

December 2018

Volume 42 Issue 11

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

The other day I found myself singing along with a song that came on the radio: "It's the most wonderful time of the year". Since then I have found myself thinking a lot about that sentence—and how this sentence captures the essence of the Advent and Christmas season! The Season of Advent affords us the opportunity to prepare ourselves to receive God's great gift to the world, wrapped in strips of rags and laying in a manger—the Christ Child.

As people of faith we know in the very depth of our being that "it's the most wonderful time of the year" because of all that Christ has done for us and continues to do for us. In the midst of all of the 'busy-ness' of this time of the year with decorating, baking, shopping and standing in long lines, wrapping, cooking and working our way through that seemingly endless list of things to do, I encourage you every once and a while to hum or sing this sentence "It's the most wonderful time of the year" and to remember the real reason of this wonderful and special season of the year.

Over the last several years, one of the things that reminds me that this is "the most wonderful time of the year" is the annual Children's Christmas Program. This year on December 16th the Children's Program will take place during worship and it will be followed by a Covered Dish Dinner in Fellowship Hall. We will also gather on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Service beginning at 7:30PM which is a wonderful reminder that this is indeed "the most wonderful time of the year".

I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. Together may we discover that this truly is "the most wonderful time of the year".

Yours in Christ,
Cliff



Worship Leaders For November

12/2 John Blank
 12/9 Caroline D'Aurora
 12/16 Cliff Foster
 12/23 Janet Rugh
 12/30 Dave Foresman



If you would like to serve as a liturgist please see Cliff.

Those scheduled to serve Communion on December 23rd are:

Linda Youngbauger Kathy Hamilton
 Tim D'Aurora Phyllis Frye Janet Rugh

Separated By Space United In Prayer

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

12/2 Murrysville, Union—Derek Campbell, Pastor
 12/9 New Alexandria, Community—Grafton Eliason, Interim Pastor
 12/16 New Alexandria, Congruity—Cliff Foster, Pastor
 12/23 New Kensington—Wendy Keys, Pastor
 12/30 Redstone Member At Large—Sue Blank



Worship Attendance



Thank you

Worship		Sunday School		
		Youth	Adult	Total
10/28	65	8	19	27
11/4	40	4	18	22
11/11	52	6	24	30
11/18	52	7	18	25

Thank you for all of the cards and prayers that were sent at the time of the loss of my sister Pat Sniegocki.

Ced and Sarabeth Stopansky

We had a record for Congruity of 26 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Women's Association and I'm sure the children of the world thank you.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30PM



Birthdays

12/4 Kathy Hamilton
 12/6 Caroline D'Aurora
 12/7 Sue Aaron
 12/10 Bob McDonald
 12/12 Greg Kaufman
 12/15 Jay Perino
 12/17 John Aaron
 12/18 Owen Eidemiller
 Marty Kuzmkowski
 12/20 Terri Hoffman
 12/22 Kerstin Stellato
 12/23 Fred Sehring
 12/25 JESUS
 12/27 Joe Stopansky
 12/28 Alex Kuzmkowski
 12/31 Michael Jobe
 Jill Hogue



Anniversaries

12/23/1957 Harold & Meryle Kaufman

Women's Association

Phyllis Frye

A Christmas Party for all the women of the church will be held on Thursday December 13 at 6pm at the church. We will be revealing our 2018 secret sisters and picking new ones for 2019. Bring a friend, a \$10 gift for your secret sister or if you don't have a secret sister, bring a \$10 grab bag gift. Also bring a covered dish and you are welcome to bring a group game or two to play.

Christian Ed Committee

Pam Foresman



This year has truly flown by and I can't believe we're already talking about the Christmas program and Covered Dish Dinner. The children are so excited about our program this year, it's called "A Super Christmas" and it looks like it's going to be so much fun!! We hope you will all mark your calendars for SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16th, 2018! Please bring your family and friends to this festive, fun-filled day....the more the merrier.... literally!

The program will be performed during the church service as we've been doing for several years now and we'll have our Covered Dish Dinner immediately following the worship service. Please be sure to bring a covered dish meal, a Christmas table decoration to help beautify our Fellowship Hall tables, and each family is asked to bring a dozen cookies to share during a time of fellowship.

While we are enjoying each other's company, we'll also be waiting for a visit from the jolliest of all elves straight from the North Pole! We hope to see EVERYONE there!

--**Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2019 from the Christian Education Committee.**



Mission

Phyllis Frye

Those who attended the mission team meeting Sunday chose West Virginia as the destination for the spring 2019 Redstone mission trip. We have been approved and have made reservations at the First Presbyterian Church at Ronceverte, WV for the week of March 24-30, 2019. There is room for 30 volunteers. We agreed to pay \$100 each of the \$250 registration fee. The rest will come out of the Mission Team Fund (\$150 goes to the church and the other \$100 goes to West Virginia Advocacy and Work Camps, the group PDA works under). To volunteer or if you need more info, contact Phyllis Frye at 724 468 3740 or e-mail pfrye1234@windstream.net. We will also be having our Pancake dinner on March 5 to help raise funds for the trip and you will be encouraged (expected) to help. Your fee of \$100 and any paperwork needed will be due at the dinner. We will probably have another meeting closer to the dinner.

Leftover Items

Phyllis Frye

In the back room downstairs we have several containers left there from whatever. Included is the inside attachment of a cold beverage dispenser (the part you put the ice in) We would appreciate you picking up your stuff. Anything left there at the beginning of April will be put out for the rummage sale.

Welcome Home Shelter

Debbie Perino



We are collecting donations to buy toys for Christmas for the children in the Welcome Home Shelter. There will be a list with names and ages if you prefer to buy the gift yourself, or I will buy and wrap the gifts myself. The deadline is December 15. or you can bring the gift on the 16th or before. I will take in to the home Thursday, December 20th around 3-4pm along with pizza and beverage. Anyone is welcome to come watch the kids unwrap the gifts and see the excitement. It warms your heart. Please see Debbie or Jay.

Items From Session

Sarabeth Stopansky



Items from Session

The Session met November 19, 2018 and reports the following.

Clerk Sarabeth Stopansky reported that she had completed the 2018 Clerk's Annual Questionnaire.

Cliff reported he made 29 visits and attended several church and Presbytery events. He also officiated at 3 weddings; the Cope/Dick on 10/20, the Licardi/ Sanchez on 10/27 and the Foster/Hanson on 11/4

Session approved the 2019 budget excluding the Pastor's Terms of Call. The Congregation will vote on those at the Congregational Meeting on December 2nd.

Session approved the 2019 slate of officers for 2019. Officers will be elected at the December 2nd at the Congregational Meeting.

Session elected John Blank as Treasurer and Caroline D'Aurora as Asst. Treasurer for 2019.

Session elected Sarabeth Stopansky as Clerk of Session and Tim D'Aurora as Asst Clerk for 2019.

The Session will be reviewing the policy for weddings and funerals and making some adjustments as necessary.

The next Session Meeting will be December 17th at 7:00 PM.

If you would like to see the complete Session Minutes please see Sarabeth Stopansky or Cliff Foster.

Treasurer's Report John Blank

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TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT -2018

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	Year To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 7,569.77	
January	\$ 8,972.33	\$ 9,145.74	\$ 7,396.36	\$ (173.41)
February	\$ 5,912.32	\$ 9,030.81	\$ 4,277.87	\$ (3,291.90)
March	\$ 8,043.97	\$ 9,013.81	\$ 3,308.03	\$ (4,261.74)
April	\$ 9,674.34	\$ 8,704.09	\$ 4,278.28	\$ (3,291.49)
May	\$ 5,887.00	\$ 7,812.13	\$ 2,353.15	\$ (5,216.62)
June	\$ 6,708.96	\$ 9,733.22	\$ (671.11)	\$ (8,240.88)
July	\$ 5,926.25	\$ 8,158.97	\$ (2,903.83)	\$ (10,473.60)
August	\$ 8,257.23	\$ 7,387.59	\$ (2,034.19)	\$ (9,603.96)
September	\$ 11,356.09	\$ 8,058.12	\$ 1,263.78	\$ (6,305.99)
October	\$ 10,302.66	\$ 7,604.24	\$ 3,962.20	\$ (3,607.57)
Year to Date	\$ 81,041.15	\$ 84,648.72	\$ 3,962.20	\$ (3,607.57)

Memorial Fund

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 28,445.07
January	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 28,645.07
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,645.07
March	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
June	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
September	\$ -	\$ 864.62	\$ 27,855.45
October	\$ 1,377.02	\$ 864.63	\$ 28,367.84
Year to Date	\$ 1,652.02	\$ 1,729.25	\$ 28,367.84



First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 522.00	\$ 583.37	\$ (61.37)
February*	\$ 1,143.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 498.30
March*	\$ 843.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 757.97
April*	\$ 524.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 698.64
May*	\$ 480.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 595.31
June	\$ 250.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 261.98
July	\$ 520.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 198.65
August	\$ 265.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (119.68)
September*	\$ 295.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (408.01)
October*	\$ 471.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (520.34)

*Includes Per

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
<u>*Per Capita to</u>	\$ 2,173.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 2,214.00

(INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND)

Online Giving
QR Code**Building Maintenance**

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance
-			
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 1,866.86
January	\$ 180.00		\$ 2,046.86
February	\$ 210.00		\$ 2,256.86
March	\$ 215.00		\$ 2,471.86
April	\$ 305.00		\$ 2,776.86
May	\$ 140.00		\$ 2,916.86
June	\$ 210.00		\$ 3,126.86
July	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 736.86
August	\$ 230.00		\$ 966.86
September	\$ 515.00		\$ 1,481.86
October	\$ 240.00		\$ 1,721.86
Year to Date	\$ 5,005.00	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 1,721.86

**Local Mission**

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 556.47
January	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 356.47
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
June	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
September (Auction)	\$ 831.50		\$ 1,187.97
October	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
Year to Date	\$ 831.50	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,187.97

Offering Totals

10/28 \$2,629
 11/4 \$1,578
 11/11 \$1,689
 11/18 \$ 971

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ 225.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 139.00	\$ 46.36	\$ 185.36

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,018.31	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 18.31
Pentecost	\$ 825.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 425.00
Peace/Global Witness	\$ 349.00	\$ 375.00	\$ (26.00)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 242.00	\$ -	\$ 242.00

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670

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NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670



We're on Facebook & the web!
congruitychurch.org



*Sunday School at 9:45AM
Worship at 11:00AM
Please Join Us!*



Church Staff and Officers

Church Staff

Pastor	Cliff Foster
Clerk of Session	Sarabeth Stopansky
Asst. Clerk	Tim D'Aurora
Deacon Moderator	Dave Foresman
Treasurer	John Blank
Financial Secretary	Michelle Kepple
Church Secretary	Dorothy Martz
Music Director	Vicki Walters
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne McInay
Webmaster	John Blank

Elders

Tim D'Aurora
Kathy Hamilton
Carol Hohman
Vince Kemerer
Carol Miller
Terry Selembo
Sarabeth Stopansky
Linda Youngbauer

Deacons

Tom Davis
Dave Foresman
Kathy Kepple Fink
Phyllis Frye
Nancy Lauffer
Lana Munsell
Debbie Perino
Janet Rugh
Shirley Stoltz

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

