during Bible study. We grieve with the families of the victims and members of their church community. We hope the perpetrator is soon captured and brought to justice.

The chief of police in Charlestown has named this a hate crime. We know of no other name for a crime that forces a five-year-old to play dead in her church in order to live. Arresting the shooter is the job of law enforcement. Arresting hate is the work we are all called to do as disciples of Jesus Christ. May God never give up on us as we face our own racism and its tragic impact on congregations, their communities, and our very souls.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, God who has brought us thus far on our way, only you know why someone would enter into your house of worship and open fire on your children. Only you know why hate would run so deep that it would cause one of your creations to kill others you have formed. In our confusion over this senseless act, we appeal to you for understanding and courage to continue to fight for justice. We pray right now for the families of those who lost lives at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charlestown, S.C. on June 17, and ask that you would wrap your loving arms around them and the entire community. Likewise, we pray for an end to the continued racial unrest and violence that permeates the United States and the world, and ask you to guide us to work earnestly for change. Now unto you who is able to keep us from falling, we pray all these things. Amen.”

Yours in Christ,
Cliff



W O R S H I P L E A D E R S F O R J U L Y & A U G U S T

Liturgists

E L D E R S
John Blank
Sue Blank
Dave Foresman
Kathy Hamilton
Carol Hohman
Jim Kepple
Scott McInay
Bob Schweppe
Linda Youngbauer

7/5	Dorothy Martz
7/12	Sarabeth Stopansky
7/19	Outdoor Worship Service
7/26	Tim D/Aurora
8/2	Evelyn Foresman
8/9	Ced Stopansky
8/16	Janet Rugh
8/23	Caroline D' Aurora
8/30	Janet Henry



Those scheduled to serve communion on August 2nd :

John Blank Jim Kepple Kathy Hamilton
Nancy Lauffer Mim Schweppe

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.



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



DEACONS

PHYLLIS FRYE & DEBBIE PERINO

End of Summer Picnic will be held on Sunday,
August 30th after church. Bring a covered dish the
deacons are providing hot dogs and drinks.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



DAVE FORESMAN

On September 13, 2015 there will be a HUNGER WALK.
It will benefit both local and international missions. Please
watch future newsletters and bulletins for more information
and updates!

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.



J U L Y & A U G U S T

B I R T H D A Y S

7/1	Bill Karstaedt	8/7	Tracey McDonald
7/3	Brennan Foster	8/8	Sandy Cramer
	Heather Kaufman	8/12	Marjorie Aaron
	Robert Young		Linda Sellinger
7/6	Katie Frye	8/13	Keith Orr
	Mim Schweppe		Amber Sellinger
7/9	Doug Stine	8/14	Carol Miller
7/11	Michelle Kepple	8/15	Tom Kepple
7/12	Betty Lou Carr		Chris Johnston
	Cliff Foster		Sara Johnston
	Hillary Lapcevic	8/16	Cara Kaufman
7/15	BJ Johnston	8/18	Jim Kepple
7/16	Mark Writt		Amy Stine
7/20	Evelyn Foresman	8/19	Becky Davis
	Alex Swatchick	8/21	Titina Ott
7/21	Jessica Carnathan	8/22	Jean Branthoover
7/22	Sue Bish		Dana Flowers
7/24	Carol Zabkar		Stacey Burns
7/26	Gary Kulick	8/29	Tim D'Aurora
7/29	Debbie Perino		Ryan Schweppe
7/31	Eric Heasley	8/31	Jeremiah Kaufman
	Ken Sellinger Sr		



A N N I V E R S A R I E S



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

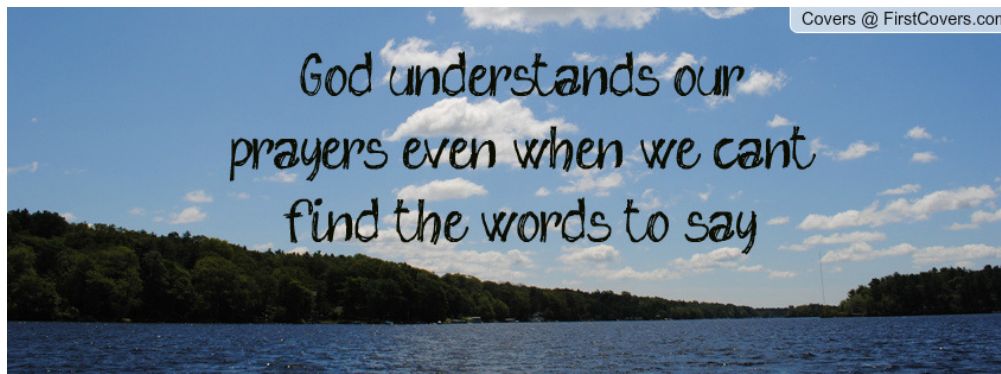
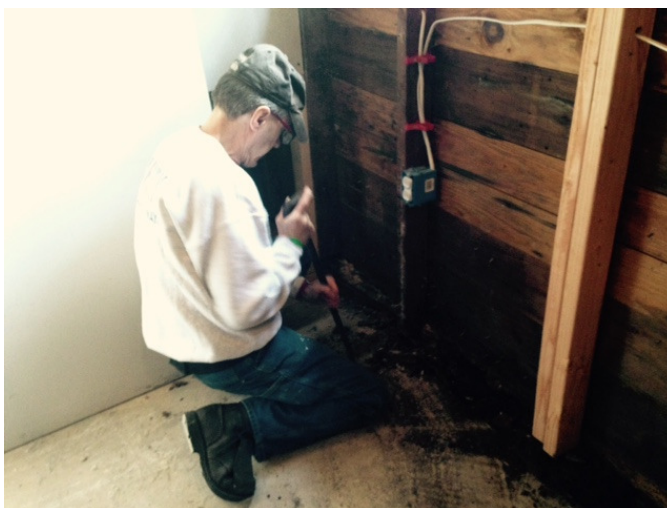
MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Work at Mantle House this month consisted of building more shelves in the garage, which is part of the resale shop; and replenishing inventory after the West Newton Townwide yard sale. Next workday is July 11, 9 a.m.



April Mission Trip to
New Jersey ~ Sue,
Phyllis & Ced





ITEMS FROM SESSION

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JOHN BLANK

Session met on June 22, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) Rev. Foster led us in devotions
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Kathy Hamilton served as elder delegate to the 5/19/2015 meeting of Redstone Presbytery. Kathy and Rev. Foster reported on the meeting. The next meeting of Redstone Presbytery is September 15th at the Dunbar Church
- 4) **REMINIDER** of the following tentative dates for fundraisers: 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 working with children at 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) MIS reported that the General Fund deficit had a positive balance at the end of May. It is anticipated that the General Fund will be about \$1000 in the red by the end of June. Congruity still needs your help with balancing the budget. See the MIS article in this issue of Congruity Connections
- 8) Remember: First Fruits = Benevolence = Mission. It is all the same account.
- 9) Continued discussion of some options to help reduce the high electric bills, especially during the heating months.
- 10) Noted that all propane service has been switched to AmeriGas.
- 11) Approved a vacation request from Rev. Foster for August 19-24, 2015
- 12) Approved baptism for Clayton James Kirkpatrick on 7/12/15. Clayton was born 10/11/13 at Indiana Hospital to Wesley and Kayla Kirkpatrick
- 13) Agreed to read and study Chapter 7 of **This Service of Love**
- 14) Discussed Chapter 6 of **This Service of Love**
- 15) Noted that the next regular session meeting is scheduled for 8/17/2015. 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)

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE



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A picnic for all women of the church will be held on Thursday July 16, at 6 p.m. at the Boggs farm. Come and enjoy some fellowship, bring a friend or two, a stinky bingo prize and a covered dish to share. We will resume our regular meetings in August

There is a long stretch between the main card sending holidays, so if you have a secret sister, you might want to send her a thinking of you card this summer, just to let her know you are thinking of her.

Tickets are going fast for the PW Christmas Tea to be held at Congruity on July 18, 1p.m. Don't forget to bring your ticket with you (your number is on it) so that you get your free tickets for the basket drawing. All tickets must be bought ahead of time. There will be no tickets sold at the door. The Tea is being held to benefit Stop Hunger now. The food packaging event is October 17 at CUP.



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.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This summer Congruity will host the New Alexandria Vacation Bible School. The theme is **"EVEREST: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power."** We will be transforming Congruity into a rugged base camp at the foot of towering Mount Everest, but we need some supplies to outfit our base camp:

DONATIONS needed include: flat white sheets (any size), a bag of fiber fill, and any rope that you can donate.

We need to **BORROW**: icicle lights, back packs, mountain climbing gear (climbing picks, carabineers), snow shoes, skis, ski poles, parkas, and anything else that would fit into a mountain climbing theme.

Any items that you wish returned should be marked with Congruity and your name. You can place items in the greeting room as soon as possible.

Contact John Blank at 724-523-6460, if you have any questions.



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)
May	\$ 8,425.68	\$ 7,694.75	\$ 13,284.05	\$ 345.79
	\$ 46,018.50	\$ 45,672.71		

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
May*	\$ 702.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,377.00

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 185.50	\$ -	\$ 185.50
Cents-Ability	\$ 54.76	\$ 60.31	\$ 115.07
Change for the Future	\$ 27.22	\$ 2.43	\$ 29.65
Per Capita	\$ 1,673.00	\$ 137.00	\$ 1,810.00

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 864.23	\$ 900.00	\$ (35.77)
Pentecost	\$ 376.11	\$ 400.00	\$ (23.89)
Peacemaking	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
Christmas Joy	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 266.75	\$ -	\$ 266.75

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) \$ 20,812.98

O F F E R I N G T O T A L S

	From 2014	Year to Date	Balance	
Elevator Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	05/03/15 \$ 1,282.00
Local Mission	\$ 2,841.50	\$ (50.00)	\$ 2,791.50	05/10/15 \$ 766.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,745.44	\$ (204.52)	\$ 2,540.92	05/17/15 \$ 1,501.00
				05/24/15 \$ 1,247.00
				05/31/15 \$ 1,025.00
				06/07/15 \$ 1,457.00
				06/14/15 \$ 1,178.00

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

JOHN BLANK

PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE ON STEWARDSHIP (Part III)

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 second of these four points: "Giving should be approached systematically..." Impassioned pleas where the agony of the current situation call for an offering on the spot are only temporary solutions. This is undoubtedly a way to raise a lot of money in a short time, but it does little to develop a solid stewardship consciousness. Systematic giving requires understanding of the scriptures and *patience*! "Without question, Paul's emphasis on regular systematic, disciplined approach to giving would, in the long run, lead to stewardship maturity in the church." At times stewardship requires a sprint to meet a short term urgent need, but we develop a fuller understanding of stewardship when we systematically plan to run the marathon of financial support for the church. (*This Service of Love*, Landfried) Submitted by John Blank

PDA - NEPAL

Congruity raised \$266.75 for the appeal to help those suffering from the earthquakes in Nepal. This was received by our use of the blue PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) buckets. These funds will be used to replace supplies that were on their way to the disaster area within hours of the first earthquake.

PENTECOST OFFERING

60% of the Pentecost Offering (5/17 – 6/7) 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. Congruity raised \$376.11 towards our goal for the Pentecost Offering of \$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. Adults in charge of the store for the next several months are: 7/5 – Phyllis Frye; 8/2 – Carol Hohman; and 9/6 – Sue Derek

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

As of the end of May the deficit was reduced by over \$9000. Congruity finished May with the General Fund \$345.79 in the black. The Spaghetti Dinner (\$1081 profit), Hoagie Sale (\$630.50), 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 SYSTEMATIC (see above) contributions to the General Fund.

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!



A T T E N D A N C E

	Worship	Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
5/24	50	10	18	28
5/31	39	5	17	22
6/7	41			
6/14	35			
6/21	38			

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 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