



Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ

NEWSLETTER
NEWS of the 29
Churches of the York
Association
May 2014

York Association
website:
www.yorkassociationu
cc.org
e-mail:
YAPCCUCC@aol.com

Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
• calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
• witnessing together to God's redeeming love. (adopted April 28, 1991)

Cooperative Mission ~ Cooperative Ministries

As we examine the ways in which our York Association churches are partnering across cultural, denominational and secular lines, I felt compelled to share the story of a Gettysburg Association food bank that my York Association congregation ended up involved in. First, you should know that, as with a lot of rural churches, St. Paul's Red Run sits in York County and yet it carries an East Berlin mailing address. Therefore, we count our "community" as one that spans both the Dover and East Berlin areas, and that is reflected in our congregation with youth that attend both Bermudian Springs and Dover school districts. The church has had a long standing relationship with Dover food bank, going back it its founding 32 years ago. In September of 2013, I, the pastor of St. Paul's Red Run UCC, received a letter from a Lutheran pastor of a church in Abbottstown. He shared the most recent events of the Abbottstown/East Berlin food pantry and its plight. For twenty-five years, the food pantry (founded by five UCC/Catholic/Lutheran churches) had been operated by one volunteer and his wife. They, along with a few faithful volunteers, had run the food bank virtually themselves- driving to a variety of stores for deals, spending hours scouring circulars and obtaining grants. In May of 2013, that person died, and his wife felt that her health was too fragile to take on the momentous task of continuing his work. She turned to Rev. Shawn Berkebile of St. John's Lutheran, Abbottstown. Rev. Berkebile sent a letter to the five founding churches, along with all other churches in the area. It was clear that the former model was not feasible- although faithful, the health and age of the existing volunteer force precluded it. Instead, Rev. Berkebile reached out to New Hope Ministries, a not for profit community support organization that already operated one day mobile pantries in surrounding counties.

The decision was to use Trinity Lutheran in East Berlin as the location. Volunteers from area churches arrive to set up the food bank (with carts, racks, food and paperwork supplied by New Hope Ministries) in the fellowship hall. Volunteers then work shifts as shopping assistants, registration table assistants, stock persons and, at the end of the day, clean up.

Not only is the food bank a success, it has created a wider ecumenical community. Whereas before the food bank served the needy, now the community serves the needy- and are richly blessed and invested in the process. My congregants who have long standing friendships with congregants of East Berlin/ Abbottstown churches can now work alongside one another as a community in mission, regardless of denominational ties or theological leanings. On Ash Wednesday, our team of pastors provided a brief service of ashes and had pastors serving chaplaincy shifts throughout the service period.

Personally, I have been energized by this re-imagining of feeding the underprivileged. It has been heartwarming, not only to see my congregation get involved in this important work, but to watch the local grocery store take interest in this mission. Suddenly, we are thinking about how else we can meet the needs of the hungry- backpacks for kids in the summer? Spiritual presence and chaplaincy during these once a month visits? Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

Olde York Street Fair - Mothers' Day 2014

Every year the communications committee of the York Association has a booth set up at the street fair in York on Mother's Day. Volunteers man/woman the table to have conversation with the passersby and try to get the word out about the Association. We do this in several ways: To the adults we hand out bright red tote bags with the YA logo and website info., religious coloring books & crayons for the children (that are actually put together by the committee), and smaller gifts for the toddlers. There are fliers and books available full of information about the York Association and the comma. But can we use the booth for something more? This year we would like your help in a couple ways:

- 1. Let us know of any upcoming church events you are planning in the months of June - Aug 2014
2. Send us your dates and times for your Vacation Bible Schools this summer.

Please make sure to include your church's name and address on this information. You can send your information to Barb Crum at BLCrum@wolfeader.com.

The committee will be asking volunteers to give an hour of their time that day to help out at the table between 1:00 and 6:00 PM. If you would be willing to participate and do your part on Sunday May 11th, please email Lisa Young at itsaboutme0503@comcast.net to be put on the schedule. Thank you, Barb Crum - Committee Chair

If you have a message or request to be mailed to the York Association contact list, please send your request to yapccucc@aol.com to be forwarded by either the YAA secretary or council President. Thank you

Effective January 1, 2014, the new Association Treasurer is Rob Brown. His mailing address is 1855 Lilac Rd., York, PA 17408-1527. He can be reached by e-mail at RobBrown73@comcast.net or by phone at 717-764-0091.

FIRST CAPITAL WORKCAMP WISH LIST

Our 2014 work camp is fast approaching. The week of June 16-20 will be here before we know it. The planning time is coming to a close and we need to look ahead to the arrival of our work campers. The registration for our work camp is still very low, so our biggest wish is for more work camp participants. To that end GROUP is offering a special registration deal for youth groups to attend our work camp. Each of the first four members of a youth group to sign up will pay only \$99, with the fifth person being free. The rest of the members of any youth group would pay the normal registration price of \$459. This is a fantastic opportunity for any youth group to attend a Group Workcamp. Hopefully it will boost our registration numbers. If any of our youth groups are interested in being work campers, please contact Chip Hoover at 792-3153, or Steve Kern at 225-4889. For those youth groups not able to participate as work campers, but would still like to attend an evening program, please contact Pastor Sarah Rentzel-Jones at srentzjones@gmail.com or 717-318-9541.

Our hospitality team continues to plan for the welcoming of the work campers. An item to add to this wish list would be for cookies or cupcakes, that could be served after the evening program times. Another need is for volunteers who could deliver afternoon snacks to the work sites. If your church could help with these items on our wish list please contact Darlene Hoover at 792-3153.

Again this year we will be needing ladders so our work campers can reach new heights. Step ladders and extension ladders are needed for the week. Each ladder will be tagged and tracked throughout the entire time we are using them. If you have a ladder we can use during the week of June 16-20, please contact our Terrific Ladder Master – Terry L. Miller at 717-654-0709. Terry will arrange a pick up and return time with you.

As we approach the start of our fourth First Capital Workcamp we would like to thank everyone who continues to help make the work camp a success.

Around the Association:

Dover UCC – Dover - Vendor show on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 till 2:00. Membership/Fellowship is sponsoring the Vendor show to raise funds to support our Youth Group Mission Trip. More than twenty vendors will be selling their items from many various companies. Also there will be music, food, and games and face painting for children. For additional information contact Allison Musselman at 717-487-0132.

Locust Grove UCC – York - Chicken barbecue and bake sale on Saturday, May 3, 2014, beginning at 11:00 AM, rain or shine. The public is invited. Dinners will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, until sold out. The cost of the dinner is \$8.00. The dinner will include one-half chicken, baked potato, applesauce, dinner roll and butter, cupcake, and beverage. Dinners can be eaten onsite or carried out. Our contact number for the chicken barbecue is 755-1318. To reserve dinners, please leave your name, phone number, and number of dinners. When picking up your dinners, please give your name.

New Hope Fissel's UCC – Glen Rock - Flea Market & Craft Show on Saturday, May 10, 2014 (Rain or Shine) 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Spaces are available for \$5.00 in advance or \$10.00 day of fair (non-refundable) Call the church office 717-235-2033 (Tues. Wed. or Thurs. 9 am to 2 pm) for additional information or to sign up for a space or spaces.

St. Paul's UCC – Dallastown

Friday, 5/16, 8:30 AM-5 PM, UCC Theological Summit, at St Paul's, Dallastown. The topic is the Eucharist and Dr. Victor Taylor, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at York College, will be guest facilitator. For more information:

June 6-7-8, St. Paul's UCC Weekend Vacation Bible School
Rev. Dr. Chris Rodkey's new book - Too Good to be True: Radical Christian Preaching, Year A, is out this week, available at Hearts & Minds and through Amazon--the Kindle version is under \$5.

St. Paul's Red Run UCC – East Berlin -, Food auction June 2nd at 5:30 PM. Items range from perishables to meats to canned food, snacks and paper products; sold from a refrigerated truck. Please bring coolers to ensure appropriate temperature of food is maintained. Items can be bought by case or individually. A limited menu of prepared food will be available (hot dogs, soup, desserts, drinks).

Counseling Service Available

Wendy Anderson is a Licensed Professional Counselor with an MS in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola College in Maryland. Wendy believes that integrating the mind, body and spirit in the counseling process is essential to bring about change and healing. For many years she practiced in community mental health settings, treating children, families adults and couples with a variety of diagnosis and disorders. Recently she began working at the Center For Creative Arts and Play Therapy at 1508 East Market Street in York. She is now open to receiving new clients. The phone number of the practice is 741-0000 and the website is ccapt123@gmail.com.

June 2014 Newsletter Deadline is May 5th. The June Newsletter will be mailed on May 15th.

Newsletter submissions should be addressed to:
Lisa K. Young – Editor
3421 Stone Ridge Road - York, PA 17402
Or
Itsaboutme0503@comcast.net