

July 2016 Newsletter



CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP 10 AM

***336 Barnett Avenue
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From the Pastor's Study July

Last month I attended my seventh annual meeting of the Penn Central Conference held at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. Because last year's attendance was low, this year's meeting was a day shorter than it has been in the past. During the event there are meetings that sometimes last hours. They cover the financial status of the conference, issues within the conference to be discussed, recognition of ministers for their years of service, voting, and recognition of people who are retiring from positions within the conference. There are also worship services during the weekend which include communion.

On Saturday afternoon there are one hour workshops on a variety of topics held in various buildings on the campus. Most of the activities however take place in one large building that houses the college cafeteria. Throughout that building there are various vendors; a book store, a store selling UCC related items, a vendor from Ten Thousand Villages, (a self-help organization like SERRV) as well as various tables with information concerning the various branches of the UCC. Hoffman Homes had an information table, as did Lancaster Seminary and other organizations and charities.

One of the highlights of the conference for me is reconnecting with people I knew from my time at Lancaster Seminary, some whom I have not seen since the previous year. This year there were several people at the conference I hadn't seen since I graduated in 2008.

The theme of this year's conference was "Risking the New". Churches were encouraged to risk doing something new that will spur growth and renewal in their church. I attended two of the one hour workshops on Saturday. One of them was about Hoffman Homes; the other was about church mission statements. Below I have listed pieces of information I wrote down in my notes over the weekend. Some of the things may surprise you, some you may not agree with, some you may question, hopefully all will give you pause to think and to rethink about what you think about the church and Christianity.

1. Pastors don't grow a church. (the congregation does)
2. A church exists to convert people to Christianity and to help people put their faith in practice.
3. A churches mission statement communicates what a church does.
4. A mission statement is an announcement to the community that if someone shows interest in Christianity, what can they expects to gain.

6. A church's mission statement should express what the church has to offer the community.
7. A church's mission statement should express the needs of the community and how your church is going to fill those needs. People today expect to get something for their efforts. *"What will your church give me or do for me if I become a part of it?"*
8. A church mission statement announces a new direction; a mission. A mission is ongoing and should not be confused with a church's *vision* which has an end.
9. Churches often wrongly focus on getting new members for the financial benefit their tithes will bring. However, it usually takes the tithes of 5 new members to equal the tithe of a long time member.
10. People seeking a church should be given a theological reason as to why they should be disciples.
11. A church mission statement should *not* appear in your bulletin. People who are new may form an unfavorable opinion and expectation about the church from reading it before they get a chance to really know the church and understand its' mission.
12. Members should be able to recite their church's mission statement. It should be short, in plain English, not religious lingo that people do not understand.
13. A church's mission statement should be changed every 5 years to reflect the changes in the church.

You may have noticed that most of these pieces of information I gathered from this year's annual conference were about a church's mission statement. I have been told that much time, thought, and effort were put into creating the mission statement for Church of the Apostles. Those of you who were part of creating it years ago may be thinking *"No way are we doing that again!"*

Do you recall what your church's mission statement says? Do you know where it is posted in the church? If you can remember what it says, do you think it is fine the way it is? Does it reflect what the church represents today?

Church growth is an ongoing conversation at every church gathering. Many books have been written on the subject and new ones are being written all the time. Unfortunately, what may work for one church may not work for another. Where a church is located often

determines what will work. Each church must find what works for them according to the community where they are located, and what the congregation wishes to achieve. A church's growth is also determined on just how interested its members are in participating in its growth or at least offering ideas. The box that was placed in the narthex at the beginning of the year asking for suggestions has remained empty. No one has offered any suggestions for church growth.

The growth of a church or lack of it is determined by many things today. One of the biggest factors that affect church growth or lack of it is the general lack of interest in attending church. People today are not interested in being part of any organization. They don't want to commit to church committees, to choir practice, to church boards, to anything that requires a commitment of their personal time. That lack of interest in commitment also extends to the expectation of attending a worship service every Sunday morning at a specific time. The average attendance for even those who do attend a Sunday worship with some regularity is twice a month. Rarely does anyone attend church most every Sunday.

Everyone who values the church should ask themselves some questions about church and their relationship with the church. What am I doing personally to help grow my church? How much do I participate in my church's activities? How often do I attend worship services? How much do I tithe to my church so that it might continue to exist and minister to people? Just what role does my church play in the community? What role am I playing in helping my church serve the community? How often if ever, have I invited or brought someone to church as a guest? How often have I volunteered to do something no one else wanted to do in my church? How often have I thought "*Let someone else do it.*" What priority does the church take in your life? Does it come second after all your other obligations are fulfilled?

Don't assume your church will always be there. Many churches are closing across the country much to the surprise of its long time members. Some denominations are finally coming together to form one congregation in a town. Why do towns often have 3 churches of the same denomination if everyone should be of the same theology? There is a lot of money spent maintaining multiple churches of the same denominations, money that could be spent for the church's ministry.

Whatever the future of the church might be; don't be one of those people who one day says after their church closes its doors, *"I should have, could have, done more."* If something is of value to you, you must not take it for granted and assume it will always be there. That includes the people in our lives we care about. Don't assume someone else will step up to the plate. Someone else might be tired of carrying the ball for everyone else and give up. We live in an ever changing world where many of the things we once took for granted have disappeared. Don't let the church be one of them.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

"Take care and be on guard for yourselves and for the whole flock over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd (tend, feed, guide) the church of God which he bought with his own blood." - Acts 20:28 Amplified Bible

Pastor Michael's Surgery

On Aug. 1 I will go to Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill for a total hip replacement. I have been told I will remain there for at least two days before returning home or go to a rehab facility if need be. The length of my recovery is not entirely certain since it varies from person to person. I do know that I will not be allowed to drive for two weeks especially since my surgery is on the right hip, the leg used to operate the pedals of my car. It is possible I will not return to work for the entire month of August. If I find that to be the case I will take the sabbatical I am due, catching up on reading some of the many books on religion I have accumulated over the years. Not being able to do much physically will be the hard part for me. Guest speakers have already been lined up for the Sundays I will be away. Rev. Bruce Drukenmiller, the new pastor at Trinity UCC, Waynesboro, will be available for any emergency you might have. I ask for your prayers for a successful surgery, a full recovery, and the ability to once again walk without pain.



– Pastor Michael

***Birthdays
&
Anniversaries
in
July***



7/2 Debbie Jacobs
7/4 Keira Lux
7/10 Heather and Shawn Shatzer
7/16 Connor Jacobs
7/24 Shelley Benchoff
7/27 Cherry Snyder
7/30 Maggie Shatzer
7/30 Katie Lux

**Calendar of Events
July**

3	Worship Service	10 AM
10	Outdoor Worship Service	10 AM
17	Worship	10 AM
19	Silver Express Delivery	1 :30 PM
24	Worship	10 AM
31	Worship	10 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 July*

Lay Readers

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

No assigned readers

for

July



The Nursery is Available if Needed.



Ushers & Greeters

July 3: Nevin & Sondra Monn

July 10: Bob & Trudy Stum

July 17: Donna Levick & Judy Fitz

July 24: Nevin & Sondra Monn

July 31: Brian & Debbie Jacobs

July Outdoor Worship Goes Hawaiian



Our outdoor worship service on July 10 will have a Hawaiian theme. Wear your brightest, gaudiest, flowery, clothes, straw hats, shorts and sandals. Ladies, get out that mumu you haven't worn for years. A Hawaiian lei will be given to everyone at the beginning of the service.

Church Staff & Committees



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

Church Office: 762-4113 Email: apostlesucc@gmail.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:

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*

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Special Music

On July 17 the contemporary Christian group “Soul’s Fire” will perform during the 10:00 worship service. Pastor Michael will be on vacation that Sunday. Donna Hale from First Church, Carlisle will lead the service.

Help Maintaining Church Property



The balance of sun and rain has made for an excellent gardening season. That sun and rain helps both the flowers and the WEEDS grow. Help is needed in weeding the peace pole flower bed and around the building. As the old saying goes, “*Many hands make for light work.*” You can stop by the church at any time that is convenient for you and do some of the weeding.





Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Michael will spend a week at Fenwick Island, Del. for his summer vacation. He will leave on July 17 and will return to work on July 26. Any emergency may be directed to Rev. Bruce Drukenmiller of Trinity UCC, Waynesboro while he is away.

Bible Sudoku

Easy

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5						2			
6									
7									
8									
9									

For D1, G2, B3, I4, H7, F9:

Josiah was ___ years old when he became king. (2 Kings 22:1)

For F5, A7:

The 10 commandments were written on ___ tables of stone. (Deuteronomy 9:11)

For H2, D5, B6, E8:

Og, king of Bashan, had a bed which was ___ cubits [~4½ metres] long. (Deuteronomy 3:11)

For A4, I8:

The number of times Paul was whipped with 39 lashes. (2 Corinthians 11:24)

For E2, C4, G5, D6, F8:

The age of Joash when he began to reign over the kingdom of Judah. (2 Chronicles 24:1)

For A2, I3, F4, C5, G6, D7, B8:

The number of days it took God to create heaven, earth and all in them. (Exodus 20:11)

For C2, H4, G8:

The number of languages spoken before the building of the tower of Babel. (Genesis 11:1)

For B2, F3, A6, C8:

Lazarus was dead for ___ days before Jesus raised him from the dead. (John 11:17)

For G1, D2, I6, H8, C9

Noah had ___ sons (Genesis 6:10)

Bible Sudoku

1. First you will need to write in your 'starter' numbers. This is done by using the clues below, and the A-I and 1-9 coordinates on the top and side of the grid. **F5** has been done for you already.
2. Once the starter numbers are in place, complete the Sudoku puzzle as usual.

Intermediate

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									

For D5, I6, F8, A9

Jesus fed 5000 men, as well as women and children, with ___ loaves and 2 fish. (Matthew 14:19)

For A6, B8:

There is only ___ God. (1 Timothy 2:5)

For A4, F6, H8:

The number of people saved in the ark when the world was flooded. (Genesis 7:13)

For I1, C2, H4, F5, B6, G8:

The number of days that Jonah was inside the big fish. (Jonah 1:17)

For C1, H2, I4:

The day on which God rested (Genesis 2:2)

For A1, D2, H3, F4, B7, G9:

Jesus was crucified between ___ robbers. (Mark 15:27)

For G2:

Jesus healed 10 lepers, but ___ didn't come back to say 'thank-you'. (Luke 17:11-19)

For B2, D6, C8, I9:

Paul was on a boat heading for Rome when there was a great storm. The sailors let down ___ anchors to try to stop the boat from running onto rocks. (Acts 27:29)

A Letter from Nelwin in the Philippines

Our sponsored child from the Philippines, ten year old Nelwin said in his most recent letter that he was celebrating “Flores de Mayo”. Flores de Mayo (Flowers of Mary) is a Philippine festival in May devoted to Jesus’ mother Mary.

N
E
L
W
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N



2016 Recognition Program. Top 5 & Best in Math



2016 Summer Fun & Games



Damaguete Kalsaman Center for Development

Silliman University Campus
6200 Damaguete City
Philippines

May 13, 2016

My Dear Sponsors at Church of the Apostles,

Good day to all of you! I hope that you are all okay with the blessings and guidance of our Almighty God. I am happy to say that me and my family are fine. Regarding my studies, I am the top six (6) in our class. Last March 31 was our recognition day. I am proud and excited as I received my ribbon. I got the average grade of 83%.

Last April 11-12, 2016, was our VCS. Our theme was "Good Leadership: Our Offering to God." We were taught some qualities on how to be a good leader. I discovered that talent, intelligence and skills were not a guarantee of being a good leader. However, it includes also his or her faith in God. A good leader must follow Jesus' life as a great example. Aside from VCS, we had also games and life skills. I enjoyed this season of summer, playing with my neighbors. We also visited our relatives at Bais City, one of the cities here in Negros Oriental. For now, I am busy attending Flores de Mayo or we called it, May Flowers.

How about you? Are you having a vacation with your family? Hope to hear from you soon. Please extend my warmest regards to all. God bless you always!

Love,
Nelwin D. Adling



In God We Trust

There will be an entry in the July 4th parade to celebrate the 60th anniversary of In God We Trust, our National Motto. We will have a decorated vehicle and are in need of walkers to distribute flyers with information explaining and encouraging citizens to "PUT IT UP" in all public and private places

If you would like to help, we could use as many people as possible. Wear your patriotic garb and show up at the Frick parking lot by 9 AM on July 4th. For more info, contact Tom McCloud at 717-300-0215.

We are also having a booth at Summer Jubilee to display and take orders for the posters. If you would have an hour or so to help, it would be appreciated.

- Waynesboro Fellowship of Churches

"Silver Express" Food Bank

**Thank you for your help to fill their
bowls!**



Donations for this month
will be delivered **July 19.**



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



“The Church for the 21st century must deliver more than theology, it must provide deep emotional and spiritual connections.”



CREATING A CHURCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

When digital technology makes connecting with others as easy as a finger swipe, and capturing selfies on a cell phone often replaces an in-person experience, it's easy to understand why this decade of the 21st century may be a time of emotional disconnection, lacking the richness of deep personal interaction.

So how does the church — which began as a radical, countercultural revolution 2,000 years ago — survive? According to Dr. Tony Campolo, Lancaster Seminary's commencement speaker, it takes another countercultural approach: the Church for the 21st century must deliver more than theology, it must provide deep emotional and spiritual connections.

Before a standing-room only commencement audience of graduates, their families and friends, faculty and alumni/ae at Church of the Apostles on May 14, Campolo offered his vision of how to create the Church of the 21st century.

Build spiritual connection

“Theology isn't enough,” said Campolo, professor emeritus at Eastern University and a founder of Red Letter Christians. “I not only want to believe in Jesus, I want to *feel* Jesus.”

According to Campolo, in the 21st century, people are “looking for a church with ‘felt’ spirituality. (They are) hungry for feeling. We've put down emotions far too long. ... In this post-modern era, emotions are the big thing!”

Live a Jesus lifestyle

In the 21st century, he said, “People are looking for a church that looks like Jesus... and reaches those in the margins” who are the modern-day versions of the tax collector and the Samaritan. This means, he says, that we have to accept the lifestyle that Jesus prescribes, welcoming those whom society rejects, and abolishing violence.

Make Church a celebration

“We need to be a Church that brings celebration to people who have nothing to celebrate,” Campolo emphasized. “A Church that not only is spiritual, a Church that not only takes Jesus seriously, a Church that brings celebration into a dull, dead world — that's YOUR responsibility!”

Campolo's speech is available online in the Multimedia section at lancasterseminary.edu.

Save the Children

Achievements you made possible



Child neglect and abuse often accompany poverty and disease. In Zambia, we strengthened families' abilities to care for their children through improved access to family services.



Health programs in Nicaragua helped decrease death rates from common illnesses like pneumonia and diarrhea by over 50 percent, causing the government to mandate the program nationally.



Summer Boost programs helped U.S. children improve their literacy and STEM skills (science, technology, engineering and math), increasing their likelihood of graduating high school and attending college.



As refugee families crossed Europe seeking safety, you were there along the way, providing food, water, blankets, baby food, clothes and spaces for children to rest and play.



Save the Children was one of the charities the church tithed to last year.

Here are some of the things we as a church helped Save the Children accomplish.

Thanks to you,

there is hope



Thank
you

June 10, 2016

Church of Apostles U.C.C.

Dear friends,

To all of my Church family I send my most sincere thanks for all of your kind thoughts, prayers, cards and kindnesses.

And to Pastor Michael for sending me his sermons, bulletins & newsletters. I really appreciate it.
In Christian love,
Nae Kauffman

Here is a small contribution toward the water!

A \$25
Donation
toward the
Community Gardens.

Thank you so much for letting us garden at your church!

Rebecca Scott
Mark Mitchell



“I like it here.
I get to express my
feelings.”

Malachi's Story



“I CAME HERE because I had aggression. I would punch people and curse at them.”

Malachi just turned eight and has been living at Hoffman Homes for three months. A smart and curious second grader, he has a ready smile and a quick sense of humor. Being at Hoffman Homes gives him the feeling of security—and a sense of home—that he needs to heal. “My favorite things are the playground and talking with Miss Patty,” he says. Malachi likes talking with his therapist “because I get to express my feelings.”

Another of Malachi's favorite things: pet therapy. “They have all kinds of animals, and their fur is so soft.” Malachi especially likes Larry the rabbit, because “I get to carry him, and he feels so nice against my cheek,” he says. “In pet and horse therapy, we talk about pets and learn about pets...but the best part is getting to be with

them.” The part he doesn't love? Cleaning up after them! But he knows that taking good care of them is part of being a good friend.

In many ways, Malachi is a typical kid. He loves animals, playing football and video games. But when asked about what he's most happy about, right this minute, his answer is startling: “I'm happy that my mom just got out of jail.” His time at Hoffman Homes is giving him and his family the chance at a brighter future, by teaching Malachi how to understand, cope with and safely express his feelings. “I learned to take deep breaths, so you won't get mad,” he says.

Malachi's wish for Hoffman Homes, though, is just what you'd expect. When asked if there was something he'd like to have here that we don't, he doesn't hesitate: “A PlayStation,” he says. “Just not with the violent games.”



Hoffman Homes for Youth

Our story

FOUNDED IN 1910, Hoffman Homes for Youth is a not-for-profit residential treatment facility in Littlestown, Pennsylvania, providing comprehensive psychiatric care, treatment and education to emotionally and behaviorally troubled children. Your partnership ensures that we can continue to offer vital, life-affirming help and healing for these most vulnerable of kids, giving them a chance at a brighter future.

How you can help

NEW for Businesses—EITC Tax Credits!

Hoffman Homes' Hoffman Academy, our on-site special education school, has been designated an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) by the state of PA, approved for funding through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. *Beginning on July 1, 2016, for a minimal investment of time, qualifying businesses can take their state tax dollars and invest them in the education of our Hoffman Academy students.*

As a Pennsylvania business owner, you can direct 75% or 90% of your state tax liability to be donated to Hoffman Homes, Inc. and benefit from a qualifying charitable contribution at the same time. **At no cost to your business, you can help rewrite our children's stories.**

Financial Contributions

Sponsorship of our ongoing fundraising events—including our annual "Run for a Reason" Family 5K Fun Run/Walk, our annual Golf Benefit and our annual gala—as well as direct gifts to Hoffman

Homes support our ongoing operations to ensure that our full range of therapeutic services, including our innovative art, pet and horse therapy programs, continue uninterrupted.



In-kind Donations

Throughout the year, we welcome donations of self-care products (shampoo, soap, hair brushes, combs, hair accessories, etc.) for the children in our care. Donations of creative therapy supplies—pet and horse food and care products; art supplies; and gardening tools and materials—are also much appreciated.

Rite Aid's KidCents Program

This program allows customers to "round up" their purchases to the nearest dollar and donate change to Hoffman Homes by using their free wellness card. Simply go to KidCents.com to select Hoffman Homes as your "round up" beneficiary and, if needed, register for a free card.

Share in our story & change lives

Your support offers hope and healing—and a new future—for the children in our care. To meet with our CFO to discuss EITC participation, to learn more about our program needs, or to arrange a personalized tour, please call our Development Office at 717-359-7148, ext. 4502. Visit us online at HoffmanHomes.com.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please forward an address change to the Church office.



July 2016

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.