

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2832 Conway Wallrose Road
Baden, PA 15005
www.concordchurch.org
724.869.9135

CONCORD GRAPEVINE

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Jean Smith
June 2011

Now you are no longer strangers to God, and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family,...and you belong to God's household with every other Christian.

Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5

Many Christians in America today are what can be called "floating believers." Anywhere else in the world, being a believer is synonymous with being connected to a local church. Rarely do you find a lone-ranger Christian in other countries. Many American Christians, however, hop from one church to another without any identity, accountability, or commitment, or they don't even make the effort to go to any church on Sunday mornings. These folks are out of fellowship. This is a direct expression of America's rampant individualism, and the fact that they have not been taught that the Christian life involves more than just **believing** – it also **involves belonging**. We grow in Christ by being in relationship with other Christians. Romans 12:10 says, ***"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."***

One of my favorite writers, C. S. Lewis, once wrote an essay on church membership. In it he explained that the word **membership** is of Christian origin, but it has been taken over by the secular community (unbelievers) and emptied of all its original meaning. Today, most people associate the term membership with paying dues, meaningless rituals, silly rules and handshakes, and having your name on some dusty roll. The apostle Paul, however, had a very different image of membership. To him, being a member of the church did not refer to some cold induction into an institution, but rather it meant becoming a vital organ of a living body, the body of Christ.

We need to reclaim this image. Any organ that is detached from the body will not only miss what it was created to be, it will also shrivel up and die rather quickly. The same is true for Christians who separate themselves from a local church family.

The incorporation of new members into our church fellowship does not happen automatically. We must intentionally welcome new members and include them in the life and mission of our church or they will not feel like they really belong. Many churches assume that once a person professes faith in Christ and joins the church their work is done, and it is now up to the new member to follow through with his/her commitment. Unfortunately, that isn't how it works. It is the church's responsibility to take the initiative to assimilate new people into the congregation. They need your help to get involved.

On May 22nd we took in eight new members:

*Capen Brendle	1519 Duss Avenue, Ambridge, PA 15003	724-622-0061
*Kathleen Denny (John Kassell)	600 Park Road Apt. 3, Ambridge, PA 15003	724-630-9020
*Richard Gallagher	515 Dippold Avenue, Baden, PA 15005	724-869-2301
*Virginia Kardasz	280 Second Avenue, Freedom, PA 15042	724-869-9143
*Craig Krivich	100 Venus Circle, Freedom, PA 15042	724-869-1821
*Gavin Smith	140 Hickory Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143	724-266-4746
*Tammi Smith, *Gavin	140 Hickory Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143	724-266-4746
*Trevor Smith	140 Hickory Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143	724-266-4746

There are many blessings to being a member of the body of Christ.

1. it identifies you as a genuine believer
2. it provides you with a spiritual family to support and encourage you
3. it gives you a place to discover and use your spiritual gifts for ministry
4. it places you under the spiritual protection of godly leaders
5. it give you the accountability you need to grow.

There are also responsibilities to being a member of the body of Christ. A faithful member accepts Christ's call to be involved responsibly in the ministry of his Church. Such involvement includes:

- a. proclaiming the good news.
- b. taking part in the common life and worship of a particular church,
- c. praying and studying Scripture and the faith of the Christian Church,
- d. supporting the work of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- e. participating in the governing responsibilities of the church,
- f. demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- g. responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- h. living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- i. working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment.

May we all serve faithfully and experience the joy of God's blessings.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jean



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Sewing Group – Wednesdays
Ladle – 6.27
Meals on Wheels Volunteers

The Church in Prayer

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Church Life

Pastor on Vacation – 6.1 – 6.13
Daily Bread Devotions Available
Christian Education during Summer
Pentecost – 6.12
Ladies Aid – 6.13
Music Appreciation Sunday – 6.19

People

Meals on Wheels Thank You
Christian Sympathy – Harold Weil
Congratulations Class of 2011
Brady Twins Arrive!
Member hospitalized
June Anniversaries/Birthdays
Worship Volunteers

THE CHURCH IN MISSION

2011 VBS

PANDAMANIA

WHERE GOD IS WILD ABOUT YOU!

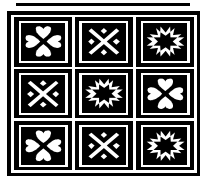


Only a few short weeks until **PandaMania** gets underway. This year's Vacation Bible School program is being hosted by our neighbors at **Rehoboth on June 20th-June 24th 6:00pm to 8:45pm.** each day.

There's still time to register kids from **pre-school** to **6th grade**. Please consider donating your time to help make our VBS a success. If you can volunteer your time all week or just for a day please contact Leslie DuPont @ 412-749-9876 or via e-mail @ ldupont6@verizon.net.

Registration is now OPEN and there are 2 ways to register online at www.rehobothlutheran.com under the Education/VBS section. Or simply log onto www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/rehobothpandamania.

The sewing group plans to meet throughout the summer months each Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 - 2:30. Join us!



THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

Prayer Chain

Alice/Jim Ward 724.266.6776 ↓
Pat Guthrie 724.869.2705 ↓
Robin/Dan Hall 724.869.0801 ↓
Bea Roby 724.869.9577 ↓
Eleanor Eisenbrown 724.774.1568 ↓
Shelda/Chuck Rudich 724.266.5403 ↓
Marie/Bob Dewar 724.869.5278 <i>(leave message on Church machine)</i> 724.869.9135

The Prayer Chain consists of those who are available for special prayer in time of emergency need. If there is a special need which needs immediate prayer, please call anyone on the prayer chain to activate the chain.



We will be serving at The Ladle **on Monday, June 27th**. Yellow cakes with NO icing are needed. Please sign up if you are able to serve or provide desserts. Thank you!

WANTED: BIG HEARTS & BIG SMILES!

We need to “rustle up” some big-hearted folks who want to help their neighbors as a Meals On Wheels volunteer!

Kitchen and delivery volunteers are urgently needed to assist the grateful citizens of Conway, Freedom, and Economy!

Kitchen volunteers report for duty at 8:00 a.m. on weekdays; Delivery volunteers report at 10:30 a.m.

Give just 1 – 3 hours per day or per week!

Get “deputized” by calling Leslie at 866.496.6640 (toll free)!

Monthly Prayer Schedule



Session continues to urge you to join us in prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. If you feel out of your comfort zone by praying aloud, you are still welcome to join us and pray in silence. Take a half hour out of your busy life for Christ...isn't your eternal life worth it?

This list needs to be kept up-to-date, so if you have put someone's name on this list and it becomes no longer necessary for them to remain on the list, please notify Rhoda directly.

Prayer List

The people listed below are those with various ongoing needs whom we are praying a regular basis, including each week during worship. If you would like to include someone's name on this list, please provide the pertinent information to Rhoda Grossman.



for
on

CINDY HARTSELL – (member of Concord)

MIKE/LISA HATHAWAY – (members of Concord)

JUDY HAWK – (member of Concord)
Recovering from auto accident/surgery

REBEKAH HILTH – (Karen Wylie's friend)
18 year-old with ovarian cancer

REV. KATHERINE HORSTMAN –
Undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer

MARIE JONES – (member of Concord)

PAUL JONES – (member of Concord)

RALPH JONES – (Janet Gilson's father)

BETTY KARDASZ – (Virginia Kardasz's mother-in-law)
Health problems

DAVID KASSELL FAMILY – (John Kassel's brother)
Upon his recent death

KENNEDY FAMILY – (Gilson family friends)

NATHAN DANIEL KUSTRA – (grandson of Fred Simonds' friend)
Born with spinal bifida

AGNESS LAUDENSLAGER – (John Laudenslager's mother)
Fell and broke hip

JIM LAUGHNER – (member of Concord) Tests

CINDY LAVERY – (friend of Betty/Chris Kmiecik)
Undergoing chemotherapy for brain cancer and still has 5 more months of treatment remaining.

JOYCE LINT – (Shelda Rudich's mother)
Battling pneumonia and leg pain associated from a stroke

HUXLEY LIPSCOMB – (member of Concord)

JESSICA MARCHIONDA - (Linda Martin's daughter)
Battling cancer

DEBBIE MCGILL – (member of Concord)
Diagnosed with Parkinson's

NANCI MCHALE – (friend of Concord)
Numerous health problems

TODD NEELY – (member of Concord)
Serving in the Marines

JEANINE OWENS – (Dave Jones co-worker's wife)

FLOYD OSBORNE – (Rhoda Grossman's girl friend's father)
Re-occurring cancer in spine

DAVE AMES – (member of Concord)
Heart-related issues

TYLER BAKER – (George/Cindy Hartsell's 10 year-old grandson)
Admitted to Children's Hospital receiving antibiotics

ANN BUFALINI – (Cindy Hartsell's friend)
Battling lupus and cancer

KATHY CONTENTA – (Evelyn Warren's niece)
Suffers from MS and needs carpal tunnel surgery

DEBBIE CROSBY – (Kathy Jones' sister)
Needs heart transplant

MARIE DEWAR – (member of Concord)
Job concerns

KEITH DURHAM – (Joe DiCioccio's friend)
Battling Hodgkin's Lymphoma

DORIS EASTERDAY - (member of Concord)

JUNE FILLINGER – (Karen Wylie's friend)
Underwent recent surgery

ELIZABETH FRANK – (Andy Schweikert's grandmother)

DALE GASS – (Greta Penn's father)

EARL GREENWALD (member of Concord)
Recovering from knee replacement surgery

JOYCE GRIFFIN – (Jim/Karen Wylie's daughter)
Recovering from open heart surgery

LINDA GROSSMAN – (Rhoda Grossman's sister)
Prayers for success in looking for employment.

ROBIN HALL – (member of Concord)
Recovering at home from recent foot surgery and doing well

CHURCH LIFE

KAROL PONEVAC - (Pearl Dunlap's friend)
Suffered a stroke

GLORIA PRIESTLEY - (member of Concord)

LINDA PROFOZICH - (Greta/Mike Penn's close friend) Recovering from breast cancer surgery along with potential thyroid problems.

ISIAH RUDICH - (Spring/Eric Rudich's son)
Suffering from pneumonia

SARAH RUDICH - (Daughter of Chuck/Shelda Rudich) Spiritual well-being and Hannah's health

AMY SCHNEIDER - (Dick Schneider's daughter)
Battling MS and depression

JAYNE SCHNEIDER - (member of Concord)
Recovering from back surgery

JOHN/ANNE SHUBAK - (members of Concord)

CAROL SIMONDS - (member of Concord)
Health concerns

TIARA ANN - Battling cancer

CINDY WILLIS - (Karen Wylie's friend)
Underwent recent breast cancer surgery

SHELLE WINTERHALTER - (Chele DiCioccio's friend)
Undetermined health issues

Pastor's Vacation Schedule



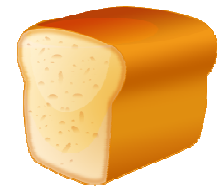
Pastor Jean will be on vacation starting **Tuesday, June 1st through Monday, June 13th**. Rev. Deane Lavender is available should you need pastoral care in her

absence.

Rev. Gary Weston is scheduled to preach on Sunday, June 5th and Rev. Paul Aiello will be our guest on Sunday, June 12th.

Devotions Available

Don't forget to pick up your summer *Daily Bread* booklets on the table in the vestibule. Start your day off with a verse from God's Word



and encouraging stories. Feel free to take an extra booklet for a friend! It's an effective, non-threatening tool for witnessing.

Christian Education

Our Summer Sunday School program will begin with the videos, "How Great is Our God" on **June 5th** and "Indescribable" on **June 12th** for the adults and a separate, but related combined class for children of all ages on those Sundays. Please join us as we marvel at God's creation throughout the summer months!

We will **NOT** have Sunday School on June 19th, July 3rd, August 21st and September 4th.

Pentecost

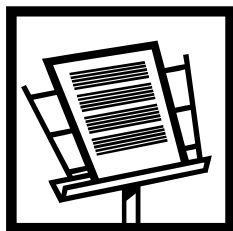


Sunday, June 12th marks Pentecost, one of the prominent services in the Christian liturgical year commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection. Pentecost is a time of red – a color of fire and zeal and passion and heat. We invite all those who attend the worship service to wear red clothing.

Ladies Night Out

The next Ladies Aid meeting will be held on **Monday, June 13th at 6:30 p.m.** Eleanor Eisenbrown and Rosemary Sloppy will be co-hostesses for the evening. If any ladies would like to join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship, please come. Will everyone in attendance please bring something for a silent auction.

Music Appreciation Sunday



Music Appreciation Sunday is **June 19th**. Please sign-up in the vestibule area if you plan to attend the celebration luncheon following our 9:00 am worship service.

ABOUT PEOPLE

THANKS SO MUCH

to all those who made donations throughout the month of May to support Meals on Wheels.



We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Harold Weil upon his recent death this past week.

Harold and his wife, Janet and son, David were members of Concord for many years. Harold served on Session, as an Elder, and Clerk of Session. Harold transferred to Conway Presbyterian Church where he also served as an Elder.

Congratulations to Concord's Class of 2011



Carissa Gilson, Ambridge Area High school is the daughter of Janet and Bob Gilson. She plans to study Theater Management at Point Park University in Pittsburgh.

Trevor Smith, Ambridge Area High school is the son of Tammi and Blair Smith. Trevor plans to attend the Community College of Beaver County and major in Business.

Cody Wylie, Freedom Area High School is the grandson of Karen and Jim Wylie.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



The Brady twins have arrived!
Dan and Amber welcomed
their twins on Friday, May 20th.

Parker Daniel weighed 4lbs 14 oz.
Mackenzie Ruth weighed 4lbs 13 oz.

Both were 18 inches long.
Congratulations and blessings!

Ann Parks is back at West Hills Rehabilitation
Center, 951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, 15108.
She enjoys cards, phone calls and especially
visits.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Bea Roby |
| 2 | Sue Laudenslager |
| 2 | Zeb Mawhinney |
| 2 | Michael Stewart |
| 6 | Gregory Willenkin (Brendle) |
| 8 | Kristin Collins |
| 8 | Lynne Connor |
| 8 | Jayne Schneider |
| 12 | Chris Kmiecik |
| 12 | Carol Laughner |
| 12 | Tom Panek |
| 13 | Dale Dunlap |
| 13 | Greta Penn |
| 15 | Jessie Ames |
| 15 | Virginia Kardasz |
| 15 | Dick Schneider |
| 16 | Judy Blank |
| 16 | Lacey Stillwagon |
| 20 | Carol Eckert |
| 22 | David Eisenbrown |
| 23 | Stacey Chalupiak |
| 23 | Keith Jones |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 4 | Kathy/Paul Jones |
| 6 | Leah/Troy Hartman |
| 7 | Arleen/Jim Starr |
| 8 | Joyce/Tim Collins |
| 8 | Alice/Jim Ward |
| 26 | Linda/Ed Kubiak |

W O R S H I P V O L U N T E E R S

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 5 - Gilson**
- 12 - Roby**
- 19 - Hall**
- 26 - Dewar**

LITURGISTS

- 5 - Dan Hall**
- 12 - Valerie Mawhinney**
- 19 - Greta Penn**
- 26 - Mike Penn**

GREETERS

- 5 - Jim/Alice Ward**
- 12 - Andy/Nellie Schweikert**
- 19 - Bea Roby**
- 26 - Chuck/Shelda Rudich**

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

- 5 - John/Sue Laudenslager**
- 12 - Mike/Greta Penn**
- 19 - Leah Hartman/
Nellie Schweikert**
- 26 - Bob/Janet Gilsson**

MODERATOR'S LETTER
TO BEAVER BUTLER PRESBYTERY
May 11, 2011

At its meeting last summer, the General Assembly proposed a change to the PC(USA)'s ordination standards stipulated in G-6.0106b of our constitution's Form of Government. This proposal required approval by a majority of our denomination's 173 presbyteries. Unlike previous proposals to amend this clause, the change has been approved as of May 10, with the 87th presbytery voting in favor of it. These new standards for ordination will take effect in July. While the change will affect other issues, the primary concern surrounding this debate has been the ordination of self-acknowledged, practicing, unrepentant homosexuals. This issue has deeply divided our denomination for decades, and the change will encourage some and will trouble others. It's good for us to know exactly what the new policy is, and what the change will mean for us.

First, the previous clause stated:

"Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament."

and it will be replaced with the following clause:

"Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office.

The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates."

The effect of this change is to do away with a denominationally uniform standard for ordination and installation, and to empower each ordaining body (sessions for elders and deacons, presbyteries for ministers) to evaluate each candidate and determine their suitability. Because each session and presbytery is likely to have its own particular perspective on this matter, we are likely to have a wide variety of standards in place. It is important to emphasize that no new standards for ordination are being imposed upon sessions and presbyteries. More specifically, if a session or presbytery believes that unrepentant homosexual conduct or sexual activity outside of marriage disqualifies a candidate for ordination, then that body will be free to act upon its conviction and refuse ordination for such persons, or installation for service if they have previously been ordained by another session or presbytery.

What does this change mean for Beaver-Butler Presbytery? Although this change is a major shift for the denomination, our Presbytery's standards for ordination will remain the same. While each candidate for ordination is considered individually, our Presbytery has established policies related to this matter. In 2002 we adopted an Affirmation of Faith which states, in part:

"We affirm that anarchy in sexual relationships is a symptom of our alienation from God, neighbor, and self and that the church is called to lead people out of this alienation and into the responsible freedom of the new life in Christ. We believe that God has provided for sexual intimacy only within the marriage relationship between one man and one woman."

In 2009 the Beaver Butler Presbytery adopted an Open Theological Declaration which states, in part:

"We will continue to uphold biblical standards for ordination, particularly in areas of sexuality.... We will not recognize ordinations that are constitutionally or biblically unsustainable. We will closely examine each candidate seeking admission to our Presbytery. We will not ordain candidates whose behavior violates the clear meaning of G-6.0106b of the Book of Order [the clause which will be removed]."

Practices in Beaver-Butler Presbytery have affirmed and confirmed these policies. Unless an unexpected and dramatic change occurs in the policies and practices of our Presbytery, we will continue to follow the old standards of "fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness," in full compliance with the new constitutional criteria.

According to the new clause in the constitution, each session will conduct an examination of candidates for ordination as elders and deacons according to its understanding of Scriptural and confessional standards. Our stated clerk has ruled that the policy of our Presbytery applies to its churches' sessions and to its minister members as well. Candidates for ordination and installation as elders and deacons in our churches must also comply with the "fidelity and chastity" criteria.

Please join me in prayer that this change in our constitution will not cause undue consternation or divisiveness in our fellowship and, more importantly, that we serve and glorify our Lord and Savior in all we believe, say, and do.

In Christ,

Rev. Peter C. de Vries, PhD

Moderator, Beaver-Butler Presbytery

May 25, 2011

Dear Church Family,

The Session of Concord Presbyterian Church discussed the passing of Amendment 10-A at its regular scheduled meeting on May 16th. At that time it was unanimously decided that a decision to withdraw from the PCUSA at this time was not something to be rushed into without first seeing how our Presbytery will be responding to this historic departure of our denomination from uniform standards for ordination and installation of church officers (elders, deacons, and ministers) that are obedient to the plain truth of the Bible. Your session affirmed its commitment to Biblical standards for church officers, as defined in G-6.0106b:

“Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.”

Six members of your session attended the Beaver Butler Presbytery meeting last evening (May 24) and witnessed the declaration of our Presbytery’s continued commitment to G-6.0106b regardless of the passing of Amendment 10-A. While Amendment 10-A allows for local option, we in the Beaver Butler Presbytery will maintain Biblical standards for ordination.

The Presbytery is also putting together an overture that will establish a “new synod comprised of like-minded presbyteries” which will enable our presbytery to join together with other conservative presbyteries from across the country. The formation of a new synod would give us a measure of assurance that we will be able to continue these standards into the future even though the denomination as a whole chooses to make Biblical standards for ordination optional.

There are those within our congregation for whom this will not be enough. They would have us begin the process immediately to separate from the PCUSA. Please understand that if Concord Church chose to begin the process of separation from the denomination, the process of seeking a new called and installed pastor in the PCUSA would be required to end. PCUSA pastors are not permitted to serve outside the bounds of a PCUSA church and therefore, the PCUSA could not provide your PNC with names to be considered. If Concord chose to leave, I would no longer be permitted to serve as your interim pastor unless I forfeited my ordination status in the PCUSA which I am not willing to do because of the temporary nature of my position with Concord.

Another weighty decision for Concord is: where to go—what denomination to seek to unite with. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is where many of the church who have left or are in the process of leaving have chosen to unite with. But the EPC does not want every church that seeks to unite with them. They appear to be selectively receiving only churches with large assets and substantial viability. Concord may have a chance of meeting their approval, but then there is the property issue. The Beaver Butler Presbytery technically owns Concord’s building and property. The Presbytery would require anywhere from 10% to as much as 30% of the appraised value to be paid to them before they would relinquish their ownership. The actual percent required is determined by the vote of the congregation. If 90% of Concord’s members voted to leave then the Presbytery would require 10% of the appraised value of the building and property. If only 70% of Concord’s members voted to leave the denomination, the required payment would be 30% of the appraised value.

As you can see, the process to separate from the PCUSA is not an easy one, and the decision to enter that process is not an easy decision to make. Please hold your session in your prayers as they seek to serve you and the Lord faithfully. They will continue to consider the options, working closely with our Presbytery, in the days ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jean Smith, Interim Pastor