

CONGRUITY CONNECTION

Cliff's Notes



As I am writing this article, I am having a hard time comprehending that we are entering the month of November already. I then remembered something that was said to me (and I sure each of you have been told as well) that the older you get the faster time goes. As I thought about that I remembered back when I was in elementary school watching the classroom clock, eagerly anticipating the bell ringing and school to be done so that I could get home and go outside to play with my friends. On those days when I would watch the clock, it seemed to move so slow—minutes passed like hours. Looking back it is almost hard to believe that those afternoons were nearly 50 years ago.

With the arrival of November, our thoughts gravitate to our celebration of Thanksgiving. Each year we look forward to gathering with family and friends and enjoying a feast of good eats. We remember the story of the Pilgrims and the meal they shared with their Native American neighbors in gratitude and thankfulness to God for the rich blessings they experienced. As we look forward to Thanksgiving, I hope that each of us spends some time reflecting on all that we have to be thankful for this year and that we find ways to express our gratitude to God for all of the rich blessings that have been showered upon us.

One of the ways through which we can express our thanks and gratitude to God is through worship. Being together with our sisters and brothers is a wonderful way to live out of thankfulness to God. The Directory for Worship of the Book of Order describes worship in this way: “Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God’s claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God’s service in the world.” The first verse of the Thanksgiving hymn “Now Thank We All Our God” declares: “Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom this world rejoices; Who, from our mother’s arms, Hath blessed us on our way, With countless gifts of love, And still is our today.” Out of our thankfulness and gratitude let us worship our God together always.

As a community we will gather at Community UP Church on Sunday, November 22 at 7PM for our Community Thanksgiving Service.

I hope that each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration!

Yours in Christ,
Cliff



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NOVEMBER

Liturgists



ELDERS

John Blank

Sue Blank

Dave Foresman

Kathy Hamilton

Carol Hohman

Jim Kepple

Scott McIlnay

Bob Schweppe

Linda Youngbauer

11/1

11/8

11/15

11/22

11/29

Evelyn Foresman

Janet Rugh

Caroline D'Aurora

Tim D'Aurora

Janet Henry

Those serving Communion on November 22nd are ~
Dave Foresman Bob Schweppe Linda Youngbauer
Phyllis Frye Evelyn Foresman

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.



SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER



DEACONS

Dorothy Brant

Sue Derek

Evelyn Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Nancy Lauffer

Debbie Perino

Jay Perino

Mim Schweppe

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

11/1 Delmont † Caroline Vickery, Pastor

11/8 Lower Burrell, Grace Community † Ken Foust, Pastor

11/15 Lower Burrell, Puckety † Kirk Orr, Pastor

11/22 † Rod Murray Honorably Retired

11/29 Murrys ville, First † Bill King, Interim 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.

B I R T H D A Y S

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 11/3 | Dan Kifer | 11/22 | Tyler Johnston |
| 11/9 | Tammy Kulik | 11/23 | Jen Hufford |
| 11/11 | Brandy Sellinger | | Deana Karstaedt |
| 11/13 | Ron Martz | 11/24 | Delbert Thompson |
| 11/14 | Mike Marchelletta | 11/25 | Jon Hamilton |
| 11/18 | Erik Eidemiller | | Vivian Schweppe |
| | Erin Kaufman | 11/26 | Sarabeth Stopansky |
| 11/20 | Ron Kaufman | | Virgil Walters |
| 11/21 | Katrina Kaufman | 11/28 | Ron Stoltz |



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

11/7/1976 Bill & Cindy Karstaedt
 11/20/1965 Chuck & Mary Lou Heasley
 11/30/1962 George & Sue Kepple



D E A C O N S

DEBBIE PERINO & PHYLLIS FRYE



H A R V E S T H O M E

We will be collecting food for Harvest Home beginning the first Sunday in November. Tables will be set-up in the front of the church. We will be delivering the food on November 22nd. If you know anyone in need please contact the church office or any Deacon.

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

The annual "Hanging of the Greens" will be on Saturday November 28th at 10 am. Pizza will be provided by the Deacons. Please come and join the fun!



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

PAM FORESMAN



****Mark Your Calendars****

The Congruity Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 13th. We will have it during church and our Covered Dish meal will be immediately following church along with a visit from a very special friend straight from the North Pole! Please watch for more info in upcoming church bulletins and the December newsletter.

As most of you know, the dinosaur bank in the greeting room now has a name! His name is Barney and the money collected from him will go to our Heifer Program mission project. But our dinosaur friend has a little "digestion" problem and can only "eat" coins, so please do not feed paper money or checks to Barney!! Thank you!



MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Official Operation Christmas Child boxes are available at the church to be filled with items for children. There are brochures in the greeting room with suggestions for what to put in the box. Boxes are due at the church November 8 along with a \$7 donation for shipping.

The mission team is selling Bon Ton Community Days coupon books for \$5. Community Days have been extended to 4 days from Wednesday November 11 thru Saturday November 14 and may be used on Bonus Buys. See Phyllis Frye for books. Now is the time to be thinking about joining the mission team as they will soon be planning their spring trip to God knows where. We are checking on where the needs are and what dates would work for us. If you have any suggestions, please contact Judy Koontz (724 668 2843) or Phyllis Frye (724 468 3740). We would like to know if anyone knows anyone who plays jazz for a reasonable fee that we might have live jazz at our pancake dinner on February 9.

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE



Turkey Dinner: We asked, you responded! We had a great turnout to help with the turkey dinner, though there were a few places where we could have used a little more help. We served around 500 people, including 159 take-out dinners. Our profit was a little over \$2600. Thank you to all who helped in any way. There is no way we could feed that many people without each one of you. You are greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, the Women's Christmas Party will be on Wednesday December 16, 6pm. We will start with a covered dish dinner and later reveal our 2015 secret sisters and pick new ones for 2016. Gifts for secret sisters are to be \$10.00, or if you don't have one, you may bring a \$10.00 grab bag gift.

NEWSLETTER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

YVONNE MCILNAY

If anyone would like a birthday or anniversary added, removed, changed or special milestone (50th Anniversary etc) emphasized in the newsletter please send an email to congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com or put a note in the newsletter folder at the church. I would appreciate any help in keeping these lists up to date. If I don't have the information I can not include it in the newsletter.

Thank you ~ Yvonne



ITEMS FROM SESSION

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JOHN BLANK

Session met on October 19, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) Elder Scott McIlnay led us in devotions reading from Rev. 21: 3-4.
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) John Blank reported that all clearances for volunteers and employees are on file.
- 4) MIS reported that the General Fund was in the red by \$3,899.28 at the end of September.
- 5) Wiring for the ductless heater/AC for the pastor's office has been completed. Thank you Bob Schweppe. The deposit with the contractor for the unit has been mailed.
- 6) The Christian Education Committee reported on plans for the Fall Bonfire (10/24) and the Christmas Program (12/13.)
- 7) Sue Blank reported on the September meeting of Redstone Presbytery and Rev. Foster reported on the October 1st Special Meeting of the Presbytery. The next meeting of Redstone Presbytery is 11/17/15 at the Rehoboth church. Sue Blank was elected elder delegate for that meeting.
- 8) Deacons reported that the Harvest Home collection will finish on 11/22/15 and that the Hanging of the Greens will take place at 10:00 AM on 11/28.
- 9) **NEW – NEW – NEW:** Session is responsible for reviewing the minutes of all organizations at least annually. Session decided to do this in January in conjunction with the auditing committee's review of financial records in January
- 10) The Personal Committee met with all employees.
- 11) Session reviewed Rev. Foster's goals for 2015.
- 12) The Nominating Committee is looking for recommendations for elders and deacons.
- 13) We are still in need of someone to learn how to run the projection system for the announcement loop to fill in for John from time to time.
- 14) There will be a mission fair at the Presbytery meeting being held at the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church on November 17. Congregations are encouraged to create displays of the outreach that they are engaged in so that folks can see all of the great things that Redstone congregations are doing!
- 15) Took action to set a Congregational Meeting for 12/6/15 for the purpose of approving the pastor's terms of call, receiving the budget, electing various officers, and electing the nominating committee for 2016.
- 16) Agreed to read and study Chapter F-1 of *The Book of Order*
- 17) Completed our discussion of *This Service of Love*
- 18) The next regular meeting of session is set for 11/16/15

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)



TREASURER'S REPORT

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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) |
| August | \$ 10,027.24 | \$ 8,880.54 | \$ 9,168.66 | \$ (3,769.60) |
| September | \$ 7,342.81 | \$ 7,472.49 | \$ 9,038.98 | \$ (3,899.28) |
| | \$ 74,915.09 | \$ 78,814.37 | | |

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 |
| August | \$ 590.00 | \$ 650.00 | \$ 1,022.00 |
| September | \$ 455.00 | \$ 650.00 | \$ 827.00 |

*Includes Per Capita

| | Previous | This Month | To Date |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Souper Bowl of Caring | \$ 185.50 | \$ - | \$ 185.50 |
| Cents-Ability | \$ 131.07 | \$ 8.00 | \$ 139.07 |
| 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 | \$ 175.00 | \$ 400.00 | \$ (225.00) |
| Christmas Joy | \$ - | \$ 400.00 | \$ (400.00) |
| Presbyterian Disaster Assistance | \$ 326.75 | \$ - | \$ 326.75 |

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS)

\$ 21,527.98

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

| | From 2014 | Year to Date | Balance |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Elevator Fund | \$ (2,000.33) | \$ (1,885.95) | \$ (3,886.28) |
| Local Mission | \$ 2,841.50 | \$ (50.00) | \$ 2,791.50 |
| Building | \$ 2,745.44 | \$ 505.48 | \$ 3,250.92 |

| | |
|----------|------------|
| 09/06/15 | \$1,264.00 |
| 09/13/15 | \$2,552.25 |
| 09/20/15 | \$1,765.00 |
| 09/27/15 | \$ 859.00 |
| 10/04/15 | \$1,501.00 |
| 10/11/15 | \$ 743.00 |

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

JOHN BLANK



FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Throughout earlier editions of the Congruity Connection I have discussed session's study of Paul's take on stewardship. To recap 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.)

Please think about those points as you read on.

November is the time of the year when we typically turn our attention to **GIVING THANKS**. The deacons will be collecting food items to be distributed to needy families and many of us will gather around tables later in the month to **GIVE THANKS**. What better way to examine our **THANKFULNESS** that to take a close look at our individual giving to the church?

Earlier in the year session decided to forgo a formal stewardship campaign but asks that each member take a close prayerful look at his/her/their level of giving to Congruity. If everyone stepped up their level of giving even a little bit we could reduce or even eliminate the deficit in the General Fund. There will not be any pledge cards but we are asking everyone to make that personal, prayerful pledge to increase our offering.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

During September and the first part of October we received the Peace and Global Witness Offering (Peacemaking Offering.) 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 was \$400 and we received a total of \$320.

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) and collect non-perishable food items to go to local families in need.

John Blank is the adult in charge of the Kid's Store on 11/1/15

State of the General Fund

The recovery of the General Fund has leveled off. As of the end of September the General fund was \$3,899.28 in the RED. We still need to prayerfully consider our giving in proportion to our income; as an act of worship; to be approached systematically, and planned for in advance.

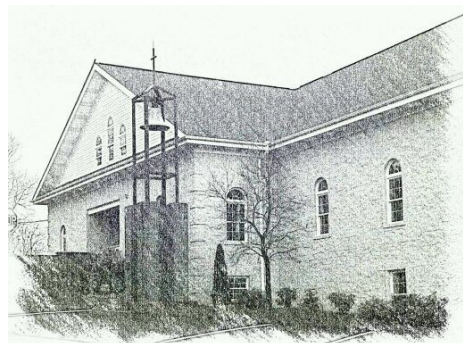
SPAGHETTI DINNER FUND RAISER

There will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on November 7, 2015 from 4:00 – 6:30. Adults are \$7.00 Children 6-12 years old are \$3.50 and under 5 are free.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Later in November we will begin collection of the Christmas Joy Offering. There will be bulletin inserts and several Minute for Mission messages to highlight this special offering.

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 | Sunday School | | |
|-------|---------|---------------|-------|-------|
| | | Adult | Youth | Total |
| 9/20 | 31 | 6 | 20 | 26 |
| 9/27 | 40 | 6 | 20 | 26 |
| 10/4 | 46 | 10 | 22 | 32 |
| 10/1 | 32 | 9 | 18 | 27 |
| 10/18 | 32 | 6 | 21 | 27 |

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