

Good News

C O N N E L L S V I L L E P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

T H E M I N I S T E R ' S M U S I N G S

Ephesians 4:11-13 ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Titus 2:11-12 ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

Why does a church exist? For what purpose does Connellsville Presbyterian exist? Session has been studying this question in order to make Godly decisions for the life of the congregation.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (ESV)

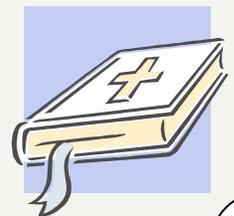
This passage says we are a part of God's plan to reconcile the world to himself. We've been joined with God to help join the world to God. We need to broaden our view! An individual church does not exist for its members or for the sake of its own existence. We exist, as individuals and as a local body of Christ (church), for Christ and His purposes. What is that purpose? In our sermon series on Acts, we've talked about the homework assignment Jesus gave his followers until he returns: Be my witnesses; make disciples.

Jesus. He's the purpose in our existence, the purpose behind all our activities -- or we're not a church. The job of the church is to be the body of Christ – to incarnate Jesus for the next generation – can they see Jesus in us? Do we bear witness to him?

How are we going about being Jesus to Connellsville? **A witness tells what has happened, what he has seen and experiences. We are to tell the people we encounter about Jesus, to show them the love of Jesus in how we live our lives and our relationships.** The *Foundations of Faith* in our PCUSA constitution defines the church this way:

- a community of **faith**, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.
- a community of **hope**, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation.
- a community of **love**, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.
- a community of **witness**, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

How are we doing? Is this what Connellsville Presbyterian looks like? How can YOU help make us what God is calling us to be? What could we accomplish if we were living up to God's plans?
Rev Suzanne



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CHURCH CALENDAR

WINTER 2013, 2014 EVENTS

December

Dec 1 – First Sunday in Advent,
Communion, 11am

Dec 7-8 – Nativity display
Sat: 1-5; Sun 12-3

Dec 9 – Session Meeting

Dec 14 – Children's Christmas
Party 10am-12

Dec 15 – Children's Christmas
Program, 11am

Dec 15 – Zampella Open
House 1-4pm

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve
Service, 7 pm

Dec 25 – Christmas Day

January–February

Jan 5 – Communion

Jan 8 – Faith Finders
resumes

Sat. Feb 2 – Indoor Yard
Sale 9am-1pm

Feb 23 – Financial Peace
University begins

The Meaning of the Christmas Wreath

*Every Christmas wreath is more than just a decoration
It's a special reminder of Jesus, the reason for our celebration.
The circle of a Christmas wreath is a never-ending ring,
A reminder of eternal love from our Lord and King.
The Christmas wreath is a sign of welcome, inviting all to enter in...
A reminder of Christ's invitation is for all to come to Him.
The middle of a Christmas wreath is a bare and empty space,
A reminder of what life would be without Christ's love and grace.
So each time you see a Christmas wreath hanging from a door,
May your heart rejoice in the One that Christmas is truly for!*

By Holly Gerth

Contributed by Estella Grose

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Dec. 1—Chuck Schmidt

Dec.16—Scott Whetsel

Dec. 19—Dylan Martin

Dec. 23—Marilyn Mitchell

Dec. 24—Janet Driscoll

Dec. 27—Ashleigh Farrah

Dec. 28—Estella Grose

Jan. 2—Tommy Christopher,
Haleigh Ferencuha

Jan. 3—Mason O'Casek

Jan. 4—Danny Rosensteel

Jan. 7—Jackie Miller

Jan. 9—Carol Groff,
Rachel Pastors

Birthdays

Jan. 12—Audra McFadden

Jan. 15—Bill Driscoll

Jan. 21—Stacie Kerns

Jan. 30—Nick Tarr

Feb. 3—Paul Grose

Feb. 4—Tom Welch

Feb. 5—Winifred Dilworth

Feb. 11—Scott Brooks,
Addison Farrah

Feb. 13—Jean Whetsel

Feb. 19—Nancy Henry,
Shawn Grimm

Feb. 27—Sandy Brooks

Feb. 28—Bailey Rosensteel

Anniversaries

Dec. 6—Shelly and Brain Hann

Feb. 5—Jenny and David O'Casek

Feb. 14—Suzanne and Neil Zampella

Feb. 22—Pat and John Arzbacher

Feb. 24—Sue and John Husband

Members and loved ones who have joined the Church Eternal

Ida E (Lib) Balsley

Worth Bigham

Shirley Bruening

Robert Striner



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Faith Finders Starts Again January 8

Faith Finders is our mid-week youth program for school aged children. We meet every Wednesday evening for fellowship, food and fun.

5:30 pm—Dinner

6:00 pm—Programs

Please bring your children to help strengthen their faith and make lasting friendships.



Children's Christmas Party

Saturday Dec. 14th

10 am —Noon

Congratulations on "Around Connellsville"

Our church family would like to congratulate our members, Karen Hechler, co-author, and Bill Sechler, scanning and organizing photographs, for the recently published "Around Connellsville" book which is part of the Arcadia Publishing "Images of America" series. Our church is included in the pictures found in the book, and some church members volunteered pictures which were used in this pictorial history. It's good to see local history being shared and preserved for our community. Paul Eckman, who has strong Connellsville roots, is also co-author of this local history.

Financial Peace University

Get ready for *another* Financial Peace University class starting February 23 at 6 -7:30 pm. We're going to learn what the Bible says about how to handle money and debt. Financial Peace University will teach you how to *control your spending*, enable you to *pay off debt*, and to finally *put some money into savings*. Questions? Visit the CPC website at www.connellsvillepresbyterian.org

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School—9:30 am

Worship—11:00 am

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL COLLEEN AND DALE KOOSER

This couple is very faithful to the church. You see them in worship most every Sunday. They would be Dale and Colleen Kooser. This couple is also the best Aunt and Uncle ever.

Colleen has always been a Connellsville girl except for a short period at the beginning of her career. She is a RN and a graduate of Mercy Hospital. Now the Clinical Coordinator of SPU at Frick Hospital, Colleen has been a nurse for 39 years spending the last 37 of those years at Frick. Lately she has been spending her spare time at Harmon House with daily visits to her mother, one of our church family, Jackie Miller.

Dale is also a Connellsville native and comes from a large family. He is retired from Modulus. Dale has got to be one of the most active retirees that I have ever seen. He is always busy. Since he likes to be outside, he does a great job keeping other people's cars clean and polished. He also does detailing on cars. If you need a ride to Pittsburgh Airport, Dale is your man. Before his knees got bad, he did a lot of washing walls for people.

This couple loves life, and a favorite spot is Cape May, New Jersey. They love the beach. Antiquing is tops on their list for a Saturday afternoon. And sports, especially football, is enjoyable. Look for the whole Kooser clan at Bud Murphy's after a Friday night football game. They have a standing reservation.

Family First is their motto. Dale and Colleen have helped to raise Ava, Hannah, and Noah, great nieces and nephew. These children are the grandchildren of Colleen's late sister Kathleen, and the children of her nephew, Colin. These children plus the children of Dale's siblings are all part of Aunt Colleen and Uncle Dale's lives.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CONNELLSVILLEPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

CONNELLSVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
711 S. PITTSBURGH ST.
CONNELLSVILLE PA 15425

SESSION SUMMARY

✦ Session has been studying the purpose of the church and membership. We've studied scripture, definitions from the Book of Order, the six great ends of the church and discussed what "active in the life and work of the church" means as well as how to discern God's will for Connellsville Presbyterian in relationship to scripture and the confessional statements of what church is. We're trying to become Spiritual leaders, not just managers.

✦ We have discussed the issues facing the PCUSA and the upcoming General Assembly, including the early reports of overtures that will come before GA. Connellsville is to send a ruling elder to GA next summer. This involves a week in Detroit, lots of preparation before the GA, 12 hour days in committees and plenary meetings, and a good knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Session selected Ruling Elder Neil Zampella to go as he has followed general assembly actions for many years.

✦ We discussed the political group *Rock of Liberty's* 10 Commandments Monuments again. The issue was brought back to Session because several elders have been asked about having one installed after session's decision in Dec '13 to not install one. Session discussed the theological, political, and legal implications of the decision as well as the experience of the Dunbar Presbyterian Church. Session is not inclined to seek installation, but the session is willing to consider the request again if given information on the politics and finances of the group behind the monuments, as well as the requirements, restrictions, and other matters to which the church would have to agree so that session can make an informed decision that reflects the long-term best interests of the congregation.

✦ We have discussed the continued leaks in our roof and our trouble resolving those issues and the threat of a lawsuit from Miller roofing.

✦ We have finalized a wedding policy; and are working on a facilities use policy.

Remember: Session minutes including committee reports are posted on-line at ConnellsvillePresbyterian.org (you will need to sign up for a login)

