

# ***September 2017 Newsletter***



*Sunflowers in Full Bloom*

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

***WORSHIP 10 AM***

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

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

***Website: [www.apostlesucc.com](http://www.apostlesucc.com)***

## From the Pastor's Study

There is a saying that has been around for many years about being a pastor *"It's an easy job, after all, they only work on Sunday's"* That might be true for a person who is filling in for a pastor on a Sunday while they are on vacation or attending a conference, but far from true for people who are carrying out the day to day responsibilities of a pastor.

A friend of mine who is also in ministry said recently, *"I don't think most congregations really know what their pastor does during the week."* I agreed. Most don't unless they are also working in the church office during the week when the pastor is there and they see what a typical day is like. I'd like to give you an idea of what an average day looks like for me using examples of events that present themselves during a typical month.

I usually arrive at the church around 8 AM, stop for the mail; check the prayer box for prayer requests. Entering my office I see that the red light on the answering machine is flashing. Listening to the message it is yet another person representing a company that is selling a program that if purchased assures an increase in church attendance. Sometimes it is a call from someone asking for assistance from the church. Or, it might be someone asking me if I knew that someone has been in the hospital for the past three days. Usually I did not know.

I sort through the snail mail and check my e-mail. There might be a reminder of an upcoming ministerial meeting in Perry County, or Carlisle, or Mechanicsburg. A colleague might be sharing a personal issue they are having at their church. *"What do you think I should do?"* they ask. Often there is a letter from yet another person representing a company promoting something to benefit the church if only we would purchase it. An agent for a contemporary Christian rock group is going to be in the area and perhaps we might want them to perform at the church for a reduced fee of \$4,000.

During a walk through the church I might find that someone has left the water running in one of the rest rooms. The roof has leaked from last night's storm soaking the carpet. A coffee maker has been left on again as have the lights in one of the back rooms. The storm has brought down a big tree limb. Calls are made to someone from the property committee. I head back to my office.

I need to begin putting together the service for this Sunday. I get my reference books out, look at the scriptures for the week. Which one will I

preach on this Sunday? From which scripture can I deliver a message I think people need to hear? After making my decision I pull out the volume of my commentaries that gives various interpretations of the scripture. What parts of that interpretation do I think will most speak to people in a sermon?

As I begin working on my sermon there is a knock on the door. "*Come in.*" I say. It is three elderly men from the Gideon's. They come by every month or so to pray for the church, to pray for my ministry, and more recently to pray for my family during our recent crisis. Last week the wife of one of the men brought me a peach pie she had made; her way of offering comfort to me and my family who have been through a lot these past few weeks. A card signed by many people who are members of the Gideon's is received saying that several bibles were purchased in my name. The men stay for 20 minutes.

After a time of prayer and visit from these men of faith, I return to working on my sermon. The phone rings, it is someone asking for assistance with a utility bill. They are frantic. The power will be turned off at 5:00 today. "*I'll see what I can do.*" I tell them. I will see how much money is left in the What Difference fund when the secretary comes in. The door to the church office opens. It is Jim our church organist. He is here to go over the hymns for this Sunday. "*What are you preaching on?*" he asks. We have a conversation about other things going on in the church, in the community, in the world. "*I'll be back tomorrow with the hymns.*" He says.

There is another knock on the door. This time it is one of the community gardeners. They have some produce from their garden they would like to give me. Behind them, another person from the community garden has arrived. They need to talk to me about some issues with the garden and about selecting a date for the end of season picnic the gardeners have. "*I'll send letters out to everyone asking them what date best suites them.*" It will be the third letter I have written to them this summer to discuss issues we are having with some of the gardens, or just sharing some information on composting, watering, mulching, etc. Our community gardeners are a congregation themselves. They often share their personal lives, both good and bad, with me.

I go back to working on this Sunday's service when the secretary arrives to begin working on the bulletin. A first draft of the bulletin is given to me to review and edit. No hymns will be added until tomorrow. She reminds me of something I have forgotten to write or have yet to address. A publication with samples of church bulletin covers has been put on my desk. She wants me to pick a cover for the candlelight service when I have a chance. It is still August.

I remember that I have not yet written some thank you letters on behalf of the church for some financial gifts received. Sign-up sheets need to be printed and put out for an upcoming event. Signs also need to be created and put up giving people the time and date of an event.

I return to working on my sermon and next week's service. I look through my books of prayers; search the internet for various liturgies that might lend themselves to the theme of this week's service. Better start putting something on paper for my sermon, at least a heading. One never knows how much time they will actually have to work on a sermon. At any time a call might come that someone has died, there has been an accident; someone is in intensive care at the hospital. *"Can you go see them?" "I'll stop by on my way home this afternoon."* The day ends earlier than usual because of this new situation.

During my drive to the hospital my mind is on many things. What kind of shape will I find this person in? How will the family be handling it? Afterwards I should stop and get some "get well" cards on my way home. There are some folks at church who are dealing with some health issues. My mind goes to this week's sermon. I think about what I have read in the commentary about the scripture I will be speaking on. I almost forgot! I need to pick up some things for the children's message as well as some new things for the basket of treats for them. Saturday I will run over to the Christian books store near my home and see what she has.

At home my cell phone rings; it is someone asking for help from the church. I'll see what I can do in the morning I tell them. Thoughts of this Sunday's sermon return. New thoughts, insights, come to me. I jot them down on a notepad to use for my sermon. In bed that night my mind is still on the activities of the day and what I must do tomorrow.

Sunday has arrived. I usually arrive at church two hours before the service. I unlock doors, turn on lights, fill coffee makers with water, water plants. I put anything that is out of place in order. I talk with Jim about the service, any changes we might need to make, any errors he might have found in the service. I put together whatever is needed to do the children's message. Props are set out for their message. I check to make sure the sound system is on and working correctly. I review the bulletin a last time and go through my sermon one last time editing it as I go. New insights may have come to me since I wrote it that I feel need to be added. It is important to me that every detail is addressed before people arrive on Sunday morning. I'm not sure how many people even realize that or give it much thought but it is important to me

because my employer is God and whatever I do for God must be done to the best of my ability in order to be worthy of him.

*In Christian Love,  
Pastor Michael*

*So then, my dear friends stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless.-1 Corinthians 15: 58 (Good News Translation)*

## **Thank You for Your Prayers and Concern**

*Thanks for  
your prayers...*

As many of you know, my 37 year old nephew Abram fell from a third floor balcony while on vacation in Ocean City, Md. on July 29. He incurred brain injury, a broken jaw and numerous fractures throughout his body. After five weeks of care at the Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, the Life Care Hospital in Mechanicsburg and lastly at Penn State rehab in Hummelstown he is coming home on Sept. 3. This kind of fast recovery after so much bodily injury is nothing short of a miracle. Thank you for your prayers and concern that were added to the hundreds of prayers of others who were praying for his recovery.

–Pastor Michael

## **Community Garden Picnic**

Our community gardeners will again celebrate this summer's harvest by coming together for a potluck picnic near the garden plots in September. The congregation again is invited to join them. A date has yet to be chosen for the picnic.



# *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

- 3 Worship 10 AM
- 10 Outdoor Worship 10:45 AM
- 10 Church Picnic following Worship
- 11 Buchanan Trail Quilters 5:30 PM
- 17 Worship 10:45 AM
- 17 Consistory 12 Noon
- 18 College Club 6 PM
- 19 Silver Express Delivery 1:30 PM
- 24 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*



## Ushers & Greeters

- September 3: Tony & Donna Haugh  
September 10: Nevin & Sondra Monn  
September 17: Jean High & Ernie Fitz  
September 24: Randy Cramer & Donna Levick

## Communion Assistants

- September 3: Tony & Donna Haugh  
October 1 : Bob Stum & Bob Benchoff



## Outdoor Worship Service

Our third outdoor worship service will be on September 10 at 10:45 at the outdoor worship area on the church grounds. You may sit under the trees or in the sunlight. You are welcome to bring your own folding chair although chairs will be provided. Dress comfortably and casually.

## “Silver Express” Food Bank

Thank you for your help to fill their bowls!



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



All canned/boxed food on the shelves will be delivered

# **Peredovik Black Oil Sunflowers Are Blooming in Our Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat**

Ernie Fitz has created something new in the church field at the corner of Barnett Avenue and Amsterdam Road.

Initiated by Pastor Michael and inspired by Jeremy Mellott's sunflower field near Chambersburg, Ernie and the Property Committee proposed the idea to Consistory for approval.

In addition to the sunflowers, 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 also a site of natural beauty for the congregation and community to enjoy.

At the end of the season after the wildlife finishes eating the seeds Ernie will break up the dry sunflower stalks and plant a cover crop.

Thanks, Ernie, for the generous gift of your time & talent, spray, tractor and equipment to make this ministry a reality !









## Church Picnic

The annual church picnic will be held on the church grounds on Sunday, September 10 immediately following our last outdoor worship service of the summer. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.



## Return to Autumn Worship Time

Our worship service will return to 10:45 beginning on September 10.

## School Supply Donations

Thank you to those who donated school supplies to Waynesboro Human Services for distribution to children in need in the community.



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1967 – 2017

We, your Christian brothers and sisters of the United Church of Christ  
of the Penn Central Conference  
recognize and celebrate the faithful ministry of the people of

## CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WAYNESBORO, PA

on your

### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

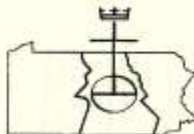
We are grateful for the many ways through the years  
and in the present time, in which you have been, and are,  
ambassadors of Christ,  
offering and furthering God's reconciling love  
through worship, study, fellowship, and service.

Our prayers of thanksgiving are  
with you this day and always.

May God grant you  
wisdom, courage, vision and faithfulness  
in all the years ahead.

  
Conference Minister

  
Commission on Ministry



# 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our church was recognized by and received the 50th Anniversary certificate (pictured on the left) from the Penn Conference at the annual PCC meeting in June.

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 Special Services Committee shown in the following photo planned the service which included the installation of Rev. William R. Swisher and the Consistory members.

Our celebration will continue with monthly newsletter photos of the Joint Consistory, Joint Study Committee and Legal, Finance & Building Committees as well as progress photos leading up to the Building Dedication in 1969. A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee will be formed to plan a Service of Celebration to commemorate the Building Dedication in 2019.



**Back Row:** Donald Ingels, Hubert Burns, Rev. William Swisher.

**Front Row:** Josephine McCleary, Shirley Zeigler, Betty Kline, Phyllis Burns.

## Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 1, 2017 - following Worship

I am calling a special meeting of the congregation to be held October 1, 2017.

The purpose is to review the proposed 2018 budget which includes the pastor's salary/hours reduced to part-time. A congregational vote to end the pastor's current full-time Call Agreement is required. The proposed end date is December 31, 2017. Pastor Michael has agreed to the proposed part-time salary. Consistory voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget and to end the full-time Call Agreement at a special meeting held August 20, 2017.

The vote for a new part-time Call Agreement, to begin January 1, 2018, will be held at the Annual Meeting on November 19, 2017.

I have been working with the Stewardship & Finance committee on the proposed 2018 budget addressing the fact that our church has been operating in the **"RED"** for a long time. We are proposing heavy budget cuts. Our goal is a balanced operating budget and to protect our investments. When we get financially stabilized, a clear plan for the future can begin.

The Penn Central Conference and Mercersburg Association guidelines recommend a part-time pastor for congregations with less than 70 members. We have been in that category for many years with no corrective action. All part-time pastors lead the worship services, as usual, but have reduced office hours, meetings and other church related tasks.

Please contact me with questions/concerns at 717-749-3839.

Mary Lou Misner,  
Consistory President

### CONSISTORY MEMBERS



Julia Cramer  
Jean High  
Mary Lou Misner  
Martha Smith



Donna Levick  
Sondra Monn  
Nevin Monn  
Brian Jacobs

# BUILDING & GROUNDS PROJECTS

Volunteers are needed for the following:

## **OUTSIDE:**

- Spread wood chips on playground
- Re-attach soffit vent panels
- Trim dead tree limbs & branches
- Trim shrubbery

## **INSIDE :**

- Wash Sunday school windows & blinds
- Clean hall closets, high air ducts & ceiling light panels
- Sand & seal sanctuary window sills & nearby pew ends

Please contact Pastor Michael or Bob Benchoff if you will undertake a project. You may work on the project as it fits your schedule. Thank you for helping to keep the church beautiful.



# NGA Ingathering

The 2017 NGA Ingathering will be held at the Church of the Apostles on October 3.

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





# Dennis E. Bonner Obituary

Mr. Dennis E. Bonner, 79, of Mentzer Gap Road, Waynesboro, died Tuesday morning, August 29, 2017, in the Chambersburg Hospital.

Born September 19, 1937 in Waynesboro, he was the son of the late Joseph and Helen C. (Ritter) Bonner. He was a lifelong resident of the Waynesboro area.

Mr. Bonner served with the United States Army as a paratrooper with the 82nd and 101st Airborne during the Korean War.

He and his wife of over 59 years, Janet L. (Cook) Bonner, were married on June 27, 1958 in Hagerstown, MD.

Mr. Bonner worked at Mack Truck, Hagerstown, MD, for over 29 years as a skilled trade cutter grinder, retiring in September 1999.

He was a member of Joe Stickell American Legion Post #15, the Owl's Club, and William Max McLaughlin V.F.W. Post #695, all of Waynesboro.

Mr. Bonner enjoyed being in the mountains, especially hunting and fishing.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by six children, Ted High and his wife, Paula of Middleburg, FL, Darrell High and his wife, Lili of Orange Park, FL, Selina Lowry and her husband, Andy of Waynesboro, Laurie Deavers and her husband, Danny of Waynesboro, Charlie Bonner and his wife, Missee of Waynesboro, and Dennis Bonner, Jr. and his wife, Kay of Waynesboro; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; one brother, David A. Bonner of Fayetteville; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two children, Kathy Bonner and Douglas Bonner; and one brother, Larry J. Bonner.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, September 2, 2017, in The Church of the Apostles, 336 Barnett Ave., Waynesboro, with Rev. Michael Cromer officiating. Burial will be private in Green Hill Cemetery, Waynesboro, where military honors will be conducted by the honor guard of Charles Nitterhouse V.F.W. Post #1599, Chambersburg.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services, Saturday morning, in the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Church of the Apostles, 336 Barnett Ave., Waynesboro, PA 17268.

Grove-Bowersox Funeral Home, Waynesboro, is handling the arrangements.

Thank you from a recipient of help from the What Difference Do It Make Fund:

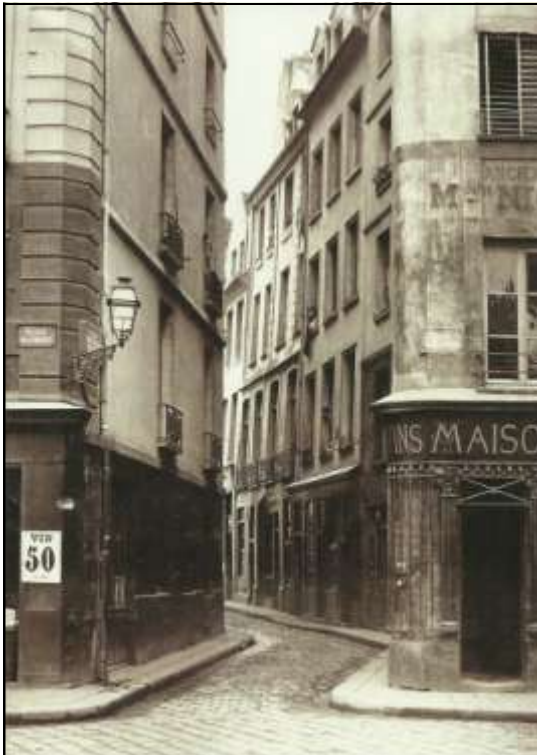


Thank You

Pastor Michael,

I give thanks to the Lord for you,  
For you have truly blessed me,  
You reached out so willingly  
To meet me in my need.  
It was such a wonderful  
blessing and meant so very  
much, for the gift that you gave  
to me, was from a heart of  
love.

I am very grateful for both  
the hundred dollars + what-  
ever portion of the electric  
bill that you are able to pay,  
Thank you!



Dear Pastor Cronas

Thank you for your time and  
leadership in preparing and presenting  
a lovely service for the Window Preservation  
Dedication Service at Harbough Church.  
From your inspiring words to the lovely  
hymns, it was a truly memorable  
experience for me and my  
family - one we will always  
treasure.

Wishing you a joyful summer  
and fall.

With deepest appreciation  
Mae Shank Hudson

Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

Church of the apostles

The flowers that were delivered plus the love and support given to me tell me again how supportive this congregation really is to those needing help and encouragement. I really appreciate all that was done for me.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Wetherald



Pastor Aamer -

I would like to express my appreciation to you for giving me an opportunity to share at your church.

My wife and I were well received by your congregation. We received many kind words of encouragement at the end of the service.

We will continue to pray that your church remains a lighthouse in the community.

In recognition of your thoughtful ideas, and through the purchase of this card, the sender has supported the distribution of God's Word around the world by The Global Incentival.

upon every remembrance of YOU.  
Philippians 1:3

Thank you.

Blessings,  
Marlin and Eva

**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 2017**

## ***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.*