

**CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

WAYNESBORO, PA

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2017

ANNUAL REPORT

PASTOR: REV. MICHAEL CROMER

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Membership in this church shall be open to all persons who are seeking a relationship with God and fellowship with a community of believers. We further affirm that membership is open to all persons regardless of race, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, physical health challenge, mental health challenge, gender identity, sexual identity, economic status, immigration status, marital status, or educational status.

Mission Statement

We are called together to worship God, united by the Holy Spirit, and chosen as instruments of God'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.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2017

President	Mary Lou Misner
Vice-President	Jean High
Secretary to Consistory	Donna Levick
Treasurer	Linda Ritchey
Assistant Treasurer	Robert Benchoff
Financial Secretary	Judy Fitz
Assistant Financial Secretary	Ernie Fitz

CONSISTORY MEMBERS

ELDERS

Julia Cramer
Mary Lou Misner
Jean High
Martha Smith

TERM EXPIRES

12/31/19
12/31/19
12/31/17
12/31/17

DEACONS

Nevin Monn
Sondra Monn
Brian Jacobs
Donna Levick

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Archive
Christian Education
Christian Outreach
Church Growth Committee
Lay Life and Work
Outdoor Ministry
Property
Spiritual Council
Stewardship and Finance
Alter Guild

CHAIRPERSONS

Linda Ritchey
Mary Lou Misner

Robert Benchoff

Robert Benchoff
Bruce Barr
Julia Cramer
Donna Haugh / Jean High

Church of the Apostles Annual Report for the Year 2017

By Pastor Michael Cromer

The average attendance for the Sunday morning worship service in 2017 was around 26. In 2016 it was 31. The lowest attendance for the past year was 10; the lowest in 2016 was 14. The two highest attendances were Easter with 53 and Christmas at 60. The church lost three members by death last year. One person joined the church membership. Attendance for Holy Week services were around 8 people, and the Christian/Jewish Seder had 12 in 2017 in attendance compared to around 35 in past years.

Church of the Apostles continues to serve this community as it has for a number of years. There is continued interest in the community gardens now in their 8th year. People from the community currently plant and harvest produce from 15 garden plots. Over the past few years one of our gardeners and the garden coordinator, Trey Gelbach, has planted a Victory Garden and donated produce to Waynesboro Human Services. This summer his yield for the community was in the amount of 400 lbs. Although Trey is a member of Trinity, Waynesboro, he has been committed to the community gardens and has been an important reason why they continue to thrive.

This summer two young men were permitted to work off their community service by working with Trey in the garden. The girl scouts have recently expressed interest in the gardens so that they too can grow produce for those in need in this community. When the community gardens were in danger of being discontinued as a result of budget cuts, the gardeners pledged the money needed that would cover most of the garden's expenses.

For the past 7 years the children who attend church services have given their offering to help support Nelwin, our sponsored boy in the Philippines. We continue to receive letters from him and the children write to him and send him pictures periodically. Nelwin was 5 years old when the church began sponsoring him. He will be 12 in January 2018. The sponsorship program has given the children the experience of extending help to our global family. It is a lesson in giving that will remain with them through adulthood.

Sunday school classes were led by Julia Cramer and Arianna Taylor. I have provided the lesson material for the classes which is usually a continuation of my children's message given during the worship service.

The church continues to offer free use of space to outside groups such as AI ANON. Other outside groups, The Buchanan Quilters, Weight Watchers, and The College Club continue to use the church for their meetings and pay rent. The church property with its large parking lot, easy access, beautiful grounds and attractive and comfortable building has attracted many individuals and organizations that are looking for a place to meet, hold meetings, hold weddings, and offer services such as health screening for the community.

The church continues to collect and donate food and funds for the residents of Trinity House. The residents express their appreciation for this service throughout the year. People in need who call the church asking for assistance have been helped in many ways through the What Difference fund. The church has helped people with food, rent, medications, and utility bills. People still call the church office and ask, *“Is this the church that helps people?”* Unfortunately the needs of this community and most all communities are far greater than this church can handle despite the many resources people have for assistance.

The church continues to support Hoffman Homes for Youth with periodic cash donations and the purchase of Christmas gifts for the children as well as money for birthday cards for the children.

There have been no SERRV sales this year due to the declining sale of merchandise. Over half of the merchandise from previous sales was being returned to SERRV.

I again emphasize the importance of everyone’s participation in the church no matter how small or insignificant it might seem. The attendance of worship services and participation in special events and meetings is essential to a healthy church. It is up to each member to make the decisions that will keep this churches doors open and its future bright. It is my hope that Church of the Apostles will make all of its decisions based on faith, asking God for guidance as to how to serve him.

JANUARY

Lay, Life, and Work Committee took down the Christmas Greens.

Donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats have been hung on the Mitten Tree were given to Waynesboro Human Services to be distributed to people in need of winter wear in our community.

Lay, Life and Work Committee hosted a catered meal after Mae Kauffman's funeral service on January 14.

The Book Study began, meeting weekly on Tuesday at 11 AM.

An Open and Affirming Meeting was held to discuss the process of becoming an ONA Church.

FEBRUARY

Lay, Life and Work Committee hosted our first community potluck of the year with a Valentine's Day theme. Tom Jolin and the RockCandy Cloggers returned for a concert, with Rock and Candy clog dancing and Slim Harrison singing and playing a variety of musical instruments. This has traditionally been one of our most fun and popular events and is especially fun for children who participate by playing a variety of homemade musical instruments.

A second Open and Affirming Meeting was held to discuss the process of becoming an ONA Church.

"Spare change" and dollars were collected for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday to support the child sponsorship program.

MARCH

The Season of Lent began with our Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 1.

Covenant Players presented short plays during the worship service on March 5.

The book shelves for a library were donated by Mary Lou Misner. The Free Little Library was established in Fellowship Hall.

MARCH *(continued)*

A New 60" flat screen T.V. was donated by Judy Fitz for the social hall. The new television will allow the church to enhance its ministry through movies.

A third Open and Affirming Meeting was held to discuss the process of becoming an ONA Church.

The Youth Group collected and donated \$72.00 to the Pennies For Peace program.

APRIL

Religious Art by Salvador Dali was displayed in the Narthex. His work called **St. John of the Cross** and **The Sacrament of the Last Supper** are Dali's interpretations of the crucifixion and the Last Supper.

Three movies have been shown on the new big screen television in the social hall. The response has been favorable with around twelve people attending each week.

The musical duo Simple Gifts will perform at our April 9 worship service.

A Christian/Jewish Seder meal was held on Palm Sunday, April 9 at 3:00 pm. A community potluck was held after the symbolic meal.

On Maundy Thursday the church remembered Jesus' last meal with his disciples in the upper room prior to his arrest and crucifixion. Those who attend the service sat at a long table as the disciples and Jesus did on the night before his crucifixion. Participants were served wine/grape juice and bread as the disciples were.

On Good Friday the church marks the death of Jesus. This somber service included a dramatic reading of the gospel account of Jesus' *passion (the suffering of Christ after the Last Supper including his crucifixion.)*

Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Our service was a service of joy, celebration, renewal. The children again decorated a bare wooden cross with flowers.

MAY

The “Adopt a Tree or Planter” program continued, enhancing the church grounds with new mulch. Flowers were planted in the 7 outdoor planters and the outdoor beds located under the cross, at the Activity Center, and under the Amsterdam Road sign, the Peace Pole Garden, flower beds on both sides of the north entrance sidewalk canopy, and plantings along the north side of the building. Many thanks to all who helped with this important ministry !

This is the 7th year for our Community Garden, which is located behind the fellowship hall. Franklin County Master Gardener Trey Gelbach is our volunteer Community Garden Coordinator this year.

Stewardship & Finance Committee began work on balancing the Budget for 2018.

JUNE

The Lay, Life and Work Committee held the annual Ladies Social at the Keystone Family Restaurant.

Church of the Apostles was acknowledged by the Penn Central Conference for its 50th anniversary. The former St. Paul - Harbaugh Charge of the UCC officially became The Church of the Apostles, UCC at a Uniting Service held at Trinity, UCC, Waynesboro on March 26, 1967.

The first Outdoor Worship service of the summer was held on June 18.

Thanks so much to everyone who adopted trees and areas to mulch, it all looks so beautiful ! A special thanks to Nevin & Sondra Monn, who adopted multiple trees and Nevin who did the large beds along both sides of the church; and a special thanks to Donna Levick, who weeded, planted, edged and mulched the biblical garden, the bed under the cross, the Amsterdam road sign bed, and did the same with Bev Fitz for the Outdoor Activity Center beds.

Thanks also to Donna for selecting the flowers for the sidewalk planters and with Bev planted all the planters. Thank you to Pastor Michael for selecting & planting the flowers for the planter and the beds at the North entrance. Thanks to Shelley Benchoff for selecting & planting the annual flowers for the Peace Garden and with Bob's help doing the mulching.

JULY

Our second outdoor worship service of the summer was held on July 9.

About 50 people from Church of the Apostles, Trinity UCC of Waynesboro and Trinity State Line came together at Apostles as one church family on the evening of July 14 to watch Disney's most recent version of Beauty and the Beast movie outside on a big screen on the church property at Apostles.

A special dedication service at Harbaugh Church was held on Sunday, July 30 at 2:00 to acknowledge the recent preservation work on the churches stained glass windows. Pastor Michael conducted the brief service followed by a reception at Church of the Apostles.

AUGUST

Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies to Waynesboro Human Services for children of the Waynesboro community.

SEPTEMBER

Lay, Life and Work Committee hosted a meal after Dennis Bonner's funeral service on September 2.

Lay, Life and Work Committee hosted the annual church picnic on September 10 following our last outdoor worship service of the season. There were games, drawings and as the old expression goes "*a good time was had by all.*"

The annual picnic of the community gardeners was held late afternoon on September 26 on the lawn behind the church near the garden plots.

Ernie Fitz created something new in the church field at the corner of Barnett Avenue and Amsterdam Road. Sunflowers were planted on the outer three sides. The middle of the habitat has a variety of wildflowers including many milkweed for the feeding and reproduction of the beautiful, endangered Monarch butterfly. This important environmental wildlife ministry is a site of natural beauty for the congregation and community to enjoy. Thanks, Ernie, for the generous gift of your time & talent, spray, tractor and equipment to make this ministry a reality !

OCTOBER

A Congregational Meeting was held on October 1 to end the pastor's Full Time Call Agreement, effective December 31, 2017.

On Tuesday October 3, ladies representing 8 churches and a Y - Gradale Sorority gathered at the Church of the Apostles sorting new items to be distributed to South Mountain Restoration Center, Pregnancy Ministries, Faith Community Outreach Ministries, Waynesboro Community and Human Services and Franklin County Headstart Programs.

This was the 41st annual ingathering of the Waynesboro Branch of NGA Inc.

NOVEMBER

Life Line screening for the community was held on Saturday November 4 in the Fellowship Hall.

Church of the Apostles hosted Social Seniors on November 13. Brian Jacobs presented a program on his Baltic Voyage.

Lay, Life and Work Committee hosted the meal for the Annual Meeting on November 19. Revisions were approved for amendments to the Constitution and By Laws, the proposed 2018 Budget and the Pastor's 3/4 time Call Agreement to begin January 1, 2018.

DECEMBER

Christmas cards with pictures of the church at Christmas taken by Linda Ritchey were available for purchase with profits going to the church Building Maintenance fund.

The congregation hung the Christmas greens in the sanctuary, fellowship hall & narthex on December 3.

Tom Jolin and his hammered dulcimer provided special music for us during our 10:45 worship service on Dec. 10.

Members of the congregation went Christmas Caroling on December 17, traveling to Trinity House and to the homes of some of our members who are no longer able to attend church.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A new shed was ordered for use by the Community Gardeners. This was made possible through donations to the Dennis Bonner Memorial Fund. The new shed will be placed near the existing shed in 2018. A wooden plaque made by Randy Cramer will be installed on the new shed, in honor of Dennis Bonner.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMPLETED IN 2017

Stanley door opener was repaired

Weather stripping and bottom door sweeps on the front doors

Outside faucet was replaced

Rubber roof was repaired

A toilet seat was replaced

Vacuum cleaner switch was repaired

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

The Archive Committee maintains our archives and artifacts, and assists people in the community who request information from our St. Paul and Harbaugh church record books.

Linda Ritchey, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

An audit was performed to review 2016 transactions in the checking account. Edward Jones Investments named Barry Ratcliff as our new financial adviser. The committee worked diligently on plans to rectify the church's overall financial picture. A recommendation was made to Consistory to reduce the pastor's salary to a part-time position. The budget approved for 2018 reflected many cuts in an effort to begin to achieve a balance operating budget and to protect investments for the future of the church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Haugh, Co-Chair
Jean High, Co-Chair

SPIRITUAL COUNCIL

The council members are the elders of consistory. Chairperson this year was Julia Cramer. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis to address specific concerns of the congregation. At a meeting held in July the council addressed changes needed to the Constitution and By-Laws to reflect specific inclusiveness regarding membership and use of the church building

Also, the pastor was informed of the reality that our small congregation can no longer support a full-time pastor's package. After much prayer, study, research and number crunching the Stewardship & Finance committee recommended that in order to get our budget balanced, while protecting our long term investments, we can no longer afford to pay a full-time pastor's package. The committee met with Pastor Michael to discuss this idea and how we can work together in a gradual transition toward him working as part-time pastor.

The pastor, secretary and organist were not evaluated as no salary increases were to be in the 2018 budget.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Altar Guild

Altar Guild prepares the Sacraments for Holy Communion, purchases supplies for services, changes and launders the altar cloths and linens, maintains the oil for the candles, coordinates and prepares the lists for ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, and readers, receives orders and arranges delivery of the Easter and Christmas flowers, and purchases altar flowers, as necessary.

Christian Outreach Committee

Garden Produce Table proceeds were used to provide a donation to our What Difference Do It Make Fund and Waynesboro Human Services. Thanks to Bruce and Maude Barr.

Pastor Michael visits many members and sends cards regularly, as needed.

The “Silver Express” food bank continues to collect and deliver food to the residents of Trinity House.

A big “Thank you” to Sondra and Nevin Monn for changing the inspirational message on the sign in the front lawn every week.

Christian Education Committee

Pastor Michael has a special Children’s Message each Sunday, and mostly provides the props and treats.

Children’s Sunday School is a time for the children to take a break during the worship service to be in fellowship with each other, reflect on the Pastor’s Children’s message, color, play, read a story or see a video.

The children’s offerings are designated to support a child in the Phillipines, Nelwin Adling, through the Global Ministries of the U.C.C.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ALTAR GUILD: Pastor Michael, Tony Haugh, Donna Haugh, Bev Fitz, Debbie & Conner Jacobs, Nancy Dinterman.

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE: Linda Ritchey, Chairperson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Bob Benchoff, Mary Lou Misner

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Linda Hovis, Shirley Zeigler, Jean High, Judy Fitz, Donna Haugh, Donna Levick, Sondra Monn and Mary Lou Misner

CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE: Pastor Michael, Randy Cramer, Nancy Dinterman, Donna Levick, and Bob Benchoff, Chairperson

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Bob Benchoff, Church Contact Person

LAY, LIFE, AND WORK COMMITTEE:
Bev Fitz, Nancy Dinterman, Debbie Jacobs, and Linda Hovis.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY: Bruce Barr, and Bob Benchoff, Chairperson

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:
Robert Benchoff, Randy Cramer, Nancy Dinterman, Robert Stum, Brian Jacobs, and Bruce Barr, Chairperson

SPIRITUAL COUNCIL: Mary Lou Misner, Jean High, Martha Smith, and Julia Cramer, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:
Bob Benchoff, Linda Ritchey, Judy Fitz, Mary Lou Misner, Donna Haugh and Jean High, Co-Chairs

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please forward an address change to the Church office.

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