

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

As I sit at my desk putting this article together, I find myself asking the question: Where did the summer go? Perhaps you have asked yourself that question as well! This has been a funny summer in terms of the weather, between the rain and now the heat and humidity. Over this summer I had the privilege to officiate 3 weddings, each of them at different and unique venues. The weddings were for: Joe and Courtney Stopansky, Brandy and Nick Guthrie and Krystal and Jason Maciupa—may God continue to bless you as you journey into the future as husband and wife. I also officiated at 3 funeral/memorial services: Gene Brant, Jean Branthoover and Peggy Wolff—may God's presence continue to be with their families, friends and loved ones during their journey through the valley of the shadow of death. I also had the opportunity to baptize 3 individuals this summer: Clayton Kirkpatrick, Jim Roemer and Tyler Roemer—my prayer is that they will grow in their faith and live into their baptismal vows.

In the course of these avenues of ministry through this summer, I have found myself thinking about *the circle of life*. And yes for you Disney fans, as I write these words the words of Elton John's song from "The Lion King" is echoing in my mind. The circle of life emphasis that wonderful line that begins The Brief Statement of Faith from our Book of Confession—"In life and in death we belong to God". Paul in Romans 14:8 puts it this way: If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." What a wonderful declaration! Our faith enables us throughout the circle of lives to know that we are the Lord's... that we are part of the body of Christ—the Church.

As we begin the fall season, it is my hope and prayer that in all that we do, in all that takes place in our lives, in the good time and not so good times—we will hold fast to the Good News that we are the Lord's. Throughout the circle of our lives, may we know just how much God loves us and how God showers us with abundant grace. You will see on the pages of this newsletter many of the activities going on in the life of our church.

There is an old hymn which asks the question: "Will the Circle be Unbroken" and because of our faith we know that the circle of God's love is never broken!

Yours in Christ,

Cliff



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

Liturgists

ELDER'S

John Blank

Sue Blank

Dave Foresman

Kathy Hamilton

Carol Hohman

Jim Kepple

Scott McIlroy

Bob Schweppe

Linda Youngbauer

9/6

9/13

9/20

9/27

Phyllis Frye

Dave Foresman

Ronda Weinell

John Blank



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
September are as follows:



DEACONS

Dorothy Brant

Sue Derek

Evelyn Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Nancy Lauffer

Debbie Perino

Jay Perino

Amber Sellinger

Mim Schweppe

9/6 Murrysville, Union † Derek Caampbell, Pastor

9/13 New Alexandria, Community † Kathy Shirey, Pastor

9/20 New Alexandria, Congruity † Cliff Foster, Pastor

9/27 New Kensington † Becca Siddle, Temporary Supply



N E W T E S T A M E N T B I B L E S T U D Y F O R M E R L Y T W O Y E A R B I B L E P L A N

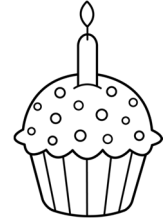
I have a change with The 2 year Bible Plan. We will be calling it the New Testament Bible Study. We will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month. September 9th at 6:30 P.M. in the Women's Sunday School Class Room will be our first Wednesday. I will update each month on what Chapters we will be studying until we finish. Starting September 1-9, we will be studying Matthew Chapter 1-15.

All is welcome ~ Both men and women. Please come join Us!

S E P T E M B E R

B I R T H D A Y S

9/1	Nathan Foresman Matthew Schweppe	9/17	Betty Morse
9/2	Jim Blank	9/18	Colton Cramer
9/6	Cody Kaufman Courtney Kaufman	9/19	Yvonne McIlroy
9/7	Jimmy Carnathan Julia Carnathan	9/20	Dave Foresman
9/9	Myrah Jane Hawkey	9/21	Mary Ann Kaufman Joshua Wilhelm
9/10	Bob Schweppe Jr.	9/22	Harold Kaufman
9/11	Allison Hufford	9/25	John Blank Abigail MacDonald
9/13	Bill Hufford	9/26	Joan Wilhelm
		9/30	Sydney Swatchick



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

9/3/1983	Keith & Rose Ann Orr
9/13/1969	Tom & Karen Dudek
9/13/1986	Jim & Michelle Kepple
9/16/2006	Glenn & Helen Hawkey
9/24/1966	Ron & Dorothy Martz
9/25/1999	Dan & Adrian Frye
9/26	Mark & Ann Gaertner



We extend our congratulations to the following couples who were recently married:

-Joe and Courtney Stopansky who were married on July 4th.

-Brandy and Nick Guthrie who were married on July 25th.

-Krystal and Jason Maciupa who were married on August 8th.

We congratulate Brennan Foster and Nicole Hanson who recently became engaged.

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.

SYMPATHY



We extend our sympathy to the following families ...

- The Brant Family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Gene's death.
- The Branthoover Family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Jean's death.
- The Wolff family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Peggy's death.

THANK YOU

The Brant family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food, visits and help with the spaghetti dinner on the passing of Gene. He will be missed. Thank you Cliff for the very nice services and our church family.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

DAVE FORESMAN

Walk for Hunger

Please join us on September 13th for our annual New Alexandria Walk for Hunger at Keystone State Park. Registration is at 1:00 pm and the walk starts at 2:00 pm. The walkers will meet at Pavilion #1. If you don't want to or are unable to walk you can sponsor a walker. Checks are to be written out to: New Alexandria Ministerium. The walk supports Stop Hunger Now, Westmoreland County Food Bank, and New Alexandria Food Pantry.

* Be on the lookout for future Congregational Life activities.

STOP HUNGER NOW

PHYLLIS FRYE



NOTE DATE CHANGE! The Stop Hunger Now date has been changed from October 17 to October 31 at Community Presbyterian Church. Our goal is 10,000 meal. This is a simple assembly line, working in groups of five to package nutritious meals, some of which are sent to schools in underdeveloped countries, and some to areas of disasters. There will be a sign-up sheet in the greeting room to sign up for a time to help package these meals. It's a lot of fun and is a good family project. If you have a red SHN shirt, wear it. There will be shirts, etc for sale at the packaging event.

The Christmas Tea in July brought in around \$2200 for SHN. Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause.



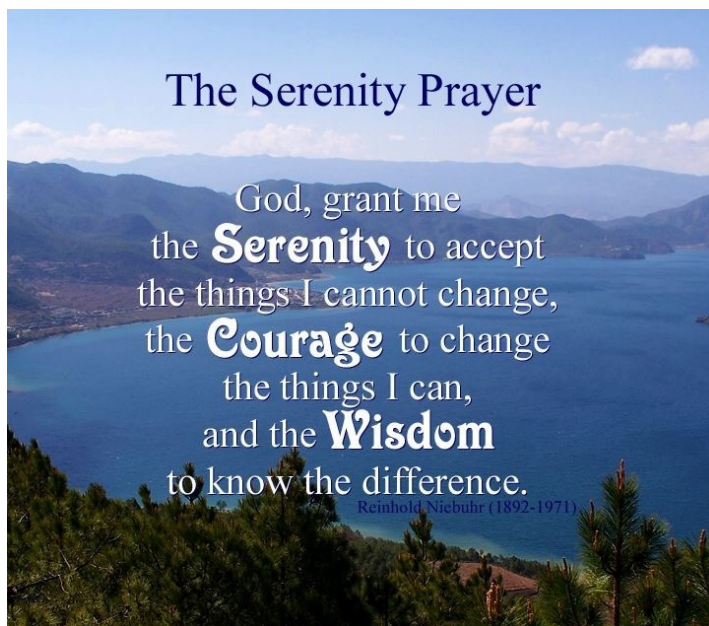
MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Congruity, along with Community UP is collecting items for school kits to be delivered to Church World Service in October. Items needed are blunt end scissors, 70 count spiral notebooks or tape bound pads of 8x10 1/2 " ruled paper (no loose paper), 12" rulers, hand held pencil sharpeners, new pencils with erasers, large erasers, boxes of 24 crayons, cloth bags 12x14" or 14x16" with handles. (Hands-on-Mission is making bags) We will also accept monetary donations to buy items. There is a box in the greeting room for items. The Community Youth group will be packing the kits.

MANTLE HOUSE

Next workday, Saturday September 12 at 9a.m. Work continues on the George House. The new furnace (provided by a grant from the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women) has been installed, with ductwork still to be completed. New shelving in the garage of the resale shop has been completed. This is a local mission and takes only 45 minutes at most to get there. Work includes anything from replenishing the resale shop to construction. There is something for everybody. Workdays are scheduled the 2nd Saturday of the month,. The mission is located at 132 South Water street, West Newton and is located on the inside corner of Water and Vine. The resale shop is open Thursday.-Saturday 9-6..Contact Phyllis Frye (724 468 3740) if interested.





ITEMS FROM SESSION

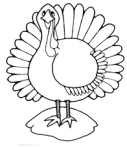
Page 6

JOHN BLANK

Session met on August 17, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) Elder Carol Hohman led us in devotions reading from 1 Chronicles 9.
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Approved the purchase of a set of CD's to be used in place of a substitute organist.
- 4) Approved baptism for Tyler James Roemer on 8/16/15 (born 6/30/15 at Westmoreland Hospital to James Louis Roemer V and Kristie Kepple Roemer) and James Louis Roemer V (adult) on 8/16/15
- 5) **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.
- 6) John Blank reported on the progress with clearances for volunteers and employees.
- 7) **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.
- 8) MIS reported that the General Fund was in the red by \$4,915.30 at the end of July.
- 9) Continued discussion of some options to help reduce the high electric bills, especially during the heating months.
- 10) Noted that automatic closers were installed on the doors to the Greeting Room. These doors should be closed by the last person to leave the sanctuary following worship.
- 11) Noted that all of the property taxes and insurance premiums for the year have been paid.
- 12)
- 13) Agreed to read and study Chapter 6 of *This Service of Love*
- 14) Discussed Chapter 7 of *This Service of Love*
- 15) 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

IT'S BACK! The traditional sit down Turkey Dinner is back, at least for this fall. Whether it continues will all depend on you and your response. The date is Saturday October 10, 4-7 p.m.; tickets are adults \$9, children 6-10 \$4, children under 6 free. We will be calling for donations of pies, corn, cranberry sauce, applesauce, Miracle Whip (must be Miracle Whip brand), milk, butter and coffee. (regular and decaf) and monetary donations. Also we need volunteers to roast turkeys (Turkey, bread, celery and butter provided). And we will need lots and lots of help, both the day of the dinner and for set-up (Thursday) and potato peeling (Friday 6p.m.) Please save the dates. This is a major fundraiser that supports our missions, both worldwide and local. Please be generous with both your donations and time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN

It's that time of year again! This Summer seemed to go by so fast and now it's time for our thoughts to return to a new school year and that also means Rally Day here at Congruity!! In case you forgot, Rally Day is always the Sunday after Labor Day and it is the kick off to a new year of Sunday School, choir, and our church service returns to the 11:00 time. We have a variety of Sunday School classes at Congruity with great teachers so if you do not regularly attend Sunday School, maybe this will be the year to check out a class. There are 3 classes for the children/youth and 2 adult classes and all the classes have room for new members!

Join us on September 13th this year for Rally Day! It all starts at 9:00 am with a delicious breakfast and time for fellowship. And then onto the Sunday School classes at 9:45 am and our church worship at 11:00 am. We can't wait to see you then!



***NAME THE DINOSAUR ***

KIDS, We have a "mission" for YOU!! We found a special dinosaur bank that we are going to use to collect money for a mission project but our dinosaur doesn't have a name!! We need you to help us name him/her ! There will be a bowl by the dinosaur and you can fill out a piece of paper with your choice of a name. And then the Christian Education Committee will pick an awesome name from the bowl.... Be creative!!



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
June	\$ 5,610.28	\$ 8,705.42	\$ 10,188.91	\$ (2,749.35)
July	\$ 5,916.26	\$ 8,083.21	\$ 8,021.96	\$ (4,916.30)
	\$ 57,545.04	\$ 62,461.34		

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
June	\$ 520.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,247.00
July	\$ 485.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,082.00

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 185.50	\$ -	\$ 185.50
Cents-Ability	\$ 123.07	\$ 8.00	\$ 131.07
Change for the Future	\$ 29.65	\$ -	\$ 29.65
Per Capita	\$ 1,673.00	\$ -	\$ 1,673.00

	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	\$ 326.75	\$ -	\$ 326.75

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS)

\$ 20,862.98

	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

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

06/07/15	\$ 1,457.00
06/14/15	\$ 1,178.00
06/21/15	\$ 910.00
06/28/15	\$ 1,585.00
07/05/15	\$ 1,412.00
07/12/15	\$ 1,081.00
07/19/15	\$ 680.00
07/26/15	\$ 903.00
08/02/15	\$ 1,866.00
08/09/15	\$ 814.00
08/16/15	\$ 3,339.00

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

JOHN BLANK

PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE ON STEWARDSHIP (Part IV)

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 third of these four points: "Giving should be **proportionate to income**" Just how much should a Christian contribute to the weekly offering? Paul said "Every Sunday each of you must put aside some money, *in proportion to what he has earned.*" Shouldn't our giving be more than paying the bills and keeping the doors open? How does our giving without "too much hardship" pale against Christ on the cross. Paul said to the Galatians that if their giving was an **act of worship** and if it was **approached systematically** then their giving would be in true relationship with how God had prospered them. (*This Service of Love*, Landfried)
Submitted by John Blank

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

We will be starting our campaign for the Peacemaking Offering very soon. 25% of our offering will be forwarded to the Blackburn Center. The other 75% will go towards peacemaking projects of the PC (USA.) Congruity's goal for the Peacemaking Offering is \$400.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Don't forget that on the first Sunday of each month we receive the Centsability Offering (what was at one time called the 2-cents/meal offering) collect 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. Sue Derek is the adult in charge of the store on September 6

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 August 16th offering the General fund was \$3,575.03 in the RED. We still need to prayerfully consider our giving in proportion to our income; as an act of worship; and approached systematically.

HOAGIE SALE

Hoagie orders are due by Monday 9/21 and hoagie pickup is scheduled for 9/24.

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

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

A T T E N D A N C E

	Worship
6/28	44
7/5	35
7/12	52
7/19	41 Outdoor Worship
7/26	33
8/2	37
8/9	32
8/16	58

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