

West Swamp News

Volume 8, Issue 6

October/November '19

The next chapter!

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A near year long search for our next pastor has ended with the calling of **Michael Howes**. We can't thank the committee enough for their dedication throughout the process. A special thanks to Scott Roth for his support, insight and guidance as well!

We hope that we can all find renewed energy as we begin another chapter in the history of West Swamp Mennonite Church!

Our church attendance is always lower during the summer, but now that vacations, for the most part, are over and the children are back in school, let's show our

support for Michael by not only increasing our attendance, but by increasing our willingness to help and support the activities of the church. Instead of waiting for someone to tap you on the shoulder, stop one of the Deacons and ask, "what can I do to help?"

*~ Jan Wieand,
Don Jacobs,
Pastor Search
Committee
Chairs*



FYI

- Sunday Lunch Bunch meets Oct. 3 and Nov. 7.
- Our Community Thanksgiving Service is Wednesday, Nov. 27.
- Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 am, Sunday, Nov. 3. Don't forget to turn your clocks back!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

What a great time to welcome a new pastor! Though pastors should be appreciated all year round, let's shower Michael and Sue with blessings this month.

First, be praying as they look for a house in this area and make the move from Lancaster. Also be praying as Michael travels back and

forth until that move takes place.

Second, let's look for ways to encourage them—send a note, invite them out for a meal or to your home, etc.

Third, and most important, let's be a congregation that can be led, challenged, inspired and active for the

spreading of God's love and the good news of Jesus!



DISCO: Fall series looks at Peter

The adult Sunday School class continues to meet in Room 104. All are welcome to join us as we begin a new DVD series entitled ***“Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple”*** by Adam Hamilton. Join us as we learn more about this ordinary fisherman. He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work and possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear.

We continue having Prayer Breakfasts on the first Sunday of the month. We encourage everyone to attend as we continue to build up God's church through the power of prayer. If you would like to help with a breakfast, talk to Lori Farrell or Jan Wieand. We'd love to have you involved! *(The pictures are from*

September's Prayer Breakfast.)

If you have ideas for topics or Bible books you would like to discuss in Sunday school, please see Lori Farrell.

~ Lori Farrell

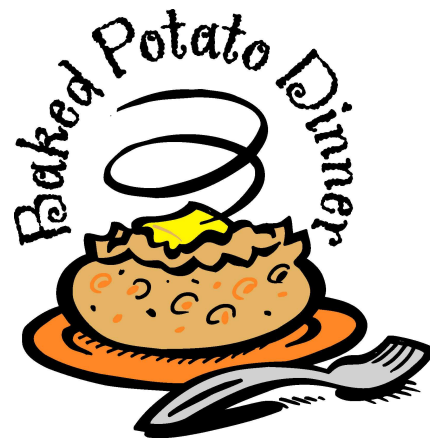


Community: Baked potato bar lunch

The Social Committee is hosting a lunch after the worship service on **Oct. 13**—a baked potato bar with all the fixings! This is a good time to invite family and friends to the service, knowing there will be good food and fellowship included. (There's *always* good fellowship, but food is an extra bonus!)

All are welcome. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall with a list of items needed. Please sign up to bring something if you are able.

This will also be another opportunity to get to know Michael and Sue Howes better as we welcome him into the West Swamp church family!



Community: Food always brings people together

Fall is the perfect time to sign up as a host for Fellowship Hour after church. Sign up with a friend! It's easy and no baking experience is required.

Please consider hosting a Sunday to enhance our visiting time after the service. Just provide a simple snack—homemade or

store-bought, we're an easy crowd. Beverage mixes are available in the kitchen.

The Sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship room . . . any questions, please ask! Thank you!

~ *Nancy Jacobs*



Local mission: Backpack for Pumas



The Community Commission is supporting local families by sponsoring a collection of non-perishable food items for Pfaff Elementary School. The Backpacks for Pumas program sends

food items home with students of families in need, on Friday nights.

Please place donations in the bin with the red school house sign. by Oct. 6. Thank you for helping our neighbors in this way.

Non-perishable food items suggested:

- Dried pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Rice
- Canned beans (kidney, pinto, black, baked)
- Canned soup
- Peanut butter
- Jelly/Jam
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Oatmeal (in packets)
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Applesauce
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Mac and cheese
- Granola bars
- Healthy snack items

Mission: Being a mission-minded church

How can you be mission minded? One way would be to volunteer with Code Blue. There are a good number of West Swampers already involved, but more are always needed to keep the faithful volunteers from burning out if the winter is cold and long. Les Rice, Louise Butcher, Griffin Bear and Cindy Raub would be good ones to ask to learn more about how you could help out this winter. Frost and snow will soon be here, so now is the time to find out more.

Another way to serve Jesus and others is to help with the Ripple meal and winter clothing drive. See the flyer on the next page for the details of this event. Last year we were able to collect many items. It was so good to see the children and others picking out a new coat or warm gloves that they may not have had oth-

erwise. I take for granted that I have a coat that fits, but growing children may not fit into last year's coat and having enough money for a new one this year might be a stretch. Look for the donation box and a sign up sheet to help with the meal to appear later in October. Dana Searfass is heading this up once again. She would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

It will be great to have a pastor again, but being without one for a few months may have been a blessing. I think during that time we became better as a congregation at helping and serving our fellow members. If we truly are a caring church that wants to be like Jesus, we can start by continuing to care for each other in the congregation. We can be mission minded by checking in on our fellow church members to

make sure they are doing fine. If they need some help, give them some or make sure they get some help. Could your mission be to rake some leaves, or run to the store for something? How about just taking someone to dinner who you would like to get to know better.

Let's all continue to be mission minded.

~ Rod Rush



Stewardship: Mid-year financial check-in

This year we will provide you a financial report card as of August 31. Through eight months of the year, the Treasurer reports offerings and other receipts of \$111,916 or 61% of the 2019 budget. Also through eight months, disbursements total \$117,913 or 65% of the budget. Therefore, at August 31 we are showing a 2019 deficit of \$5,997.

To put that in perspective, at August 31, 2018 we reported year to date receipts of \$117,668, disbursements of \$132,017 and a deficit of \$14,349.

So the good news is that our current year deficit is less than it was last year, but mainly due to not paying a pastor for July and August. The bad news is that the offerings are also less than last year.

How about some additional good news; the six window replacements on the second floor were completed in early September under budget, thanks to Gary & Karen Parzych's generous donation of the windows that Steve Conolly Builders, Inc. installed.

The next capital improvement being contemplated, for 2020, is the replacement of the fellowship room carpet, which will be a challenge to next year's budget.

As we look forward to a new spiritual chapter with new pastoral leadership under Michael Howes here at West Swamp, may we all be in prayer about how we can be utilizing the assets God has given each one of us.

~ Randy Rush

SHARE^{the} WARMTH

CLOTHING DRIVE



*Warm your heart by warming
those in need this winter season*



NEW OR GENTLY USED ITEMS NEEDED:

- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Socks
- Blankets
- Jackets



Remember:

FUNCTION OVER FASHION.
MENS, WOMENS AND CHILDRENS SIZES.
NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL!

Donations going to Ripple-Allentown

ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH OCT 20TH THROUGH NOV 17TH



2501 Allentown Rd • Quakertown, PA 18951
215-536-7468 • westswamp1@verizon.net

Comforter Blitz: October 28 & 29

Remember what fun we used to have during Why Knot! Weeks? Well, we're going to condense all that fun into a two day Comforter Blitz.

The church will be open Monday, Oct. 28 from 9 am to 9 pm and Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 9 am to 5 pm for anyone and everyone to come knot comforters.

Your help is needed! Can you

- set up on Sunday?
- provide a lunch Monday or Tuesday (Monday supper is taken care of)?
- provide snacks?
- pin in comforters?

- hem comforters?
- thread needles?
- clean up Tuesday evening?

Not around for the comforter blitz? We need some prep work of sewing tops and cutting batting—a good evening activity for a sociable group.

Let Lynne Rush know if you can help with any of these tasks. Or sign up on the board that you'll find in October.

Comforters done in the Blitz will be donated to

the "Great Winter Warm-Up" on Jan. 18, 2020—just one of many events celebrating Mennonite Central Committee's 100th anniversary.



10 Years of Grace: Solidarity & Harmony's Anniversary

Solidarity & Harmony Haitian Church of Philadelphia is celebrating God's goodness and grace over the last ten years. They are holding a week of revival meetings Oct. 6-13, culminating in special services on Sunday, Oct. 13.

Their theme verse for this anniversary year is Philippians 3:16

—Let us live up to what we have already attained.

They will hold two services that day. The first one is in the morning, 11 am-1 pm, followed by a fellowship meal. The celebration week closes with a 7 pm service. Rod & Lynne Rush will be attending the closing service, and as always, they have room in the

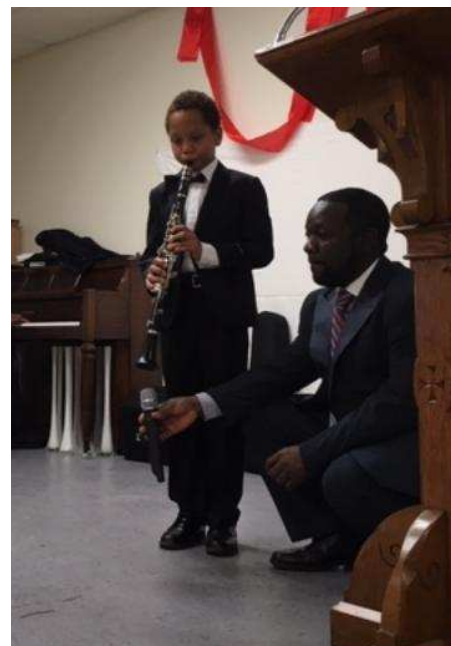
van to take more people.

Whether or not you can attend the celebration, let's all be praying for our sister congregation in Philly.



Left: Rod & Lynne (she's behind the centerpiece) attend a fundraising dinner to prepare for Solidarity & Harmony's anniversary celebration.

Right: Gerard Sejour provided musical entertainment for the evening—on the clarinet and on the violin!



Kid's Page

PUZZLE

Harvest hunt

Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.

caepe

reway

delfis

Galatians
6:9

James 3:18

John
4:35

Peacemakers who sow in _____ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become _____ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

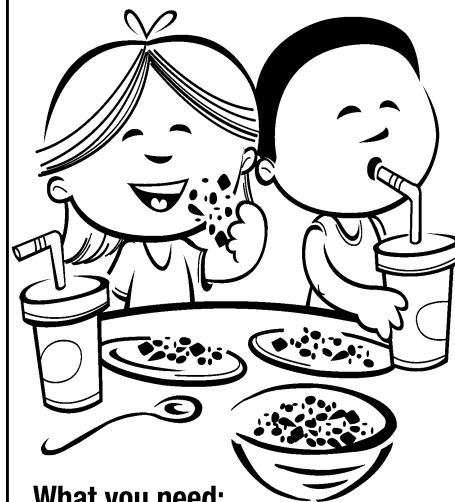
I tell you, open your eyes and look at the _____!
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields

HARVEST

Trail Mix

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



What you need:

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.



west swamp
mennonite church

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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving

Calendar of Events

October

1, 7 pm—Community Com.
2, 6:15 pm—Chimin' In
3, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
6, 9:30 am—Prayer Breakfast
6—World Communion Sunday
8, 7 pm—Mission Com.
10, 7:30 pm—Stewardship Com.
13—Joyful Noise Practice
13—Potato Bar Lunch
15, 7 pm—Ministry Team
16, 6:15 pm—Chimin' In
19, 8 am—Men's Bible Study
20, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
22, 7 pm—DISCO
27—Joyful Noise Practice
27—Comforter Blitz Set Up
28, 9 am—Comforter Blitz
29, 9 am—Comforter Blitz
30, 6:15—Chimin' In

November

1-2—Conference Assembly
3, 9:30 am—Prayer Breakfast
5, 7 pm—Community Com.
6, 6:15 pm—Chimin' In
7, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
7, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
10—Joyful Noise Practice
12, 7 pm—Mission Com.
13, 6:15 pm—Chimin' In
16, 8 am—Men's Bible Study
17, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
19, 7 pm—Ministry Team
20, 6:15 pm—Chimin' In
24—Joyful Noise Practice
24, 4 pm—Ripple Meal
26, 7 pm—DISCO
27, 7 pm—Community Thanks-
giving Service
28—BE THANKFUL!

Regular Activities

Tuesdays, 8 am—Quilting & Knotting

Wednesdays, 7 pm—Choir (starting Sept. 5)



Birthdays

October

10/6 Matthew Opdyke
10/7 Deb Stevenback
Jan Wieand

10/14 Don Rosenberger
10/17 Case Mood
10/18 Paul Heimbach
Casey Parzych
Joann Rush
10/20 Amanda Wieand
10/21 Randy Rush
Sue Shelly
10/25 Corinne High
10/29 Dale Loch
10/30 Ken Roth
10/31 Jim Rosch

November

11/3 Nancy Jacobs
John Riley
11/05 Olivia Mood
11/06 Jordan Husvar
11/08 Alex Parzych
11/18 Andrew Spiess
11/19 Pam Grube
11/20 Don Butcher
11/21 Bernice Keller
11/26 Les Rice
11/28 Kitty Stauffer