



First News First

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 6

JULY 2016

First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

From the Pastor

"Why To Wear Your Nametag to Church"

Just imagine. Betsy and I will soon celebrate our first anniversary here at First Church. You have so lovingly welcomed us into your life and ministry that already we feel like family here. Thank you!

Last summer, as we were getting to know you, most of you wore nametags to worship. Betsy and I really appreciated being able to look at your nametag and call you by name. Of course, as the weeks and months rolled by, most of us stopped wearing them. Then, I was inspired, first by a nudge from our wonderful Hospitality Committee, then by a great article by church consultant Thom Rainer .

Rainer, lists **ten reasons EVERYONE in church ought to wear a nametag:**

Few people know everybody in the church. Nametags allow us to call each other by name even if we are just meeting for the first time.

Leaders need help with names. I want to know everybody's name in my church, but I'm not gifted with that kind of memory. I admit I need help if I want to be the best church leader I can be. I would much prefer calling people by name as I minister to them – and nametags allow me to do so.

Nametags invite conversation. Knowing another person's name breaks down one barrier to conversations that church folks ought to feel comfortable having. It's simply easier to talk with others when you are on a first-name basis.

Knowing names makes fellowship more personal. While calling each other "brother" or "sister" sounds good (and is theologically on target), that nomenclature is often a cover up for "I'm sorry I don't know your name, and I'm embarrassed to ask." As long as conversations remain at the anonymous "brother" and "sister" level, fellowship will remain surface level.

Nametags save embarrassment. We've probably all called someone by the wrong name, only to realize it later (or perhaps even within the same conversation). If "brother" or "sister" is a gentle way of saying, "I don't know your name," using the wrong name is an undeniable way of doing so. That's embarrassing for both parties.

Nametags promote outward focus. Using nametags is one way to say, "We expect God to send us guests, and we want to be ready to welcome them when they come."

Guests feel less conspicuous. We might give guests a nametag, but we

(Continued on page 2)

Dates to Remember

- July 3Communion
- July 6Movie Night
- July 11-15...NE Jurisdiction Conference
- July 15Newsletter Deadline
- July 20Grocery Bagging
- July 24Rejoicing Spirits Service
- July 25International Handbell Symposium

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Worship | 2 |
| Finance | 3 |
| Missions | 3 |
| Music | 4 |
| Health & Wellness | 4 |
| Congregational Care | 5 |
| Adult Ministry | 5 |
| Yout Adults | 6 |
| Youth | 6 |
| Scholarships | 7 |
| Camping | 7 |
| UMW | 8 |
| Library | 9 |
| Facilities | 10 |
| News & Notes | 12 |

(Continued from page 1)

should do so only if we are all wearing them, too. Guests should never be the ones who must ask members their names.

Saying to someone, “Please let us know your name” also says, “We want to know you.” Much has been written about guests’ desire for anonymity in churches, but I take a different slant on that issue. People who come to a church are looking for something. They often welcome care and concern. What they don’t want is to be smothered and made uncomfortable. That’s a different issue, though, than simply wanting to know them by name.

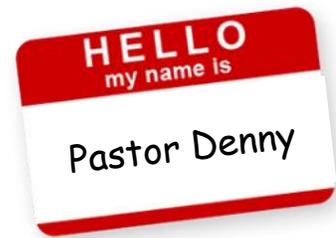
A “nametag” ministry provides opportunities for service. Somebody must purchase the name-tags. Somebody must distribute them. Greeters must remind folks to get their nametags. The opportunities for members to get involved in a simple but significant ministry are numerous.

Asking people to wear nametags costs little, but can reap big benefits. We're simply asking people in the church to wear a nametag to promote fellowship and welcome guests. In return we all get to know one another by name and newcomers feel welcomed and cared for. A win, win!

So, when you see me Sunday morning, I'll be wearing my nametag. Each week, I'm going to encourage you to do the same. Let's all be intentional about getting to know one another by name, for as we do we are being woven together in love.

Rejoicing in our fellowship together!

Pastor Denny



Worship

Sunday Morning
Worship Services
8:15 am &
10:45 am

Sunday School
9:30 am



The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disAbilities, their families, friends and care givers.

Holy Communion

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Monthly Communion | July 3 | Pew Service |
| Monthly Communion | August 7 | Loaves and Chalice |
| Monthly Communion | September 4 | Pew Service |
| World Communion | October 2 | Loaves and Chalice |
| First Sunday in Advent | November 27 | Pew Service |
| Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00 | December 24 | Loaves and Chalice |

Note: Gluten-free bread available in the center of the bread plates.

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

The **deadline** for submitting articles for the **August** issue is **July 15**

Early submissions always appreciated

Finance

Financial Report—through May 31, 2016 42% of year

General Fund

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| 2016 budget | \$ 890,000 | |
| Expected income | \$ 373,800 | |
| Actual income | \$ 369,590 | (41.5% of budget) |
| Shortfall | \$ 4,210 | |

Actual expenses \$ 354,491

Building Fund \$ 11,961

Legacy Campaign \$ 1,380

\$9,700 was paid on the debt from the Building Fund during May..

It is important that normal levels of giving are maintained during the summer travel months. An easy way to do that is to sign up for electronic giving. Forms are available at the Welcome Desk or the church office. You can also contribute through our web site using a credit card.

Missions

Grocery Bagging for Bethesda Mission

On the third Wednesday evening of every month members of First United Methodist Church gather at Mission Central to bag groceries for Bethesda Mission. All are invited to join and be a part of this mission opportunity. Join us at Mission Central on July 20 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeking@verizon.net for more information.

Penny Report ~ Now Located at the Sierra Leone Display in the Tower Hallway

Help supported the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any loose change, into the Penny Bucket. One hundred percent (100%) of your donations are used to provide training and dig wells that supply safe drinking water for schools and communities in Sierra Leone. There were 1,646 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,601.52.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!

Local Missionary Support

Several years ago our mission's committee prayed for and actively sought to find an individual from our local area whom we could support as they served in full time missionary work. All fell through but prayers never go unanswered. This month our committee met with four missionaries who are very local – homegrown. Jenna Mengle, Bethany Robinson, and Matt & LeeAnn Herring are all going full time with Cru. They are currently raising their own financial and prayer support so that beginning this August they can minister on various college campuses. This is very exciting and stretching for our body of believers. **Our four missionaries are scheduled to speak on July 10th during Sunday School hour.** It is very energizing, faith building, and humbling to hear of the step of faith into full time service our own “children” are taking. And each of them acknowledges the impact all our “church” programs, studies, groups, and trips have had on each of them to be ready to serve Jesus Christ in a new way.



If you are aware of a church who is like we used to be – interested in supporting a “local” missionary, please let the Missions Committee know so we can help that church find quality missionary(ies). We have them now!

Music

Ringling in the News

July 25th is quickly approaching. This is when the Vancouver 11 leave for the International Handbell Symposium. They are busy putting the finishing touches on the music they will be playing there. The ringers thought you might like to know what will happen while they are there. July 26th through the morning of July 30th they will be attending rehearsals, concerts, workshops and some special programs in the evenings. The conductors for the concert pieces as well as the music composers are from Canada, Korea, Japan, Australasia and USA. Not everyone speaks English so translators will be helping the ringers stay on track. Our choir will perform a few of the pieces on Sunday July 24th at both services. The choir will say good-bye at this point as they will be leaving between 1 and 2AM on July 25th. Watch for a report on how things went and what they did.

Thank you again for all of your support.

July Ministry of Music Sunday Morning Schedule

July 3—Ensemble (8:15 & 10:45)

July 10—Phoebe Noss (8:15 & 10:45); Invocation (10:45)

July 17—Andy Irons (8:15 & 10:45)

July 24—Bell Choirs (8:15 & 10:45)

July 31—Melissa Felty (8:15 & 10:45)

Health & Wellness

Why should I give blood?

The most important reason for becoming a regular blood donor is to meet the blood needs of our community. There is no substitute for human blood; donors are the only source. Every two seconds, someone needs blood, and an adequate blood supply is crucial to their survival. Remember, just one pint of your blood can save as many as four lives.

The demand for blood continues to increase, yet only 5% of the population donates.

July Blood Drives

| | | |
|---------|--|---------------|
| July 5 | Denny's Carlisle Pike | 3pm to 7pm |
| July 7 | Brenner Chrysler/Jeep Carlisle Pike | 3pm to 7pm |
| July 8 | Fox Center Mechanicsburg | 8am to 7pm |
| July 9 | Bowmansdale Church of God | 9am to 1pm |
| July 10 | Blue Moon Cruisers Car Show @ New Kingston Fire Station | 9am to 2pm |
| July 13 | Brenner Nissan Carlisle Pike | 3pm to 7pm |
| July 14 | Applebee's Carlisle Pike | 3:30pm to 8pm |
| July 15 | REMCO Hempt Rd. | 8am to 12pm |
| July 15 | Williams Grove Speedway | 5pm to 9pm |
| July 16 | AmeriChoice FCU Bumble Bee Hollow Rd. | 10am to 2pm |
| July 21 | Buffalo Wild Wings Carlisle Pike | 3pm to 7pm |
| July 24 | Capital Area Christian Church Lambs Gap Rd. | 10am to 1pm |
| July 26 | Village Wilson Lane | 10am to 4pm |

Congregational Care Ministry

A Message for Veterans and their Families

First Church member and woodworker, Charlie Glessner, enjoys making Flag Cases for veterans. Please take a look at the sample of Charlie's work on display in the Narthex area across from the Information Desk. Charlie would like to gift a Flag Case to First Church veterans and their family members who may be interested in receiving one. Please contact Janice Bowen at 766-4611 X112 or wecare@fumchurch.com with any questions or to request a Flag Case.

Adult Ministry

Movie Night – *War Room*

Join us on Wednesday evening, July 6 at 6:30 pm for a fun, church-wide movie night! We will be showing the movie *War Room* (rated PG), so come to enjoy some fellowship time and a fantastic movie about the power of prayer! Movie will be shown in the Adult Sunday School classroom (the green chairs section of the sanctuary) and childcare will be provided in room 216. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Eaton or Debbie Karns.

Summer Small Group Study – *War Room*

Following the showing of the *War Room* movie, join us for a 5-week follow-up study on prayer beginning Wednesday, July 13. This study will be held in room 207 from 6:45 – 8:15 pm. Come to watch/discuss clips from the movie, dig deeper into this spiritual discipline and discover the power of prayer! Please sign up for this study at the display in the main lobby or contact Tina Eaton at adult-ministry@fumchurch.com.

Sunday School in July and August

There are three choices for adult Sunday School this July and August for you to consider:

- “DSF” Class – This is a new Sunday School Class for young adults. All college students/young adults are welcome to come for **discipling**, **seeking** the truth within scripture, and **fellowshipping** together. Class meets in the youth lounge (room B-001) on the side closest to the elevator hallway. Contact Christina Morgan if you are interested or have questions.
- Guyer Class – This is a class for active seniors who wish to study lessons based on specific biblical messages and how to apply these messages to daily life. The United Methodist International Series quarterly curriculum is used for these lessons. Class meets in room 125B (under the balcony in the sanctuary). Contact John Nesbit if you are interested or have questions.
- Combined Class – This is a class for adults of all ages and provides the opportunity for several classes to combine in July and August for fellowship, discipleship and mission opportunities. Some weeks we will have guest speakers who will teach lessons and lead discussions, other weeks we will hear mission-focused presentations and learn how to become more involved. Keep your eye out for a more detailed schedule. Class meets in the multipurpose room. Contact Tina Eaton if you are interested or have questions.

Young Adult/College Ministry

College Connection

If you are a college student home for the summer, come to enjoy some fellowship and fun with other college students! Several gatherings are planned and some details are still being worked out. Mark your calendars for:

- July 14: 7:00 pm gathering at the home of the Rapp family for a campfire and s'mores.
- August 4: Ice Cream social at the home of Christina and Troy Morgan. Time to be determined.
- Pool party at the home of the Herrings. Date and time to be determined.

Keep your eye out for more details on our college Facebook page: "FUMC College Connections". You can also use this page to plan your own outings together! Not a member of that group page? Simply request to join on Facebook. More questions? Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com.

Youth Ministry

Congratulations

As the school year ends and summer begins the youth would like to say "Congratulations!" to all recent high school and college graduates. As you either head out to new adventures in college or are attacking the job force we pray you will find God's guidance through all this. As your First Church family we invite you to come visit when in town.

COVENANT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

- Colsen Ackroyd

CUMBERLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

- Graham Bowen
- Hannah Heiges
- Taylor Nesmith

MECHANICSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

- Lindsey Alderman
- Kyle Eaton
- Ryan Eaton
- Josh Herring
- Noah Mariano
- Alexia Ometz
- Hayden Seig
- Dylan Snyder
- Jillian Graves

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY

- Bethany Robinson

EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY

- Megan Leister
- Brienne Wickenheiser

GENEVA COLLEGE

- Phoebe Noss

GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

- Jenna Flemming

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PA

- Elisabeth Herring

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

- Megan Koontz

ROANOKE COLLEGE

- Patrick Daum

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

- Kallie Heiges

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI OHIO

- Jenna Mengle

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

- Paige Snyder

Summer Happenings

There is a lot of activity going on in the youth department. To find out about events go to our church website at www.fumchurch.com

Scholarships

Visioning the future

Many years ago, two First Church families recognized the importance of education in today's society and bequeathed money to be used in supporting the post-secondary educational efforts of First Church members. The Comfort Education Fund was established to provide financial support to students preparing for the Christian ministry, and was slightly modified over time to be limited to declared candidates for ministry in the United Methodist Church. Being a declared candidate is a critical step because it recognizes the individual's formal application and acceptance into the ministerial development process. Right now our Youth Pastor Lisa Aronson is on that path, and First Church is supporting Lisa's efforts with some timely financial support from the Comfort Education Fund. The Betty Brandt Scholarship Fund was established to provide financial assistance to needy and worthy First Church students who are enrolled in programs in the field of health care and human services. The description was later modified by the family to provide financial assistance to handicapped students from First Church in need of financial aid. We thank the Comfort and Brandt families for their vision of the future educational needs of First Church members, and trust that we will continue to honor their memory when we award scholarships from the Funds bearing their names.

In addition, First Church member Earnie Zimmerman chose for a number of years to invest the salary that was due him in his position of Youth Director in creating a scholarship fund supporting the post-secondary educational pursuits of active members of First Church's youth department. We have invested those funds wisely over the years, and are now able to award up to \$2,000 of scholarships per year from the Youth Scholarship Fund. Many of First Church's youth have benefitted over the years from Earnie's generosity and foresight in helping to meet the ever-rising cost of a college education. For the upcoming 2016-2017 academic year, First Church is awarding eight \$250 scholarships from the Youth Scholarship Fund. We would like to thank Earnie Zimmerman for his vision of the value of education and for helping to make that vision a reality for so many of our youth.

Maybe you are a former recipient, or a parent or grandparent of a former recipient, and would like to "give back" to help sustain the vision of the Comfort/Brandt families and Earnie Zimmerman in supporting the educational pursuits of First Church's next generations.

Contributions are always accepted for these three scholarship funds that the Board of Trustees oversee on behalf of the entire church. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Camping

July Campers - Please keep them in your prayers

Camp Allegheny - July 3-9

Garrett Conway

Greene Hills - July 3-8

Chantal Coulson

Mount Asbury - July 9-10

Nathan Erno

Amy Erno

Camp Penn - July 10-15

Yashira Soto

Heriberto Soto

Greene Hills - July 10-16

Jonathan Jedrzejek

Kevin Knott

Trent Yatsky

Greene Hills - July 14-16

Don Karns

Deb Karns

Caden Warner

Evan Warner

Greene Hills - July 17-21

Becky Gongloff

Anne Luley

Camp Allegheny - July 24-30

Jordan Ohmit

Wesley Forest - July 24-29

Aiden DeLong

Heath Bohrer

Jenna Bohrer

Nathan Hurley

Noah DeLong



FUM Circles

New Members are always welcome!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton
790-9131 or
swalton54@comcast.net
meets the 2nd Tuesday
of the month

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick
697-2233
meets the 1st Tuesday
of the month

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen
796-0809 or
jjgbowen@yahoo.com
meets the 4th Monday
of the month

RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan
697-3554
meets the 1st
Wednesday of the
month

2016 Events:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| July 7-9 | MissionU, Bucknell University |
| July 16 | MissionU Sampler Day at Chambers Hill UM Church, Chambers Hill |
| August 20 | Bake Sale and Yard Sale |
| November 20 | World Thank Offering |
| December | Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk |

Contact Lori Hoffnagle at 732-6430 with questions about any of these above UMW events

New UMW Circles

The United Methodist Women are excited to announce the addition of a new Circle! The quilting circle, *Prayers and Squares*, will meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the area outside the music room in Fellowship Hall. The first meeting will be Tuesday, July 26. The focus of *Prayers and Squares* will be to make simple quilts and other projects and praying over the completed projects before they are distributed. They welcome anyone who would like to learn to quilt, who is already a quilter, or curious about quilting. They will also work on special projects at the request of the church or the UMW. Their first special project will be to make **pencil pouches** for the school kits that are to be given away at the UMW Yard and Bake Sale on August 20. For this project, they are asking the congregation to **donate 100% cotton fabric** in designs that are fun for children. You may contact Tammy Snyder at 439-0355 or Nancy Eddy at 448-8353 for more information, to sign up for the group or to donate fabric. Join us in welcoming this new ministry at First Church!

The United Methodist Women also welcomes *Covered in Love* knitting and crocheting ministry as a UMW Circle! This faithful group of women meet Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a devotion, knitting and fellowship. Since they already embrace the Purpose of UMW, which includes creating a supportive fellowship, it was natural to have them join the organization. The format will not change, however, they will now have increased support and resources from UMW. To learn more about *Covered in Love*, feel free to contact Sandy Bennetch at dsebennetch@comcast.net.

Mission U

Mission u Sampler Day to be held at Chambers Hill United Methodist Church on July 16. Join other UMW members to learn about the following topics: "The Bible and Human Sexuality" and "Climate Justice" at the newly created Sampler Saturday at Chambers Hill UM Church. The fee is \$40 and includes lunch. Women of all ages are invited to attend. If you want to attend or have questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle, UMW president at 717-732-6430 or email l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

Annual UMW Yard, Bake and Book Sale

On Saturday, **August 20**, the United Methodist Women will once again be hosting a yard sale in the church parking lot. Each spacious spot is still the low price of \$10 and sign up is first come first serve. The sale will run from 8 am to 1 pm. The UMW will have delicious baked goods for sale and the Church Library will be offering great bargains on books, some priced at just \$.25! Contact Donna Nichols at 249-9477 or djnichols43@hotmail.com starting on July 1 to reserve your spot. The UMW is seeking items to sell at their table, if you have yard sale items to donate, please contact Donna.

Once again, as an outreach to the community, we will be giving away school supplies to children. We are asking the congregation to donate supplies for this project. The collection bin is located outside the Multi-Purpose room. Please bring the following items: **small box of crayons, pencils, erasers, blunt scissors and glue sticks** (we need enough to make 100 bags!).

Thanks in advance. Whether you are buying or selling, it will be a day of bargains and fun in the parking lot!



We need your clothing. Don't forget to drop your unwanted clothing and shoes in the Community Aid bin.

Money raised from your donations helps local schools, churches and other non profit charitable organizations, as well as FUMC's UMW.

Library

Before I write about what is new in the library, I want to mention the UMW yard sale in conjunction with the book sale on Aug 20th from 8-1. The library is accepting donations of gently used adult or children's books, DVDs, CDs and jigsaw puzzles. Then stop in to the sale and restock your book shelves with great reads at fantastic prices. All our profits will be used to buy the most current Christian fiction available.

One of my favorite romantic suspense writers, Irene Hannon, started out as a strictly romance writer and sometimes she drops back into that genre. **Sea Rose Lane** is set in the small coastal town of Hope Harbor. Eric Nash has returned to his home after a devastating layoff at his law office. Counting on peace and privacy to chart his future, he is a little upset to find his childhood home is being remodeled into a bed and breakfast. Not only does the chaos and noise distract him, but also BJ Stevens, an attractive but prickly blonde architect and crew chief, holds his attention more than he'd like. BJ, fresh off a disastrous relationship, has no intention of dating for a while. Find out if these two can find their way to true romance because I don't want to spoil the plot of this pleasant summer read!

Silence in the Dark is the fourth book in Patricia Bradley's *Logan Point series*. When Bailey Adams breaks off her engagement to Danny Maxwell and leaves for the mission fields of Chihuahua, Mexico, everyone in Logan Point is astounded. The couple meets up again in Mexico where Bailey is agreeing to chaperone a young girl named Maria to the states as a favor to a local business man. Danny is there to investigate the same businessman for arms dealing and is surprised to see Bailey with this man. But in the middle of the dinner the diner erupts in gunfire and chaos. Bailey soon realizes she and Maria's only chance of reaching the states is by getting Danny's help. As the trio makes their way to Mississippi, they find they can't trust anyone but themselves, and danger is at every turn. Take this page-turner on vacation with you because you will not be able to put it down.

Hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather and have a good book to go with it.

See you in the library.

Donna and Pam

Facilities

Oh happy day! As of the time I am preparing this update, I am thrilled to report that all of our recent roof leaks have been fixed and we are “high and dry”. That includes the shingled roof above the Simpson Street entrance and the rubber roof above the center stairwell. Our repairs have been put to the test by some severe rainstorms over the past few weeks, and they appear to be holding just fine. Not having to get up on the roof and deal with those water leaks, even if it is just temporary, has taken a huge load of stress off my shoulders.

Once we felt good about the status of the roof, we set about in plastering and painting the sanctuary ceiling that was damaged near the Simpson Street entrance. Scaffolding was erected in the sanctuary to make those repairs, and a few pews were not available for seating on Sunday, June 5th. We were then able to tear the scaffolding down and restore order before worship services on June 12th. We also utilized the scaffolding to go up and change the two spotlights at the front of the choir loft, one of which had been burned out for a number of months. The new LED bulbs we installed have an estimated life of 25,000 hours so it should be quite a while until they will need changing again. The new bulbs are also smaller in diameter than the old bulbs, so we believe they could be changed out from the ground using a long, long pole with a bulb changing attachment. While we have the scaffolding on site, we plan to erect it for a scraping and painting project in the top right corner of the arch around the large stained glass window on the Frederick Street side of the church. We also plan to erect a portion of the scaffolding in the parking lot to address what appears to be a problem with the sensor on one of the dusk to dawn pole lights. By the time you read this, hopefully both of those projects will be completed.

Of course, not all Facilities news can be good news. We had some major issues with our air conditioning systems when the outside temperatures quickly rose from the middle 50’s to the low 90’s. On the last Sunday of May, the only one of the eight rooftop units that was operating was the one for the multipurpose room. It was quite uncomfortable in the sanctuary, education wing, and office wing that morning, which meant more time up on the roof for me. Communication issues between the master control panel, the circuit boards at the rooftop units, and the room temperature sensors caused those problems. All of the units are currently working, but we still aren’t able to make timely adjustments to the control system to match up with our church calendar, negatively impacting our energy efficiency. Our HVAC contractor is preparing a proposal for us to replace our existing, outdated control system with a proven modern alternative. We will be looking closely at that proposal in order to make a smart decision about a much-needed upgrade to our facility.

More good news! Judi and Larry Buddenbaum were able recently to complete the restriping project in our parking lots. We had the sewage lift station pumped out and cleaned. Doug Cale is making progress on replacing the rooftop exhaust fan servicing the education wing restrooms. The Trustees decided to replace the freestanding icemaker in the church kitchen, hopefully before VBS is held the last week of June. So a few more items will soon be crossed off my ever-expanding “to do” list. Thank you for your prayers and kind words of support for our efforts to be faithful stewards of the First Church facility.

Roger Walton

Facilities Manager

Responding to God’s Call

Five years ago, I felt God urging me to apply for the position of Facilities Manager at First Church. I thought to myself, why me? What was God thinking? While I had been a homeowner for 30 years, and a member of the Board of Trustees both here and at our former church, my expertise from my

career in Navy financial management was in Excel spreadsheets and Word documents, not in electrical, plumbing, HVAC, roofing or any of the other trades. In addition, I have a long-standing fear of heights that I knew I would have to overcome (or learn to deal with) if I took on the Facility Manager position. I certainly wasn't equipped to take on this awesome responsibility.

I remembered an old saying that God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called. I thought about some of the "big names" from the Bible, like Abraham, Moses, David, Peter and Paul. These persons did amazing things for the Lord, but they all had their failures as well. Despite those failures, God managed to use each of them in incredible ways! God and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, worked through them and gave them the power to accomplish much more than they ever could do by themselves. So I chose to apply for the position and allow God to work through me if that is what He truly wanted.

These past five years have been an incredible journey for me. Roof leaks, heating and air conditioning system failures, stair tread replacements, iron railings restoration, education wing restroom renovations, rerouting a rain leader from roof that had separated inside a masonry wall, faux sinkholes in the south parking lot, sewage lift station malfunction, more roof leaks, plastering and painting projects, sale of rental properties at 118/120 W. Keller and purchase of new church parsonage, installation of ADA operators at tower entrance and handicap-accessible restroom, tower hallway video system, digital carillon, bell tower roof replacement, Frederick Street gutters and downspouts, concrete sidewalks, computer network wiring expansion, and even more roof leaks have certainly kept me on my toes as I have strived with the Trustees to be faithful stewards of God's home here in Mechanicsburg.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Philippians 4:13 –I can do all things through God who strengthens me. I certainly haven't accomplished all of the things that needed to be done around the First Church facility in the past five years. But I can truly say that what I was able to accomplish was done with Christ working in and through me. Never say to yourself that God cannot use you because you aren't qualified. God isn't looking for the qualified; He's looking for persons who will avail themselves to Him and allow Him to work through those persons to further His kingdom here on earth. Thank you, God, for allowing me to respond to your call.

Roger Walton

outgoing Facilities Manager

Church Staff

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| PASTOR Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller | OFFICE MANAGER Kristin Brown | ORGANIST* Nicholas Werner |
| ASSOCIATE PASTOR* Rev. Dr. David Reed | FACILITIES COORDINATOR* TBA | ORGANIST/YOUTH CHOIR/ SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR* Gail Leinhos |
| YOUTH PASTOR Lisa Aronson | CUSTODIANS* George Canonizado Matthew Miller | BELL CHOIRS* Kathie Bittenbender |
| ADULT MINISTRIES* Tina Eaton | FINANCE DIRECTOR* Nancy Robinson | INVOCATION/JUNIOR CHOIR* Allison Ometz |
| DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY* Dawn Fisher George Canonizado | DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ SANCTUARYCHOIR* Jody Brinley | CHILDREN'S CHOIRS* Lorette Cale |
| CONGREGATIONAL CARE* Janice Bowen | | <i>*PART-TIME</i> |

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the death of David Brill's mother, Bertha Brill, on May 23, 2016

to the family upon the death of Diane Reed's father, Ray Hinson, on June 5, 2016.

to the family upon the death of Brian Wicjenheiser's father, Pat Wickenheiser, on June 10, 2016.

Thank you...

Garret Fischer would like to thank the church for their prayers and help during his recent surgery and recovery time.

I would like to thank my church family for your loving support during my recent knee surgery. Your prayers, cards, and meals kept me upbeat and positive during my recuperation. I would especially like to thank Janice Bowen for her loving kindness--this past year has been filled with health problems for me and Janice has been with me every step of the way. I also appreciated Pastor Dave's visit while I was in the York facility. Knowing it took a chunk out of his day to visit and pray with me meant more than words could say. Thank you all for showing the love of Christ through your actions.

Sincerely, Donna Nichols

Special Birthdays

Bernadine Florey.....July 2

Bill Kelly.....July 3

Gladys PeckJuly 4

Mildred Neagley.....July 6

Veloice WashburnJuly 6

Glenn Heller.....July 7

Ruth Birbeck.....July 19

Jack Koser July 22

Harry Woods..... July 27

Jean Adams July 28

Lincoln Washburn..... July 29

Betty Etter July 30

Dave Leinhos..... July 30

Grace Koser..... August 2

Jane Heller.....August 3

Helen KellyAugust 10

Doris SwegerAugust 11

Pauline TraceAugust 12

Lois MorlandAugust 16

Jo BarthAugust 27

Victor NorrisAugust 29

Special Anniversaries

♥ Marlin & Kay Simmons married 50 years on July 2

♥ Ron & Jane Handwerk married 55 years on July 8

♥ George & Jayne Carpenter married 58 years on July 19

♥ Ben & Carol Miller married 58 years on July 20

♥ Gary & Bonnie Klinger married 51 years on July 24

♥ Don & Barb Shover married 58 years on August 2

♥ Tom & Jeanne Mullikin married 50 years on August 6

♥ Fred & Doris Junkins married 50 years on August 9

♥ John & Dolores Shell married 62 years on August 15

♥ Les & Ruth Reed married 72 years on August 23

♥ Harry & Joyce Woods married 63 years on August 23

♥ Gerry & Pat Sheely married 58 years on August 24