

September 2016 Newsletter



CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FALL WORSHIP 10:45 AM beginning Sept. 11

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

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From the Pastor's Study

Things sure look different after being away from the church for three weeks, at least on the outside. The flowers have doubled if not tripled in size, the community gardens are overflowing with tomatoes, and it appears the Japanese beetles that had been stripping everything in sight have moved on. One doesn't notice those kinds of changes when you see them every day except perhaps for the absence of the Japanese beetles.

My three weeks away from the church went faster than I anticipated. Two days after my surgery I returned home limited as to what I could do physically unable to drive for three weeks. The first week I used a walker. By the second week I had advanced to a cane. My first day home my biggest concern was whether or not I could climb the twelve steps to my bedroom and bathroom using a cane and the banister. My first venture up the stairs and then down again was scary. But with each trip to the second floor I became more confident, but not too confident in my ability. Over confidence in a body with limitations can get you in trouble.

I spent the days reading but not as much as I had intended. I'm not one who can read for hours on end. I went through hundreds of photographs that were in boxes and put them in albums. What a luxury to have time to do that. I discovered that day time television is worse than night time television. I rested and sometimes did nothing, something that not easy for me to do during daylight hours. Thanks to a gift from Trudy Stum, I joined the many adults who are coloring with colored pencils and found I enjoyed it more than I expected. I wrote thank you notes, talked to people on the phone and even wrote some letters.

A neighbor had volunteered long before my surgery to do what every needed to be done that I could not do for myself. She arrived at my house every morning at 7 AM to feed to my dog outside in her n kennel, to water the flowers and the ferns on my porch, and to bring me something for breakfast. She returned every afternoon at 5:00 with my supper and my mail. Crossing the road with a walker to get the mail was asking for trouble. Cards wishing me well and a speedy recovery arrived for weeks. A planter arrived the day after I returned home from the hospital. Only a few days ago a flower arrangement and a fruit basket were sent by friends.

Two weeks after my surgery I had the staples removed from my incision. A friend who lives thirty minutes away picked me up and drove me to my appointment; the same friend who took me to the hospital the day of my surgery devoted half a day to take me home but not before picking up my prescriptions and lunch. Yesterday yet another neighbor arrived at my door with a bucket of nectarines and a jar of canned peaches. Two of the most unexpected gifts I received were checks in the mail in lieu of flowers. Who would have thought one would receive money for having surgery!

There are many unknowns when one has surgery. You are more likely to hear stories of surgeries that went wrong than success stories. The paperwork from the hospital and the release forms one must sign describe everything that could go wrong. Your signature says you are aware of those dangers and wish to proceed. I can't say I didn't think about everything that could go wrong including not surviving the surgery but I didn't allow those thoughts to frighten me. As I told someone, *"If I don't survive the surgery at least I know I will go to heaven and will be free of this weary world (and my family) with all of its problems."*

I would have a hard time finding anything to complain about concerning the events of the past three weeks. I have been pain free since the day after the surgery. My care at Holy Spirit Hospital was excellent. A cross hanging on the wall of my hospital room at this faith based hospital was a comfort. The cheerful staff made sure my every need was met from the nurses right down to the lady in the kitchen who would call me to ask me what I would like for dinner that day. Friends I hadn't seen in years visited me in the hospital. Friends cared for me, fed me, sent cards wishing me a speedy recovery. There were so many offers to help I had to politely decline offers of assistance. One of the most important things people did was to pray for me. I attribute my positive experience and rapid recovery to care of so many people and to their prayers.

In my package of information from the hospital there was information on how to get to and from the hospital if you had no means of getting there on your own. There were instructions on using a taxi for transportation. How sad, I thought, that there were people who would have to arrive for their surgery by public transportation and then have to rely on a taxi driver to take them home. No friend or relative to wish them well as they entered the

hospital, no one to see they got into their home safely when they returned. Who would care for them as they recuperated; bring them meals, check to see if they were okay?

I give thanks for the blessing of friends and family during this latest chapter of my life. I am grateful for a church family who took the reins and made sure the business of the church continued in my absence. I am forever grateful for the hands of surgeons who use their God given gift to ease pain and suffering in the world. Despite all the criticism of the medical field, more people than not are healed and made whole again because of the men and women who devote their lives to medicine. As the words on a popular line of t-shirts declare “Life is Good” and so are the majority of people in the world when given an opportunity to show it.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Michael

“Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet.”-James 5: 13-15a (The Message)

Many Thanks

Thanks to everyone who sent cards and notes and prayed for me during my recent surgery and recovery. Thanks for making sure the church continued to run smoothly while I was away, for volunteering to lead Sunday services, for continuing to water flowers, and for attending Sunday services. It was good to know the church was in good hands during my absence.



And More Thank You's

Thank you for donating school supplies again this year. Your donations of back packs, markers, paper, pencils, rulers and more helped make the new school year easier for many of the children in our community who come from families that do not have the extra funds to pay for these school necessities.

What Difference Did We Make?

This month your donations to the What Difference Do it Make? fund helped a family with a special needs child and their service dog with lodging in a motel for two nights until they could find a more permanent shelter.



Brenda Waleff Passing

Most of you did not know Brenda Waleff. She was Minister of Communications for the Penn Central Conference. I only knew Brenda from seeing her at the conference offices in Harrisburg on occasion and at the annual meeting in Selinsgrove. Brenda was always on the move at the annual meeting. She and her young son Dustin were very involved with the church. Brenda could be seen on stage making introductions and announcements. She was so committed to the UCC and her duties. Brenda was diagnosed with colon cancer a year ago. When I saw her at the annual meeting in July she was in a wheelchair and looked tired and weak. It would be the last time I would see her alive. Brenda recently lost her battle with cancer. She leaves behind her husband, her son Dustin and her daughter Megan. Her obituary is included in this month's newsletter for you to read. Church of the Apostles sent a gift of \$100 earmarked for Brenda's children. Brenda always made it a point to read the monthly newsletters of all the churches in the conference. She once told me she particularly enjoyed reading what I wrote each month for **From the Pastor's Study**. Brenda's passing is a great loss to the United Church of Christ. People with such enthusiastic commitment to the church are hard to find these days. –Pastor Michael

A Day Devoted to Peace



Last year we celebrated the installation of a Peace Pole in front lawn of the church property with a day of music and fellowship along with vendors selling Fair Trade items. We will again celebrate a day dedicated to peace with vendors, music, food and fellowship. This year's event will be held in October although no specific date has been selected.

***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**

- 4 Worship 10 AM
11 Worship 10:45 AM
11 Church Picnic 12 PM
12 Buchanan Trail Quilters 5:30 PM
17 Randy & Julia's Wedding 6 PM
18 Worship 10:45 AM
19 College Club 6 PM
20 Silver Express Delivery 1:30 PM
25 Worship 10:45 AM



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

AI Anon meets every Thursday
from 8-9 PM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS *in September*

The Nursery is Available if Needed.



Ushers & Greeters

- September 4: Nevin & Sondra Monn
September 11: Donna Levick & Judy Fitz
September 18: Tony & Donna Haugh
September 25: Bob & Trudy Stum



Communion Assistants

- September 18: Tony & Donna Haugh
October 4: Bob Benchoff &
Randy Cramer

A Wedding

The wedding of Randy Cramer and Julia Taylor



will be held outside on the church grounds on September 17 at 6:00 PM. Pastor Michael will officiate. A reception will follow in the church social hall. No formal invitation will be mailed to the congregation but everyone is welcome to attend. The couple has requested no gifts.

Youth Group Resumes Meetings

Our small but enthusiastic youth group will resume meeting again on Sunday afternoon's beginning in September. Volunteers to help are always welcome.





Church Picnic and Last Outdoor Service for the Season

The church picnic and last outdoor service of the season will be held on Sept. 11 on the church grounds. Worship service will be at 10:45 and our picnic will begin at noon. A signup sheet for the picnic will be in the narthex. Invite a friend or a family member to join us.

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*

NGA Ingathering

The 2016 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



Community Garden Picnic

Last year we held our first community garden picnic on the lawn behind the church near the gardens. The picnic was an opportunity for those who had garden plots to come together as a community and share some of their harvest.

Although only a few people participated an enjoyable meal was shared. If you are one of the gardeners and even if you are not but would like to participate in this year's picnic please let Pastor Michael know. A date has not yet been chosen for the event.

Hawaiian Outdoor Service



July 10, 2016





New Worship Time Begins

We will return to our Fall/Winter worship time of 10:45 beginning on September 11.



Junior Councilperson Arianna Taylor

Arianna Taylor who attends Waynesboro Sr. High School, was recently selected to be a junior councilperson by councilman Chad Rooney. As a junior councilman Arianna will have a voice in local government affairs while gaining knowledge about how borough government works. Arianna is also a member of the National Honor Society. Congratulations Arianna!



Bibles for Hoffman Homes

During a recent conversation with one of the staff at Hoffman Homes for Youth I learned that when a child has been treated for either emotional or physical abuse or sometimes both, and is ready to leave the facility the one thing they all want to take with them is a bible. The ninety some children who reside at Hoffman Homes usually remain there for 9 months although a few remain for several years. I was surprised that the children had bibles because Hoffman Homes does not provide regular religious teachings at the facility. Because of the lack of funding to pay for a full time chaplain they must rely on churches in the community to volunteer to teach or provide a worship service for the children. Volunteers are not always available. Despite the lack of regular religious teachings the children are obviously learning biblical teachings enough that a bible is important to them.

You will find a table in the church for the donation of bibles for the children of Hoffman Homes. Because the ages of the children range from 6-18 years old bibles for all age ranges will be accepted. There are many bibles specifically for small children and bibles that are specifically for teenagers. An adult bible for a seven year old may not have much meaning for them at this stage of their life as one that is written for young children.

Please make donations of only new bibles. Once a number of bibles have been collected we will deliver them to Hoffman Homes perhaps around the same time we deliver Christmas gifts.



*Brenda was Minister of Communications
at the Penn Central Conference*

Brenda Boyer Waleff Obituary

Brenda Boyer Waleff, 55, West Hanover Township, passed away Tuesday at Community General Osteopathic Hospital after battling multiple health issues.

Born April 25, 1961 in Harrisburg, she was the daughter of the late Harvey A. "Haps" Boyer, Jr. and Shirley (Shively) Boyer, and was also preceded in death by her sister, Jill Denise Thomas.

Brenda was a 1979 graduate and class president of Susquehanna Township High School and received her BA from Shippensburg University in 1983. Following college, she was known as Angel Alexander on country station Z107.

She was the Minister of Communications for the Penn Central Conference of the UCC, and was an active member of Faith United Church of Christ, Grantville.

She was the current President of the Central Dauphin High School PTO and Central Dauphin Ice Hockey Club; and was Past President of the West Hanover Elementary School PTA. In memory of her father, she was also the Public Relations and Special Events Coordinator for the Haps Boyer Baseball Tournament.

Surviving are her loving husband of almost 30 years, Louis M. Waleff, Jr. and her precious children, Megan A. Waleff and Dustin A. Waleff; her brother in law, Ron Thomas and his children, Zac and Olivia; her parents-in-law, Louis and MaryAnn Waleff; and many other family members, friends and co-workers, all of whom will miss her greatly.

Services will be held 11:00 am Monday at her church, 117 N. Faith Road, Grantville. There will be a viewing Sunday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Kimmel Funeral Home, 2001 Market Street, Harrisburg and from 9:00 am to 10:30 am Monday at the church.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Haps Boyer Memorial Baseball Scholarship, Shippensburg University Foundation, 1874 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, 17257 or to the Brenda Boyer Waleff Memorial Scholarship, (checks payable to The Hanna Education Foundation), c/o Stephanie Keiser, 312 Berkshire Road, Mechanicsburg, 17055.

Monarchs and Milkweed

You may have noticed that the field the church owns along Amsterdam Rd. has been left to grow wild. Upon seeing so many milkweed plants growing in the field it was decided to leave the field untouched to preserve the primary food for migrating Monarch butterflies. Monarch butterflies migrate between 1,200-2,800 miles from the U.S. and Canada to the forests of Central Mexico. Unfortunately the butterflies face challenges that are decreasing their number. A population of 1 billion several years ago has been estimated to now be around 35 million. The use of herbicides (chemicals that kill weeds) and pesticides (chemicals that kill insects) as well as fewer wild places to rest, eat and reproduce and climate change have all contributed to the decline of the Monarch butterfly. By allowing the milkweed in our field to grow we in a small way have helped to prevent further decline in the Monarch population and have done our part in sustaining a little bit of God's Creation.



The flowers sent
by the members of the
Church of the Apostles
were beautiful and
greatly appreciated
at my mother's, Betsy
Yeakle's funeral.
With love,
Carol & Bill
Kizer

Thank you sincerely
for sharing our sorrow.
Your kindness is
deeply appreciated and
will always be remembered.

P.S. Also the cards and
presence of those who
attended the funeral.

**From Trinity House
addressed to
“Wonderful People”**

8-16-16



Thank you
for your kindness
*We Love you all.
Thank you so much for
the wonderful gifts you
gave us.*
Jain



“Silver Express” Food Bank

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



Donations for this month
will be delivered **September 20.**



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 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.