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The GLEANER

October 2017

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church
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Happy 500th!

On the 31st of October 1517, an obscure Roman Catholic monk, and professor of biblical studies at the University of Wittenberg, Germany, named Martin Luther, nailed 95 Theses (talking points) to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. These talking points touched off a firestorm in the religious community that resulted in Luther's excommunication (he was "booted out"!) from the church.

Luther essentially protested errors and abuses by the religious hierarchy, specifically focused on the sale of indulgences, a kind of "buy your way out of purgatory" scheme devised to raise money for the massive church construction program in Europe. Luther went so far as to challenge the authority of the Pope, who claimed the power to "shut the gates of hell and open the doors to paradise." He believed that indulgences took the focus off of God and placed it upon human effort, and he could find no Scriptural support for this practice.

We, in the Presbyterian Church, are products of the movement that Luther spawned, which became known as the "Protestant Reformation," from the words, "protest" and "reform." Three traditions emerged: Lutherans in Germany and Scandinavia; Zwinglians, and Calvinists in Switzerland, France, Holland, and Scotland; and the Church of England.

After a long spiritual crisis, Luther came to understand through his study of the Scriptures, the nature of God's righteousness, and he rejected any theology based solely on human tradition. He emphasized personal experience and understanding of God's Word. Luther's legacy is the authority of Scripture and the centrality of the Gospel of God's grace to our salvation, as opposed to human achievement. Luther was the first to translate the Bible into German, the language of the people; and with the invention of the printing press by Johann Gutenberg in 1456, the Bible could be placed in the hands of the masses, who were "hungry" for God's Word.

Perhaps as we observe the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation this month we can reflect on this rich heritage of faith we so easily take for granted – humbly giving thanks to God for God's amazing grace; and renewing our desire for reading and understanding God's Word.

Cont.



- 2-Brittany Mitchell
- 3-Mary Jane LeFevre
- 4-Meryl Kerlin
- 8-Janet McGinnis
- 10-Julie Dovey
Dora Deneen
Jackie Kerlin
Jason Ritchey
Taureem Spriggs
- 11-Patsy Johnston
- 13-John Williams
- 14-Jeremy Dickinson
Nancy Harr
- 15-Helen Clusman
- 18-Alison Burnett
Ken Keebaugh
Seth Winegardner
- 22-Kenny Walker
- 23-David Bivens
- 25-Harvey Kneas
- 26-Holden Hilliker
- 29-Kylas Mitchell

Prayer Concerns: Please be in prayer for those listed below and their families: **Short Term:** Gerald Peck, Audrey Mitchell, Greg Ramsey, Tammy (Gordon) Metz, Bill Vogel, Izzi Arevalo, Ella Spriggs, Janice Kirkley (Sister of JoyceHornberger), & Joy & Ray Anderson. **Long Term:** PNC, Ben Faunce, Wayne McCoy, Nolan Heironimus, Anne Howard, Chas Howells (Son of Wes Howells), & Spence Perry.



Trustees

September 7, 2017

Most of the members were at our September meeting.

The Sanctuary and south foyer walls have been repaired and ready for paint. The north foyer will be repaired soon.

The brick work above the church windows has been re-pointed.

They are finishing the HVAC (air conditioners) and insulation for the Sanctuary.

Some of the Trustees helped others clean the White Church for the recent service there.

We need someone to be in charge of the cleaning for future times.

The steel beam for the CE building should be installed soon.

There will be some more electrical improvements made soon.

New church signs were made and will be installed to welcome people to our church.

We are completing other repair needs that develop.

Our next meeting will be October 5, 7 pm in the Fellowship House.

We try to keep our church looking inviting to all who may enter. Invite others to join us as we do the work of Jesus.

Ron Mitchell, secretary



No Report



Session

September 20, 2017

Session met on September 20, 2017 in the Fellowship house with elders Ken Keebaugh, Carolyn Kerlin, Donna Ankney, Al Clark, Mary Lou Eisenhower, Tim Drover and LeeAnne Kendall as well as moderator, Rev, Dale Williams present. Devotions were led by Elder Keebaugh. The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved as well as the September agenda.

The average attendance for July was 56 and August 58. 90+ attended the service at the White Church. Due to the absence of most session members, the October meeting has been moved to October 11th instead of the 18th. Elder Eisenhower gave an update on the PNC. The committee continues to work hard to find a pastor.

Elder Drover, financial chair, gave the report of finances for the month of August as well as an update on the ongoing projects. The new heating/air conditioning units have been installed. The plastering in the sanctuary is complete, and we are waiting on the painters. Once that is complete, the insulation will be installed in the attic. The steel beam in the education building has not yet been installed. Elder Clark, chair of the fellowship committee reported that the gathering will resume when worship returns to the sanctuary. Also a gathering will be held in the social room to celebrate the completion of the projects. The worship committee continues to fill the pulpit on

Sundays that Pastor Williams can't be with us. Stewardship Sunday was set for November 12 and Thank Offering Sunday for November 19. A discussion to revamp the library and incorporate the books donated by the Stewart family was held. Nothing will be done until the work in the education building is completed. Elder Kendall will attend Presbytery meeting at Falling Spring on September 26. It was agreed to renew our membership in the Chamber of Commerce. New prayer partners were assigned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 with prayer by the moderator.



Presbytery-wide worship Service in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, will be held on Sunday, October 29 at 4:00pm. at Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, Pa.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

September 13, 2017

The September meeting of the Presbyterian Women began with a presentation of the 2017 Hands and Feet of Hope by Kelly Miller, Director of youth ministries at the Methodist church. This was the 4th year for this project. The first two years the youth was housed at the elementary school and the last two at the Methodist church fellowship hall. The project is funded by donations and fund raisers and this year included 20-30 youth ages 6th grade-college plus adults. They did safety repairs, water damage, handicap issues, roofing. Requests are based on need. They worked on 7 projects this year. Thanks to Kelly for an interesting and informative presentation.

Our meeting was then opened with devotions and prayer by moderator Carolyn Kneas. Eight ladies were present. Special prayers for: PNC, Ella and Kenny Spriggs, Bernice Stewart, Jane and Paul MacDonald, Ron and Audrey Mitchell, Helen Clusman, Barb Leese, Charlotte and Jeff Fowler, Anne Howard, Mary Lou Eisenhower, Harvey Kneas, Frank Ingram, Martha Seville, Becky Drover, Nolan Heronimus, and all in need of his healing touch.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Marion Walker. The June offering was \$59.00. A check for \$100.00 was given to Hands and Feet of Hope leaving a balance of \$219.72.

Women of the Presbytery will meet on October 21 at Pine Street Presbyterian church in Harrisburg. The church wide

gathering will be held in June 2018 in Louisville.

The knitting group is ready to send a shipment of sweaters to Church World Vision.

Carolyn asked if Deb Reed and Carolyn Kerlin would be in charge of a project committee.

Delicious refreshments were served by Janet Gordon.

The next meeting will be on October 11, 2017. We will assemble shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Carolyn Kneas and LeeAnne Kendall will serve as Hostesses.

Directory update for Raymond and Judy Aller.

E Mail: raymondaller43@gmail.com

Phone: 717-729-4713

Congratulations to Matt Brown, (Son of Connie & Doug Brown), for entering college this fall. He will be attending Mt. Aloysius College. His address is: Box #: IHM037
11 College Drive
Cresson, PA 16630

GLEANER DEADLINE for the November issue is October 31, 2017. Please submit your information by that day. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a hand written document on the secretary's desk.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who have made kits and filled buckets for hurricane relief.



October Lectionary Readings

Week of October 1

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17: 1-7

Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2: 1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32

Week October 8

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19

Philippians 3: 4b-14

Matthew 21: 33-46

Week of October 15

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32: 1-14

Psalms 106: 1-6, 19-23

Philippians 4: 1-9

Matthew 22: 1-14

Week of October 22

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33: 12-23

Psalms 99

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Matthew 22: 15-22

Week of October 29

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

Psalms 90: 1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Matthew 22: 34-46



McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church
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