

April 2015 Newsletter

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES



Eric & the Easter Flower Cross

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP - 10:45 AM

***336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268 – 0288***

(717)762-4113

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From the Pastor's Study April

Easter Sunday is over for another year although with the church the season of Easter continues into May. The tulips are dropping their petals and the heavy blooms of the hyacinths are flopping over the sides of their pots. Much of the candy found in Easter baskets has been eaten. And by now everyone is tired of hard boiled eggs. It was our usual Easter Sunday worship service at Apostles. The sanctuary was filled with the beauty and the scent of **Easter flowers. Easter banners hung from the ceiling proclaiming "Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!" The children again demonstrated resurrection** by covering a bare wooden cross with flowers. We sang some of our favorite **Easter hymns, and we as a congregation along with some folks we hadn't seen** since Christmas, came together once again to celebrate the Resurrection of **Jesus. There was one difference in this year's Easter service; however,** attendance was the lowest it has been in many years. Sickness, along with commitments to other activities and obligations were responsible for much of the low attendance. But despite the smaller number of worshipers, I believe most everyone left the service Easter Sunday feeling a sense of renewed hope and promise for the future.

It was an unusual Easter for me this year; more stressful than usual. With the death of my mother the week before Holy Week I was overwhelmed with more responsibilities than usual. There were many preparations to be made for her service and burial in addition to the many preparations for Holy Week services and Easter Sunday. The week leading up to Easter Sunday is for many ministers as busy as the week of Christmas. But one thing seminary taught me was how to handle the unexpected, how to manage time in order to do what needs to be done. Rarely is life or death on the schedule we would like them to be.

The joy I found this Easter season, as always, came out of my

unshakable belief that Christ rose from the dead as he said he would. And in addition to that good news is the good news that because of his resurrection Christ continues to live within the heart of each one of us if we chose to accept him. But in addition to my resurrection based joy, I rejoiced over the comfort that comes from being a member of the Christian church; an institution that grew out of the death and resurrection of Jesus. During my recent personal loss, I was reminded of just how much the church, the living body of Christ, means to me. The love and care I received from my church family during my recent loss reaffirmed my faith in the church and why the church continues to be an important force in the world today. I have been given more answers to offer the unchurched who often ask questions such as, *“Why do I need to join a church? Can’t I be a Christian without becoming part of a church family and without going to church on Sunday?”*

Yes, you can identify yourself with Christianity without making any commitment to a church or becoming a member of a church family. But you will not fully benefit from what a church has to offer if you chose to go it alone. When you are faced with the challenges in life that we will all face such as death; who will be there for you with comforting words of faith and genuine concern and caring? Who will put their arms around you, pull you close to them and speak the reassuring words, *“I’m praying for you.”* Who will send you cards with comforting words that tell you that you are not alone in your time of sorrow? Who will sit with you during a memorial service and stand with you at the grave of a loved one and support you in your time of grief? Who will send flowers and food and make phone calls to you to help ease the pain of your loss? Your friends and family might do some of those things out of a sense of duty, but your church family will uphold you in your time of need out of genuine Christian love, out of their commitment to the church, the body of Christ. And they will continue to support you, and love you long after the

others have returned to their own busy lives.

Throughout the New Testament Christians are referred to as brothers and sisters with God as their father. Because we have the same parent we are of the same family, a family that is united by Christ and united by the body of Christ, the Christian church. Our decision to be a part of the church comes out of our commitment to Christ and our desire to be like Christ in a broken world. Let us all give thanks for the Christian church and for all of our family **member's who will pray for us, comfort us, look after us, support us and love us** through whatever challenges we may encounter in this world.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

“We must hold tightly to the hope we say is ours. After all we can trust the one who made the agreement with us. We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and do helpful things. Some people have given up the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.” –Hebrew 10:23-25



Church of the Apostles

Elders and Deacons

2014 - 2015

Elders

Randy Cramer	Jean High
Dave Patterson	Martha Smith

Deacons

Trudy Stum	Donna Levick
Nancy Dinterman	Brian Jacobs

Church Leadership
Elders & Deacons



Altar Flowers

There is a sign-up calendar on the bulletin board in the Narthex for those wishing to donate altar flowers. Flowers can be purchased or provided from your own garden. If you purchased flowers and would like the purchase to be credited as a donation, place the receipt in a white envelope with your name and church envelope number in the upper right hand corner. You can place this envelope in the offering plate. If you want to supply flowers, but are unable to make the purchase, contact Nancy Dinterman at 762-3735.

Birthdays & Anniversaries in April



- 1 Jeff Dingle
- 1 Gloria Miller
- 4 Nancy Dinterman
- 9 Dallas Pagach
- 22 Nicole and Steve Leidig
- 23 Robert Reecher
- 25 Martha Smith

Calendar of Events April

- 2 Maundy Thursday 6 PM
- 3 Good Friday Service 6 PM
- 5 Easter Sunday Service 1 0AM
- 12 Worship 10:45 AM
- 13 Social Seniors 2 - 4 PM
at Trinity State Line
- 13 Buchanan Trail Quilters 5:30 PM
- 19 Worship 10:45 AM
- 21 Silver Express Delivery 1:30 PM
- 26 Church Growth Com. 9:15 AM
- 26 Worship 10:45 AM



Weight Watchers meets every
Tuesday at 5 PM
and Wednesday at 9 AM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in April*

Lay Readers

The scriptures will given to you
the week before you are
scheduled to read.

April 5: Pastor Michael

April 12: Bob Benchoff

April 19: Donna Haugh

April 26: Judy Fitz



The Nursery is Available if Needed.

Acolytes

The youth in our church will acolyte.
If they are unavailable, then the
Pastor or another congregant will bring
"The Light of Our Lord"
into the sanctuary.



Ushers & Greeters

April 5: Bruce Barr & Ernie Fitz

April 12: Bob Benchoff & Randy Cramer

April 19: Tony & Donna Haugh

April 26: Judy Fitz & Jean High

Communion Assistants

May 3: Tony & Donna Haugh, Bob Stum

Social Seniors



Social Seniors will be held at Trinity State Line

on April 13, from 2- 4 PM.

Refreshments will be served.

Church Staff & Committees



Pastor: *Michael Cromer* Home: 717-776-7612
Cell: 717-816-2940
Email: mcromerm@aol.com

Church Office: 762-4113 Email: apostlesucc336@embarqmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 8:30 AM – 3 PM

Secretary: *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

Volunteer Financial Secretary: *Judy Fitz* 762-4028

Treasurer: *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

Choir Director: *Reg Rice*

Organist: *Jim Heefner* 765-9534

Consistory President: *Randy Cramer* 717– 387-1657

Vice-President: *Jean High* 762-7794

Altar Guild: *Danny & Laurie Deavers* 717-655-5078

Archive: *Linda Ritchey* 762-1789

Christian Education:

Christian Outreach:

Lay, Life, & Work: *Linda Hovis* 762-7350

Outdoor Ministry: *Bob Benchoff* 749-5202

Property: *Bruce Barr* (301) 824-2849

Spiritual Council: *Randy Cramer* (717)387-1657

Spiritual Council Vice-Chair: *Dave Patterson* 762-1452

Stewardship & Finance: *Donna Haugh & Jean High*

Adopt a Tree

“Adopt a Tree” for the summer to help maintain and enhance the church grounds. Volunteers agree to weed and provide a bag or two of mulch around one of the trees on the property by May 15 and continue throughout the growing season. The raised area around the cross and sections of the mulched beds along the front and parking lot side of the church are also included. Please use uncolored brown mulch for continuity throughout the grounds. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex, please write your name next to the tree or mulched bed you’ll adopt.



A Gift of Gratitude.

Ron Green, the stepson of George Vanden, made a financial donation to the church in the amount of \$1,000 following George’s graveside service in Clear Springs on March 27. The gift was out of gratitude for the care George received from the church over the past few years after the death of his wife Francis and during George’s declining health.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful planter I received at the death of my mother as well as the many cards, words of concern and condolence, and expressions of sympathy. Many thanks to those of you who made the trip to Carlisle to attend my mother’s funeral as well as the graveside service. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated and helped me get through a difficult time.

*Thank
You*

Pastor Michael

Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County's Good News

HFH of Franklin County Executive Director Mark D. Story recently shared the following good news.

The 33rd house constructed by volunteers in Franklin County was finished and dedicated November 22nd, and the 34th house is complete (except for some spring outside work) and the keys were turned over to the new Habitat partners in February with the dedication planned for this month.



This winter the Franklin County Commissioners approved HFH of Franklin County's request for \$25,000 from the Housing Trust Fund and Thrivent Financial has awarded HFH of Franklin County \$60,000 to support the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity program.

These funds will be put to use this year starting with house #35 this spring !

Finally, the HFH ReStore that was in the planning for two years opened with great success in January. It is envisioned that the ReStore will fund an additional 3 Habitat homes in Franklin County per year with the additional benefits of diverting salable items from the landfill, creating jobs , and providing access to affordable home improvement items for the community.

For donations or questions about the ReStore call 717-491-1156 or go on-line at www.yourlocalrestore.com.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

This is the 6th year for our Community Garden, which is located behind the fellowship hall ! A big thank you to Andrew Lowrey who has again volunteered to do the initial rototilling of all the plots. The free plots are available by signing the Community Garden Contract which lists the terms, rules & conditions for participation. For more information & to reserve a plot contact Bob Benchoff.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

Spring is here and help is needed to spruce up the flower beds around the church building and to plant the outdoor planters, the Outdoor Activity Center beds , the new "Plants of the Bible" beds along the front entrance way and the new beds under the sign at the corner Barnett & Amsterdam Roads.

Volunteers are also needed to help with watering the planters throughout the season, especially during the hot, dry months.

Please contact Bob Benchoff or Bruce Barr.

Farmer's Market In the Works

The church is exploring the possibility of sponsoring a small, weekday farmer's market on the church parking lot. The market would be for people who sell locally raised produce only, as well as baked goods, and perhaps one artist such as a potter or woodworker. The purpose of the market would be to bring people together once a week as a community and to support small local farmers. There are numerous churches throughout the United States sponsoring farmer's market on their church grounds as a way of promoting community. If you know of someone who might be interested as a vendor, or if you are interested in helping with this new venture please contact Pastor Michael.



Gift of Gratitude

The church received the following letter from friends of Pastor Michael along with a financial gift of \$500.

At his invitation, they attended church at Apostles on the Sunday the Covenant Players performed for us.

The letter expresses the couples' gratitude for the service and the hospitality extended to them at the shared meal after the service.

April 2, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

We wish you a Happy Easter!

Your pastor Michael Cromer invited us to worship with you March 22 when the Covenant Players performed. It was a pleasure to be with you in your beautiful church building. Both of us were impressed by your friendliness and your gracious hospitality. Also, we enjoyed your delicious food in the social hall. Everyone made us most welcome. Faithful members like you are God's church, you are blessed to have Michael Cromer as your pastor. With God's help, Michael will lead you to better days ahead. It is a difficult time for many

churches, God bless you!

Sincerely,

(Eric) Denise and Bruce Foreman



Freedom Seder for the Earth

We did not have our annual Christian/Jewish Seder this year on Palm Sunday. However there is still the opportunity to have a new kind of Seder this spring. The Shalom Center of Philadelphia has created a Seder that challenges the plagues and pharaohs of our day and helps us to understand the healing actions we can all take to alleviate the current world issues we face today. Further information about the Freedom Seder will be forthcoming.



Peace Pole Garden

The Peace Pole Project is an official project of the World Peace Prayer Society. The purpose of the World Peace Prayer Society is to unite people across the world through the universal message, “May Peace Prevail on Earth.” The Peace Pole Project was started in Japan out of the destruction caused by World War II and the atomic bombs which fell on the city of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Peace Pole Project was first introduced to the United States in 1986, The International Year of Peace. Peace Poles are now the most recognized international peace symbol and monument the world over with more than 200,000 Peace Poles standing in almost every country in the world. A Peace Pole is an eight foot cedar pole with the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” on each side of the pole in different languages. The poles



are sometimes placed in the front of a sanctuary but more often placed in a community or church garden. Our Peace Pole will be the focus of a peace garden on the church grounds, a place to sit, pray and meditate. If you are interested in participating in this project please contact Pastor Michael.



For over 40 years...

Charles M. Tanner, Founder

Covenant Players



March 15

*Pot Luck
Luncheon*



Plant Swap?

The church has had a plant swap in the past where we bring plants we have thinned from our garden to swap with others who have done the same. However there was very little interest or attendance the last time we held the event. If you are interested in a plant swap in May see Pastor Michael.



Printed Copies of Sermons Available

If you would like a printed copy of a sermon you heard on Sunday just ask Pastor Michael. He will be glad to print you a copy.

Church Growth Committee

Our newly formed Church Growth Committee held it's first Sunday 9:15-10:15 meeting on January 30. Everyone is welcome to join the committee at the next meeting on April 26 or any of the monthly meetings. The committee is anxious to hear church growth ideas from everyone ! One way to do it is to use the note cards beside the "Idea Box" to write them down and drop into the box, or call, email or tell any of the following committee members about you're

ideas:

Pastor Michael, Randy Cramer, Danny Deavers,
Nancy Dinterman, Donna Levick, Reg Rice, and
Bob Benchoff



"Silver Express" Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!



Donations for this month
will be delivered **April 21.**



All canned/boxed food on the shelves will be delivered
each month to ensure freshness.

**THE CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES
336 BARNETT AVENUE
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268-0288**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please forward an address change to the Church office.



April 2015

MISSION STATEMENT

We are called together to worship God, united by the Holy Spirit, and chosen as instruments of our Lord's purpose to teach, support and serve all people. We witness to the church, the community and the world by showing joy in the faith and using our talents to praise God.