

# ***September 2015 Newsletter***

## ***CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES***



*Celebrating the International Day of Peace*

## ***UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST***

***WORSHIP at 10:45 AM beginning September 13***

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

***(717)762-4113***

***Website: [www.apostlesucc.com](http://www.apostlesucc.com)  
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# From the Pastor's Study

Over 15 years ago I traveled to China with a group of over thirty massage therapists from all over the United States. The purpose of our trip was to learn about Chinese body work. We lived in a hotel for two weeks in Beijing traveling to the city hospital each morning to observe how doctors incorporated body work in their practice. In the afternoon we attended classes taught by doctors.

**The hospital's standard of cleanliness was far from what it is in this** country. There were no flushing toilets, only a hole in the floor that went to the ground level where attendants would remove the waste with long handled tongs. The inside of the hospital reminded me of the hospitals I remembered as a child in the early sixties. Everything was white and metal; there were glaring bright lights and the halls of the cement building were loud and echoing. The cost to see a doctor was around \$2.00 American money because the bulk of the cost of medical care was paid for by the government. Each day people, young and old, mothers with infants, and children in tow stood in long lines down the halls for long periods of time hoping they would see a doctor before the end of the day. If time ran out they would have to return the next day and wait in line again.

Many of the people we encountered in China at that time did not speak English. Communication was achieved by acting out what we were trying to say with our hands. Despite there being no words spoken, communication was usually achieved. You knew communication had been achieved when a confused face began to smile.

Twenty years ago I traveled to Israel with a church group from Philadelphia. We lived in Jerusalem for a week and then traveled around the country to see various biblical sites and towns. Life in Israel was interesting and exciting. The food was excellent, the weather pleasant, the people friendly. The presence of armed military on every corner made one feel safe in a country that is frequently in the news because of acts of violence and terrorism. We spent time wandering the old market place of Jerusalem shopping at the many booths of merchandise; pottery, clothing, olive wood carvings, jewelry, food, spices, coffees, teas. The market is divided into different quarters **according to one's religious affiliation or nationality. There was a Jewish Quarter,**

Christian Quarter, Arab Quarter. Our American group leader warned us to be very careful when we walked through the market. ***"Don't make eye contact with anyone. Just walk straight ahead to your destination and don't talk to anyone."***

Those of us visiting a foreign country for the first time heeded his advice.

A few days later, having become more acclimated to this new environment, many of us headed for the market on our own. Some traveled in pairs, others like myself, traveled alone. Stopping in front of a booth in the Arab Quarter

**I was immediately invited into the cave like room behind the vendor's tables.**

My smiling, enthusiastic, gracious Arab hosts invited me to sit down and have tea with them. I accepted their invitation. It was an enjoyable, unexpected event.

A short time later a group of my traveling companions walked by the booth and saw me sitting in the back room having tea with the Arab men. They were surprised, and concerned, thinking that perhaps I had fallen into dangerous hands; Arabs trying to take advantage of an innocent American tourist! But as I explained to my friends later, nothing could have been farther from the truth. The men were genuinely extending hospitality to a stranger as had been their custom for thousands of years. There was no expectation that I would buy **something from them, in fact I didn't. I moved on thanking them for their** hospitality.

Lancaster Seminary requires students to go on a cross cultural trip to another country as part of their curriculum. The year I was in seminary my class traveled to Central America. Despite my love of travel, Nicaragua and Costa Rica would not have been my first choice of destination. I associated that part of the world with drugs and corruption. But although that is true in part, it is not what most of the people of those countries are about. Despite the extreme poverty, corrupt governments, and violence, I found the people to be warm, friendly, and hospitable. The churches we visited welcomed us with what little food they had often no more than soda and chips. The children were joyful and welcoming, despite many of them living on the streets because they were either orphans or their parents had left them behind with friends or relatives in their search for work in another country.

Much of our classroom time in Central America was spent with other students, young people whose main focus was on peace, justice and equality.

Many of their personal concerns were new to those of us who lived in a free, wealthy country. We had never had to endure the kinds of difficulties these young people had dealt with all their lives.

**It has been said that travel changes a person's perspective of their own** life and their understanding of the lives of others. That is absolutely true. Returning home from a foreign country we are more compassionate and understanding of the plight of our brothers and sisters whose lives are different than ours.

If there is one thing that I have learned in my travels, in my conversations with people in other parts of the world, it is that everyone I met, especially children, simply want to live in peace. They want to live in dignity, to have work, to be able to feed their families, have adequate shelter and clothing and the freedom to make their own decisions in life. They want what you and I want.

The evening news more often covers riots, terrorist attacks, fighting, and angry militants shaking fists while cursing another country. But there are many more people who we rarely see or hear in the news who just want to live lives of peace, and dignity. In my travels I was greeted many times by the universal symbol of peace, a hand with two fingers pointed upward forming a V. It was often the hand of a smiling young person who extended that greeting of peace.

**Our Peace Pole, with the words, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 8** languages will be a physical reminder to all of us that the desire for peace is not an American thing, it is not just a Christian thing, it is a human desire that all of **God's children long for. And even more importantly, it is what God has always** wanted for this world.

In peace and love,  
Pastor Michael

*"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God." Mark 5:9*

**Church of the Apostles**  
**Elders and Deacons**  
**2014 - 2015**

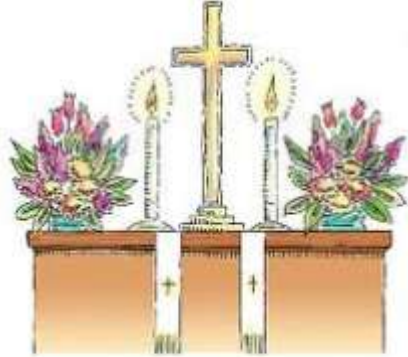
**Elders**

Randy Cramer      Jean High  
Dave Patterson      Martha Smith

**Deacons**

Trudy Stum      Donna Levick  
Nancy Dinterman      Brian Jacobs

Church Leadership  
*Elders & Deacons*



**Flower Donations**

**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 September***



9/2	Dave Patterson
9/10	Ernie Fitz
9/12	Pam (Warnick) Atherton
9/18	Charles High
9/22	Joe Hovermale
9/28	Debbie and Jake Jacobs
9/28	Amanda (Ritchey) Kratochvil
9/30	Hannah (Misner) Caplan

# **Calendar of Events September**

6	Worship	10 AM
13	Outdoor Worship	10:45 AM
13	Church Picnic	12 Noon
14	Buchanan Trail Quilters	5:30 PM
15	Silver Express Delivery	1:30 PM
19	Peace Pole Dedication	10AM-1 PM
20	Worship	10:45 AM
20	Consistory	12 Noon
27	Church Growth Com.	9:15 AM
27	Worship	10:45 AM



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

Al Anon meets every Thursday  
from 8-9 PM

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in September*

## Lay Readers

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

***No assigned readers  
for  
September.***



***The Nursery is Available if Needed.***



## Ushers & Greeters

September 6: Darlene Sease & Bruce Barr

Sept. 13: Bob Benchoff & Randy Cramer

September 20: Judy Fitz & Jean High

September 27: Donna Levick & Ernie Fitz



## Communion Assistants

September 20: Jean High, Judy Fitz, and  
Bob Stum

October 4: Debbie & Brian Jacobs and  
Bob Benchoff



## Church Picnic

The church picnic and last outdoor worship service will be held on September 13. Plan to bring food to share and bring a friend or relative to celebrate the end of the summer season.

## Church Staff & Committees



**Pastor:** *Michael Cromer* Home: 717-776-7612  
Cell: 717-816-2940  
Email: [mcromerm@aol.com](mailto:mcromerm@aol.com)

**Church Office:** 762-4113 Email: [apostlesucc336@embarqmail.com](mailto: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*

# NGA Ingathering

The 2015 NGA Ingathering will be held at the Church of the Apostles on October 6.

The Mission of NGA - Needlework Guild of America is to improve the quality of life for economically disadvantaged individuals in the United States by collecting and distributing to them NEW gifts of clothes, linens, and personal care items.

Our desire is to help disadvantaged children, women and men by offering new items of clothing to help them become self-sufficient in life. The new clothes help bring warmth and comfort to those who need it most. A new outfit encourages a positive outlook on life.

The local branch of NGA services the following agencies: Waynesboro Community and Human Services, South Mountain Restoration Center, Pregnancy Resource Center, Franklin County Headstart Programs and Faith Community Outreach Ministries. These agencies provide us with requisitions as to their needs and we shop appropriately. A copy of the requisitions are posted in the Narthex or I will accept monetary donations and shop for you.

Thanks again, for helping those less fortunate.

Linda Hovis  
Waynesboro Branch Secretary



## Peace Pole Dedication and Installation



Our Peace Pole will be installed and dedicated on September 19 at noon with the release of white doves as part of the ceremony. There will be several vendors and guests set up at the church that morning beginning at 10:00. They will include the Antietam Humane Society, with animals to adopt, a laughter coach, SERRV sales, craft items from UPAVIM (an organization that sells items made by women in Guatemala), potters from the Ceramic Center in Waynesboro, and special music by vocalist and guitarists Dan McCarthy. Children will decorate their own Peace Pole for the church sanctuary at 11:00. There will also be instruction on making origami peace cranes. The day's events will end at 1:00. Please plan to attend and support this event that will hopefully help to promote peace within our community and beyond.

## Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief congregational meeting immediately after our worship service on September 20. Please plan to attend as you will be asked to vote on an important decision concerning the church property.



## Notice Anything New in the Restrooms?



Thanks to Bob Benchoff who recently installed new toilet paper holders in the restrooms. You may have noticed the old holders would no longer hold the paper tubes that have been shortened in length by the tissue manufacturers.

## A New Church Banner

A new church banner has been purchased with memorial money received in memory of Del Dingle. The banner seen here depicts Jesus with children. Those who knew Del, knew that he loved children and played an important role in the life of many children during his life. That was evident during his memorial service by the kind, appreciative words spoken by people whose lives were touched by him.



THANK YOU



AUGUST 23, 2015

DEAR PASTOR MICHAEL & CHURCH FAMILY -  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE CARDS,  
PRAYERS AND FLOWERS YOU SENT AFTER  
MY HEART ATTACK. IT MEANT SO MUCH  
TO ME.

I ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUAL PRAYERS  
FOR BILL & ME SO WE MAY HEAL ACCORDING  
TO GOD'S WILL.

THANKS & GOD BLESS  
NANCY

Rev. Michael Cromer  
Church of The Apostles, UCC  
336 Garnett Ave.  
Waynesboro, PA 17268

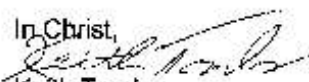
Dear Pastor Cromer,

It was a great blessing to be part of your worship service on Sunday, August 30. The warm welcome from your congregation was genuinely appreciated.

Please know that we will continue to pray for you and your congregation. Your support of the Gideon ministry is wonderful. I thank you for the opportunity to share God's blessings through this ministry. The Gideons continue to distribute 1 million copies of God's Word in 100 languages every 5 days in 200 countries around the world.

We pray that you continue to enjoy God's blessing for yourself and your ministry in the days ahead.

In Christ,

  
Keith Tombs

Gideons International



The Gideons International

All of us wish to thank you  
so much for the food.  
From the Trinity House.  
Thank-Thank-Thank.

8-22-15

Your kindness  
means so much!

From  
Trinity House



Thank You

Lois P. Martin "Thank you" 6/29/15  
(Foot Church)

I thank you so much  
for all the help & love  
you have given me.  
Dodie Starbip

Thank you so very much it  
really helps a lot  
I am so happy  
THANK YOU

Donna Vaughan  
Fern Proser  
Barry Munro  
Pat Bamberger  
Dee Hart  
Bryan Welsh  
Sandra Wagner  
Brenda Gier  
Brenda Sheffler  
Cathy Thoms  
Lanny H. Moore  
THANK YOU!  
John 403 C. Dean

Your kindness  
means so much!

Darryl S. Sweeten  
Kathleen Welsh  
SPOT STAKE  
Carolyn Caulfield  
Barbara Cliney  
Carolyn Smith  
Phyllis Wehmer, TV for  
all you do for everyone

Thank you so very  
much for all you do  
Joan Amshy

Thank  
you



Members of the Church of the  
Apostles.

Thank you for the expres-  
sions of sympathy given  
during the passing of my  
mother. The flowers  
sent by the church were  
beautiful and greatly  
appreciated.

Danna Levick + family

Thank you sincerely  
for sharing our sorrow.

Your kindness is  
deeply appreciated and  
will always be remembered.

## “Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their  
bowls!



Donations for this month  
will be delivered **September 15.**



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.*



# **September 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.*