

February 2015 Newsletter
CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES



Valentine's Tree

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP - 10:45 AM

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

(717)762-4113

***Website: www.apostlesucc.com
E-mail: ApostlesUCC@gmail.com***

From the Pastor's Study February 2015

February was the last month to be added to the Roman calendar because the Romans considered winter to be a period of time unworthy of having a month named for it. Some of us might think the same of the winter months; **they are cold, dull, dreary, icy and wet and don't deserve to be honored with a month of the year. But it's all how you look at it. I love the months of winter** because of their unique beauty. Trees encased in ice are a wondrous sight. Icy patterns on the windows are beautiful, delicate works of art. The cold days give me a chance to go within and slow down. There is much to be joyful about during the winter months. After the last wet snow, snowmen, and some snow women, popped up everywhere in all shapes and sizes. Kids were sliding down the hill at the farm behind my house for the first time in many years; the degree of their fun and excitement could be heard in their screams and laughter. My undecorated Christmas tree standing in the front yard was beautiful once again; its branches heavy with snow. During the last snow my parents were entertained by the big influx of birds that swarmed around the birdfeeder in front of their picture window. Every month, every season has something unique and beautiful to offer if we would only stop to look for it and appreciate it instead of complaining about how our lives are inconvenienced.

We often hear people complain about what an awful world this has become. And there is plenty reason to support that belief. People seem to be ruder than they used to be, manners have fallen by the wayside, people are grubbing for their fair share of everything believing they deserve it; not because they deserve anything, but because they think they do. Four letter words are frequently heard in a grocery or department store and worse yet, spoken in front of small children. How did the world become so crude and rude?

But there are many good things to be seen and heard around us every day. There are many acts of kindness being extended all around us if we just take notice. True, our attention seems to be more easily attracted when we

hear someone spout a foul word in public, or when we see or hear about someone acting in an inappropriate manner. But I have recently witnessed many acts of kindness and heard many words of encouragement over the past few months.

Last week I took my father to the lawyer's office to sign documents. Not an easy task. My father is 81 years old and uses a wheel chair most of the time. He is able to walk but chooses not to and therefore walking has become more difficult for him. He moves extremely slow and tires very easily. After the papers had been signed my father left the law office with his walker for a short walk to the car. The sidewalk was messy which slowed him down even more. This simple act of walking a short distance down the sidewalk and getting into a car took what felt like forever. When he finally made it to the car he had trouble getting in. The lawyer, watching from the door of his office, came out and helped him get into the car by giving him some extra physical support.

While all of this was going on, a teenage boy who had been coming down the sidewalk on his bike at the same time came to a halt. He stopped behind my father waiting patiently behind him as he crept along. And he continued to wait patiently for the time it took for my father to get off the **sidewalk and into the car. The boy didn't zoom around my father; he didn't** grumble and curse because he was being held up by a feeble old man. He waited patiently without saying a word.

As I walked around the side of the car to leave, my father safely inside and ready to go I apologized to the boy on his bike for holding him up. He kindly said with a smile that it was not a problem, that he understood and he **didn't mind at all. He continued down the sidewalk on his bike once again.**

Those two acts of kindness may not have seemed like much to those who extended them, but they meant a lot to me and my father. Sometimes we, especially those who are elderly or infirm, worry that we are inconveniencing others. I think all of us have at times felt pushed along in this fast paced busy **world. Sometimes it seems there is no tolerance for people who aren't as smart as we think we are, or aren't moving along as fast as we think everyone should be moving.**

Compassion should always be the root of, the foundation of, our acts of kindness. When we show compassion towards someone we are saying we are concerned by the plight of those who are less fortunate than us. A person who **is genuinely concerned about another person's situation will not be at peace** until they have acted in kindness towards them. Kindness has the ability to ease the burdens of others. The miracles of Jesus demonstrated his compassion for people. His compassion was expressed in the kindness of his miracles.

I could go on about other incidents of kindness, and extended compassion that I have recently observed. But instead I ask you think about **the good things you have seen people doing around you. If you haven't** witnessed anything then begin looking for the acts of kindness people are extending to one another every day. Start listening for the words of encouragement that are being spoken around you, for those who have shown compassion and patience. They are there. But more importantly, remember to be kind, compassionate, and patient towards others as you would like others to be kind, compassionate and patient with you. Yes, the world can be and is often an ugly place. But each of us has the ability to make it a little less so. Many people are striving to lessen the burdens of others in this world. It is the responsibility of all of us who are followers of Christ.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience."-Colossians 13: 12



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. Flowers may also be ordered through **Above the Rest Florist** at 762-8181. The cost is around \$35 for two vases that will be delivered to the church Sunday morning at no extra cost.

Birthdays & Anniversaries in February



7 Dylan Fitz
9 Elizabeth Reecher
10 Laurie Deaver
13 Ashley Ritchey
16 Richard and Linda Hovis
26 Hailee Leidig
28 Chloe Lux

Calendar of Events February

1 Worship	10:45 AM
8 Worship	10:45 AM
8 Valentine's Pot Luck & Concert	after Worship
9 Social Seniors at Apostles	2 - 4 PM
9 Buchanan Trail Quilters	5:30 PM
15 Worship	10:45 AM
17 Silver Express Delivery	1:30 PM
22 Church Growth Com.	9:15 AM
22 Worship	10:45 AM



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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in February*

Lay Readers

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

February 1: Laurie Deavers

February 8: Pastor Michael

February 15: Reg Rice

February 22: Bob Benchoff



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

February 1: Danny & Laurie Deavers

February 8: Jean High & Judy Fitz

February 15: Ernie Fitz & Reg Rice

February 22: Bob Benchoff &
Dave Patterson

Communion Assistants

February 1: Bob & Trudy Stum,
Ernie Fitz

March 1: Randy Cramer, Jean High &
Judy Fitz

Social Seniors



Social Seniors will be held at Church of the Apostles
on February 9, from 2- 4 PM.

Jerry Kowallis will be the guest vocalist.

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:

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*

Valentine Community Potluck, Clogging and Old Time Music



It's time once again to get out your jug, your washboard, your clogging shoes and banjo for our annual Valentine themed potluck and concert on February 8. Tom Jolin and his troupe of clog dancers will dance and play stringed instruments. This has always been one of our most fun church events of the year; good food, laughter, music, dancing, valentine cards. Bring a side dish or a desert to share and an un-addressed but signed Valentine card for the mailbox. More importantly, bring a friend. Valentine Cards will be delivered to everyone after the show. Dinner at noon, music and dancing at 1:00. A love offering will be collected.

Ash Wednesday Service



A special service for Ash Wednesday will be held at 6:00 PM on February 18. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a period of 40 days during which we prepare ourselves for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. During the Lenten Season we take an honest look at our lives and reflect on how we as a Christian are living. Are we living lives that please God? It is a time of self-examination, a time to turn back to God. It is a time to remember our need for a Savior. During the brief Ash Wednesday service ashes, from the burned palm fronds of last year's Palm Sunday service, will be placed on the forehead symbolic of the frailty of life and also a symbol of cleansing or purification.

Book Study Group Begins

Our winter book study group will meet for the first time at 11:00 on February 3 in the church parlor. Our book will be **Killing Jesus** by Bill O'Reilly. The book takes an historical look at the period of time leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. Some of you have already read the book but are interested in rereading it and discussing it with the group. If you are interested in joining us purchase a copy of the book at most retail stores. It is not necessary to attend every meeting.





**December
2014**





**December
2014**

December 30, 2014

WAYNESBORO

New Hope Shelter

The Church Of The Apostles
United Church Of Christ
336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268

INC.

Dear Christian Friends,

The Board of Directors, residents, volunteers, and staff of the Waynesboro New Hope Shelter wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your donation of \$152.05* (Check # 5983) for homeless in our community. Your generous gift will help provide protection from the cold and nourishment for the mind, body and souls of the homeless men, women and children that are living in our shelter this winter.

Currently we have 30 residents staying in the shelter, which includes 8 men, 11 women and 11 children. We work daily to fill the beds as they empty in our effort to assist as many people as safely possible. We are expecting to add more people by the end of next week, which should bring our resident count over 35. And the phone calls from people in need continue to pour in.

A New Hope Shelter success story is a man and wife that entered our shelter without employment. When they both obtained part time jobs they started saving money and then partnered with another employed male resident and with the assistance from a government program that provides rental assistance, they were able to move into the apartment of their own. They are very grateful for the second chance that they were given from the help from the staff and volunteers which was made possible because of your generous donations.

Our staff and volunteers work cooperatively with area agencies to guide our residents towards becoming self-sufficient. It is our goal to help every resident leave our doors with a job, the first step to self-reliance, and housing that permanent and stable. Thank you for helping us to change people's lives, not just their address.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Burcher, Executive Director

Ben Lange, Shelter Manager

Shari Houdeshell, Rental Assistance Case Manager



Thank You

In Remembrance

Pastor Brian Adams, age 35 passed away unexpectedly Saturday, January 24. He was the new pastor of Grace United Church of Christ in Greencastle and had just begun serving there in November. He leaves behind his wife Emily who is due to give birth to their first child in March, a daughter they had named Sophia Lynn. Brian was to be installed as the pastor at Grace UCC on January 31. A memorial dinner was held instead. Donations may be made to his unborn daughter's future college education by going to the website gofundme.com/kvidng. The website was created by the sister of Brian's wife and also includes videos of him.



The Way Station Ministries

Pastor Mike Cromer
Church of the Apostles
336 Barnett Ave
Waynesboro PA 17268



Dear Pastor Cromer and Church family;

I am writing to thank you for your recent gift to our ministry. Your gift helps us continue the work we have begun and continue to do.

Your gift of \$152.05 was received in the year January through December 2014. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hill
President

***The Church supported New Hope Shelter
and The Way Station
through our Garden Produce proceeds.***



Hoffman Homes for Youth

A Psychiatric Residential Treatment Program for Children
815 Orphanage Road, Littlestown, PA 17340
717-359-7148 • Fax 717-359-2600
www.hoffmanhomes.com

C. Mitchell Snider, MBA, Chief Executive Officer

December 30, 2014

Church of the Apostles UCC
Pastor Michael Cromer
336 Barnett Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268

*Thank
you*

Dear Pastor Cromer,


"Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear." -Nelson Mandela

There is no greater achievement in life than one of helping children, and it is in that spirit that we thank you for the ten gift tags you contributed in support of our Holiday Gift Program for our children.

For over 100 years, Hoffman Homes has been a place of healing and hope for thousands of children in great need of safety, love and support. Our agency has been a lifeline for children who would have nowhere else to go for the essential help they need in regaining stability. A large focus on the treatment here is with the Creative Therapies program that is so valuable for those deeply traumatized children who have a difficult time trusting adults. These child-centered treatment modalities, coupled with group and individual therapy, have proven to be effective in treating children with special needs. By providing a safe, beautiful campus with home-like residences, our therapeutic programs and psychiatric treatment helps kids to become well again.

Again, we thank you for your generosity and support of our mission to be committed to promoting personal growth and achievement of those we serve through continuous quality improvement, education, staff development and the use of evidence-based practices. As a non-profit leader, we adhere to our core values and guiding principles of honesty, integrity, commitment to excellence, dignity, respect, safety and well being which is achieved following the Sanctuary Model of Care we strive to advance daily. Your partnership in our mission means a great deal to us and we are hopeful for your continued support in the years to come.

Most sincerely,


Fred Garman
Vice President of Development

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 February 22 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

Inclement Weather on Sundays



We are now in the season of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. If you are not certain whether or not we will be having a worship service on a Sunday when the roads may be hazardous, please check the churches answering machine or you can always call Bob Benchoff on Sunday morning. His number is 377-4729.

"Silver Express" Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!



Donations for this month
will be delivered **February 17.**



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.



February 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.