



June, 2024 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

On Pentecost we had a symbolic experience of the tongues of flame when volunteers in our upper room flew down paper airplanes to look like flames. Did you give yours away or keep it?

Our daughter's pastor asked their members to contact "family, friends, and neighbors in need of loving community and invite them here! Let us never forget the profound impact we can have on each other's life simply by being good neighbors." Will you do that for the Lord to help Westminster grow?

Karen Flowers joyfully reported the work of the Congregation Nominating Committee meeting with enthusiasm by the acceptance of new terms by Elders Trent Rowe, Karen Flowers, Chris Stein and Lynne Kelly and by Deacons Jim Benney, Pam Johnston and Joyce Sizemore and by the Nominating Committee members Karen Flowers, Mary & Kevin Dye and Marsha Ross.

As we prepare to gather for another luncheon discussion on June 30th after worship, each of you have a hindsight, an insight or a foresight to share. Is your gift a special awareness of the past history of Westminster? Or of our current situation? Or are you dreaming about our future? In our opening hymn on Pentecost we sang "Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day." Are you dreaming about our future? Hindsight, insight and foresight. Bring them all on the 30th.

~ Blessings, in Christ, *Pastor Jon Carlisle*, Gap Pastor

Clerk's Corner: May Session Meeting

Meetings of the Congregation - Discernment

When a Presbyterian church needs a new pastor, the first step the Presbytery requires is not to hire a pastor, but discernment. This means figuring out who we are and what we are wanting from a pastor, because if we don't know who we are as a congregation, how can we choose a pastor who will meet our needs? Your Session had no idea how to define who we to the Presbytery. This is how we came to hire Holy Cow! They said they could help us do that. It is also why the survey results seem so strange: there aren't many surprises (we already knew at some level who we are), but Holy Cow used terms we were unfamiliar with to describe Westminster, thereby helping us learn a new way of thinking about things, which is what discernment is about.

Next Steps:

- There will be a Meeting of the Congregation after worship on Sunday, June 30th. Food will be provided. Please plan to attend. We can't say who we are as a group without all of us there.
- As of this newsletter publication, we do not have a set agenda for the meeting. All will be planned out prior to the meeting.
- We will have more time for discussion, since most of the presentation has been communicated.
- We need to make sure everyone feels heard without it becoming a gripe session: hear it, acknowledge it and move on.
- The feelings and thoughts of the congregation need to be incorporated into whatever we are doing.

Nominating Committee

Is grateful so many people volunteered when asked, making it easy to fill our positions

SCAs: The SCAs are terminating their building lease agreement with us, effective June 15, 2024.

Administrative Committee

Much effort has been expended this month searching for affordable property insurance for our church building. Despite our best efforts, insurance costs will double.

Community Garden Report

We were awarded a \$500 reimbursement grant by Gantz Gardens. We will have a graduation for our first students who have been in the garden program for all four years in May. There was a workday in May when Task Force members built the two new raised beds for fruit that Session approved. The Summer Garden Program will be on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. from June 5th until August 7th.

Property Committee

The Property Committee has been asked to repair roof shingles that were said to cause two insurers to decline to insure our church.

Galloway and WPC - update

Pastor Jon Carlisle, Jim Benney, Pam Johnston and Lynne Kelly went to Galloway PC to meet with Emily Corzine, Presbyter for Congregational Life and Transitions, and Galloway Pastor Thom Shuman and Elder Roger Walls. We learned that Galloway would like to revive their spaghetti dinner held around Valentine's Day. Similar activities to ours include a mitten tree, a yard sale and volunteering at the food pantry, but they also deliver groceries in the 43228 and 43119 zip codes. Roger Walls would like to have enough participants to have a choir. We are planning a Sunday worship service together at Galloway on July 14th when Pastor Carlisle will be on vacation. We are inviting each other to our church and social activities. We will meet with Rev. Corzine again after July.

News from the Revitalization Task Force

A luncheon will be held on June 30 after Church. The Revitalization Task Force and the Session would like to continue the conversation from the first potluck meeting in May when we reviewed the Holy Cow survey results. Food will be provided at the lunch. All are encouraged to attend the meeting so your voices will be heard.

FROM THE FOOTSTOOL

NO BETTER TIME By Sheila Williams Fiction (New)

Are you ready for another story related to WWII? It seems this era has produced numerous writings of fact and fiction the past few years. So, when I read the promo for this new book I produced a groan---“Another one ???” And yet, it seemed to be different. And that is the best way to explain it--different!!!

The story begins with the calling of military service to women—particularly, black women. The Women’s Army Corp was just being formed, and with most ventures of this magnitude, adequate provisions were not in place. In fact, military big-wigs did not know what to do with this new situation. But recruiting began and women answered the call. This story centers around two women, their friendship and work with the 6888th Central Postal Directory—a multiethnic battalion. Details of army base life at this time are interesting, and the problems of prejudice (sexual and racial) well described. This unit served overseas and their dedication to getting mail to soldiers never faltered. Descriptions of buildings filled with undelivered packages and letters give us a picture of situations unknown to most, and formed the motto “No mail, low morale.” This is a small book—a quick read, which will be a memorable one. It is upbeat and delightful. It does seem to have more appeal to the feminine gender though.

Book reviews for our newsletter began during the COVID shutdown, and thanks to your encouragement and comments, they have continued longer than expected. It seems now is the time, to bring them to a close—at least on a regular basis. The footstool still holds books, and I enjoy reading and writing. But, Windows 11 is not enjoyable in any way, and it is too costly to replace it. It produces too much frustration! So, there may be two articles a year--summer and winter--with suggestions of new books to read, ideas for gifts, and maybe a “don’t think about that one.” Keep your noses in the pages!!!

~ Carolyn Moore

2024 Flea Fantasia Results

We did it, another Flea Fantasia under our belt. Like last year, Jim and Joyce purchased the Garage Sale permit in Westminster's name for the entire Village. Prairie Township posted a thank you to Westminster on Facebook.

The magic of God's work was everywhere. From the generous donations of stuff to volunteers showing up when needed before, during and after the sale. One example was on the Thursday night before the sale and one of the committee chairs felt we weren't ready. Somehow the word spread and five of our congregants showed up to save the day. We didn't have a schedule for people to be there on the days of the sale, but we always had enough people (and food for the volunteers) to make the sale a success. And we were able to get all the remaining items packed up even though the Volunteers of America showed up twenty minutes early. The biggest blessing of all was that Mary Jane Hamill came on Saturday.

The Food Truck was fun, and we saw many of our former congregants and neighbors. We invited them to join us some Sunday so please pray that we will see them in the future. The Bake Sale was missed, and this was clearly pointed out when one of our customers informed Jim that the only way she could get her husband to the sale was the Bake Sale. Guess what we will be reviving next year!

Thank you to everyone who donated items, their time and all the other little things that make Flea Fantasia (and our Church) a success.

Blessings,

~ Karen, Melinda, Trent and Jim

Galloway Presbyterian events

Friday, **May 31st 6:30 p.m.** the first "**Jazz on the Lawn**" concert of the summer, with the Blue Jays Jazz & Funk Band led by Alex Totah, musical director. This group has played many times for church services, concerts, and summer events. A food truck will be available. Folks are invited to bring lawn chairs, blankets, etc., for seating.

June 8th- annual Yard Sale begins at 9:00 a.m.

June 11th - See Ya Tuesday Dinner group at Tress Portillo's 954 Galloway Road 43119 5:30 p.m. Call church 614-878-5015 or email thomshuman79@gmail.com to join us.

June 12th - Ladies Luncheon at the Bob Evans 1660 Georgesville Square Drive 43228. No reservation needed. All ladies welcome!

Additional information

Adult Bible Study class is taking the summer off. They will begin again after Labor Day.

Zoom assistance needed. If you can help aim the camera during the service, you qualify! Please see Chris Stein.

New Announcements: Please email Melinda Rowe with any announcements or articles for the weekly bulletin or newsletter. Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month. tnmrowe@yahoo.com If you need to call, you can reach me at 614-592-9357.