



# The Exciter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST  
25 West Main Street • North East PA 16428 • (814) 725-8641

No. 573

May - June 2018

## CLERK'S CORNER

I am hoping that this newsletter finds you all healthy and happy and that spring has finally begun to appear. As I am writing this, the snow is still falling, and Erie is less than an inch away from breaking the record for the most snow in a U.S. city in a year! I enjoy living in an area where we are able to experience the majesty of all God's seasons but have to admit that this year, I am particularly looking forward to spring. This year, winter seemed a trifle brutal. However, I know what is to come, and just thinking about it makes me smile. Each year, when the daffodils, tulips, and forsythia emerge, I inevitably feel a vast sense of renewal followed by an overwhelming feeling of thankfulness for what God has afforded me.

Your Session members have been hard at work these past winter months making decisions that are not always easy, but our hope is to make sound determinations that sustain the future of our church. Much of what we discuss is related to our finances, or lack thereof. We continue to discuss pledging, stewardship, and talk about the next phase of our maintenance project concerning the Baker Creek wall. These are all sobering and concerning aspects of our monthly meetings, but as I reflect on what has taken place these past months and what I know is to come, I am overcome with joy and happiness.

We have just experienced an exceptionally poignant Lenten/Easter season filled with many opportunities to worship and praise our Lord and Savior. Thank you to Gregg, Jane, the choirs and everyone that worked hard to magnify the meaningfulness of the worship services. At the time of this writing, Evelyn Daugherty is preparing a message from Jeremiah to share with us on Youth Sunday. Kudos in advance to Evelyn and the C.E committee for what will undoubtedly be another outstanding program/luncheon. The Mission committee has been collecting gently used clothing for a massive clothing drive this fall. This is a much-needed service for our community! The Presbyterian Women will soon be organizing cherry pie baking to supplement their many outreach efforts. This is but a short list of the wonderful things that are taking place in our church right here and now!

Just as we rejoice in the burgeoning buds of spring, take time to delight in all the exciting things that God has His hand in within our church and within your own lives.

God bless you,

Marcia Regan

Clerk of Session



## PRAYER CHAIN

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, speak with Pastor Gregg, call Patti in the church office (814-725-8641), or email our prayer chain ([jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) OR [office@fpcne.org](mailto:office@fpcne.org)). Email us if you'd like to be added to our email prayer chain.



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.FPCNE.ORG](http://WWW.FPCNE.ORG)

# ELMWOOD GARDENS AUXILIARY

## ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



The month of May not only brings the beautiful flowers into bloom, but it also means another year has passed since the last membership drive for the Elmwood Gardens Auxiliary.

The purpose of the Auxiliary is to enrich the lives of those who reside at Elmwood Gardens. We aim to brighten their days by providing a monthly birthday party; special parties each month with entertainment, including special holiday parties, cakes on Mother's Day and Father's Day; a gift for everyone for Christmas; a summer picnic; and a special luncheon in September. We provide transportation through the LIFT program for shopping and lunches out. We arrange for the weekly church service, provide the daily newspaper and spend time with the residents.

Our support comes through the May Membership Drive, bake sales, and basket raffles. The membership fee of the Auxiliary is \$10. **Any amount you are able to give will be greatly appreciated.** Envelopes are available in the Assembly Room at the church. Please return your envelope to the church office or Charlene Baird.

Thank you!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN UPDATE

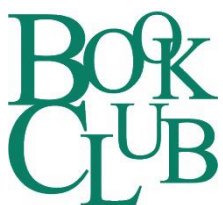
**Birthday Offering Recipients Announced** In honor of our birthdays this year we collectively have given over \$600 toward the mission goals for the 2018 birthday offering recipients. They are: The Cottage Village in Cottage Grove, Oregon, the Village of Grace Center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and the Dwelling Place in St. Paul, Minnesota. Many lives will be blessed because of your generosity.

**Video From Ghana** Here is the promised link for the video from the Ghana Mission Trip. The link is: <https://youtu.be/83eA2WT88FM>. A glimpse of the medical clinic we have committed to support financially can be seen and the faces of our brothers and sisters in Ghana with whom we are partnered.

**It's Time to Plan for Cherry Pie Time** Mark your calendars for July 9th thru July 13<sup>th</sup> as the time when we will enjoy the fellowship and work of preparing those CHERRY PIES! Those pies provide the funds for our mission projects! Several of my grandchildren have it on their calendars each year and work hard rolling crusts and poking holes in tops and carrying pies each morning and then playing with "Granma" and "Granpa" the rest of the day making wonderful memories. We need many hands so bring your family along. Ashley Connors will be directing our efforts. It is the "what's happening place to be!"



**Sewing with a Purpose** Would you like to be a part of a sewing circle to create saleable items from the fabrics we purchased from Ghana? Talk with your friends and let us know if you might enjoy this fellowship opportunity.



**Book Club Updates** The Presbyterian Women's Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 10 at 2:00 P.M. in the conference room next to the Pastor's study. May's selection is *Salt to the Sea* by Nancy Ruta Sepetys. (We will not meet in June.) Join our group! We'd love to have you come!



**Prayers Requested** Finally, the letter below was received by the Presbyterian Women from the Rev. Dr. Stephen Post of Belize. It is printed for your prayerful attention. God speaks to us in many ways, and it is how we respond that we grow in our favor with HIM.

Presbyterian Women  
First Presbyterian Church  
25 W Main St  
North East, PA 16428-1116

Dear Presbyterian Women,

I want to tell you something sad. My husband, a Pastor, sent out nearly 100 letters to Pastors asking for prayers for some special children in need here in Belize, and he got no response. He couldn't believe it. No one was willing to pray for these children. No one wrote back to him.

I know that the bible says that we should pray for one another. And so that is why, as a woman, I am writing to the Presbyterian Women. Would you be willing to pray for some children who are really in need of your prayers? Their names are Jamie Tracy, Susie Westby, Whitney Garbutt, Denzel Garbutt, and little Stephanie Logan. Although we have many, many more children here at the Mission, these are the children who we need special prayers for right now. These small children have very immediate, urgent needs that only God can help with.

It is hard to believe that a Missionary, who has given up his whole life to travel to a 3rd world country to bring the gospel to people, who has spent over 13 years working with some of the poorest of the poor children in this country, and then gets no response when writing to his own people back home asking for prayers. Perhaps the Pastors that he wrote to are just too over-worked with their own Congregations and lives to respond to a Missionary Pastor's request for prayers. Perhaps they don't see any need to pray for those in another country. That's why I decided to send this letter to the Presbyterian Women of your Church. As a woman, I know that women care.

If the Presbyterian Women, or anyone else from your congregation, will pray for these children, please email or write to me and let me know so that I can tell my husband. I have very little to offer you in return for your prayers, but if you will do this, I will send you a hand colored picture each month by one of the children who you will be praying for, similar to the one that I have enclosed by little Whitney Garbutt.

In the Service of the Good Shepherd,

*Shermaine Post*  
Shermaine Post

Missionary and wife of Pr. Stephen (Padre) Post

PS: A few years back a Missionary came to Belize and made a short video of our Mission and placed it on You Tube. It shows a lot about our Mission and the children here. If you would like to see what our Mission looks like, you can view it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABJ34o03RXM> We also have 2 small website at: <http://goodshepherdchildren.weebly.com/> <http://goodshepherdbelize.wordpress.com/> if you would like to visit them.

Rev. Dr. Stephen (Padre) Post  
**Mission Of The Good Shepherd**



Mango Creek, Independence Village  
Stann Creek District, Belize,  
Central America  
[goodshepherdbelize@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherdbelize@gmail.com)





# SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



Applications for the Holmes and Burrows Scholarship Funds are now available in the church office. Traditional and/or adult students who have completed at least one year of post high school studies may qualify. Completed applications, including an essay and copy of grade transcripts, must be returned to the church office or to Sue Moore **by June 1**. Decisions will be made by June 30. Please contact Sue at 814-881-6169 with any questions.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE LIBRARY

**Congratulations to our top readers!** Emma Hirniesen and Yvonne Peck were the top readers during Library Promotion Month!

**Healthcare books for May** cover a wide spectrum including titles about cooking, recipes, health issues and environmental topics.

**Men's sports books are coming in June!** Football, basketball and golf are just a few of the books that may be found on Susan's Cart.

**Mystery Donor at large!** Books and DVDs were left on the library's desk without a name. We would appreciate you letting us know who you are, so we may personally thank you!



### **Pentecost Flowers**

*If you would like to order flowers for Pentecost this year, all orders must be placed by May 13. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and put "Pentecost Flowers" on the memo line.*

**ALL FLOWERS ARE \$4.50.**

Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Red Geraniums

**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY**

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**IN MEMORY of**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**IN HONOR of**

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**Flowers may be picked up after worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.**

### **TITHING MADE EASY**

Do you find it challenging to remember your gift to the church? Is it becoming cumbersome to write a paper check? Consider direct deposit! It's easy and you never have to worry about forgetting. You can stop anytime, and choose your own frequency of giving: monthly, weekly, or some other interval.

If you are interested, please speak with Jean Bahm, our Financial Secretary. Jean will set you up quickly and easily!



# MISSION & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

November 3 is quite a ways away, but we want to start talking about it now. The Mission and Membership Development Committee is embarking on a new Mission effort: a free clothing distribution or “hand-me-down” party. You guessed it - the event will take place on November 3 in the church basement. The day will consist of a simple prepared meal for all who would like to eat, and all the clothing that folks would like to take.

In order for this to happen, we will need the help of everyone that names themselves a member of our church. First, we need your clothing donations. Because this event is occurring in early November, our goal will be to not just provide clothing, but also coats, hats, and gloves, shoes and boots of all sizes and for all ages. Clothes can certainly be used (but wearable) or new for that matter. We are taking donations immediately. They can be brought to the church during regular hours through the week or on Sunday mornings. They can be left in the area with donations to the Food Pantry and 4 N.I.N.E. Thrift Place. Committee members will take donations upstairs each week to a room to be sorted. So, as you sort through your closets and clean out this spring, bring your clothes and coats to the church!

Second, we need your donation of time. The M & M Committee will be announcing several work days to sort and prepare clothing for distribution. Dates will be based upon the amount of clothing received. The committee’s challenge to the congregation is to “keep us busy all year.”

Finally, we will need your commitment on Saturday, November 3. We will need at LEAST 25 volunteers to pull this off. The event will be heavily advertised locally so we are hoping to have an outstanding turnout from North East and the surrounding areas. No matter your age or ability level we will have a job for you.

Think and pray about how YOU can help. Jesus clearly called us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Pastor Gregg has been calling us to look for local mission opportunities. We believe this new endeavor will help us accomplish both. Stay tuned for more information.



# OUR TRUSTEES NEED SOME HELP!

We will be sprucing up the grounds around our church. This will include:

- ✓ **Repairing the front yard**
- ✓ **Preparing the gardens for planting**
- ✓ **Sweeping the sidewalks and driveway**
- ✓ **Repairing the parking signs**



**Can you lend us a hand? We will be having a work day on Saturday, May 5, from 8:00 A.M. – 12 noon. We will get our day going with donuts, juice and coffee at 7:30 A.M. If you have a little time to help, please fill out the SIGN-UP SHEET in the Assembly room or call Jeff Hinman at 814-490-5538.**

**Please bring gloves, shovels, rakes and brooms (regular brooms and push brooms). We're hoping we don't need snow shovels!**

**If you have questions, please ask any of your Trustees: Jeff Hinman, Andy Knight, Fred Lucore, Al Mohnkern, Tom Schenker, Vern Hurlburt or our Session Liaison Joe Spacht. Thank you!**

*~ Your FPCNE Trustees*

## SERVICE SCHEDULES

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Reader:</b>	<b>Nursery:</b>
6-May	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Tom McClure	Evelyn Daughrity and Makayla Albney
13-May	Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern	Vivian Daughrity	Donna Banks
20-May	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Bryan Lash	Beth and David Poor
27-May	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Dave Poor	Roberta Whitmeyer and Peggy Walsh
3-Jun	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Evelyn Daughrity	Kitty Hurlburt and Judy Schenker
10-Jun	Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern	TBA	Becky Oyler and Ashley Connors
17-Jun	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	TBA	Don and Dianne Tyler and Sophie
24-Jun	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Steve Seymour	TBA	Tammi and Cole Elkin

