

Pastor's Report
April 4, 2016

The month of March included a great deal of activity around Holy Week and Easter, and much of my focus was on worship. We hosted the final Cluster Event on March 16, "One Small Step into Supper", with about 55 people for a pot luck supper, worship and mission activity, which was assembling Hygiene Kits for Church Worship Service. The Confirmation Class will need to be reassemble the kits, as we did not get finished and ran out of Band-Aids. Also, the zipper bags that contain the kits were not heavy enough, and I have gotten some more substantial bags. Still, the act of 5 churches working together was symbolic of our covenant work in the United Church of Christ. We were certainly glad to welcome the Rev. Liddy Barlow, who is the Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwestern PA, which is an ecumenical group that brings together people of all different flavors of Christian Faith to work together.

The following week was Maundy Thursday, and we had 67 people attend our soup and bread simple meal, communion and Tenebrae service. On Good Friday, Art and Pat Long and I participated in the Penn-Trafford Ministerium's Prayer Walk, through Penny Lane. A larger group representing several other churches walked through Harrison City. Along with praying for our community and the businesses that serve the community, as well as our nation, read all of the names that are listed on Denmark Manor's prayer list.

On Easter was had our 8:00AM and our 11:00AM services with the wonderful breakfast put on by our men, at 9:15. The breakfast raised \$238 for the camp fund. We will be sending three or possibly four of our youth to camp this year which will cost us about \$500. In addition to the camps for youth, this year, Living Waters is offering an Adult Spiritual Renewal Camp from August 14-18 (Sunday through Thursday). This camp will be led by the faculty of the Penn West Academy, and the focus will be on the theme of Covenant. Perhaps if we have adequate funds to send our youth, we might also offer scholarships for any adults who would like to attend this camp. I will be leading the camp one morning that week, teaching about Covenant in the United Church of Christ.

The Elders met on March 13 and went over the membership list. We found 18 names for whom we have no contact information. The Elders recommend that Consistory remove these people from the membership roll. With these names

removed and some corrections made to the list, we have 180 members. We sent an invitational letter (with First Class Postage) out to 53 others among our inactive members. In the letter that we sent, we included information on E-giving and also asked people to let us know if they wished to remain members. We asked to be contacted before April 15, stating that if we did not hear from them, we would remove their names. I have gotten responses from 8 people who have said that they want to remain on the roll. Those who we don't hear from will be brought to the next consistory for vote. This will give us a more realistic number of members, and will help us become more effective in our ministry. It will also reduce the cost of our Association Per Capita Dues of \$2.00 per person.

The e-giving program is continuing to move ahead, and we have put cards in the pews for those who give electronically, so that they can put these in the offering plates and their gifts can be blessed along with the other gifts that are made each Sunday morning.

An article about the reprinting of the history book appeared in the Penn Franklin News on March 28. Since then, we have received some additional requests to purchase the book. Currently we are up to about 20 orders. We need 50 orders before we go to print.

The mission team would like to support the Penn-Trafford Summer Back Pack Food Program, putting together 2 boxes, costing about \$50 each. We will need to do a special offering for this ministry which we participated in last year.

We were saddened at the passing of John Duffy and Sheila Sharatz. John's service was held at his home church in East McKeesport on April 2. Sheila's funeral home will be held at Vaia Funeral Home in Delmont at 11:00AM on Wednesday, April 6.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meredith Ann Hutchison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Meredith Hutchison