

Church News

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CHAZ...

¹⁶“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ¹⁷“But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6:16-18)

Fasting is one of the spiritual disciplines that has been primarily lost to Christianity in modern times. At the same time, many other faiths practice it. Jews fast regularly, the Muslims fast for an entire month, the Hindus and Buddhists do so at every turn. The closest that most Christians come to fasting is the tradition of giving something up for Lent. Like fasting, the purpose is to practice the discipline of self-denial, and to focus one’s attentions on others; particularly God. Christians practice this at Lent as a way of honoring the sacrifice Jesus made for us, and to aid in focusing our hearts and minds on Holy Week. This is a good practice, and one I recommend. However, there are some points that are important to bring up concerning the practice.

First of all, it must be a sacrifice. While deployed overseas during lent, one of the ships officers jokingly declared that he was going to give up sex for Lent. Of course, on a ship at sea with his wife back in the States, this would not be much of an effort. The whole idea is that it is supposed to be a struggle, it is supposed to be difficult. Furthermore, the idea is that as you experience cravings for what you have given up, you should stop and pray for others. After all, at the moments of his greatest suffering, Jesus prayed for his disciples and those who were against him. This is what we are to be modeling; denial of the self and love for others.

Secondly, one of the things that has always concerned me about the practice of giving something up for Lent is the mistake that is so often made. The mistake is what is alluded to in the passage from Matthew above. All too often I hear people, even clergy, sharing with others what they are giving up and how much of a struggle it is. “Oh, I am giving up chocolate for Lent and it is SO hard.” The problem with this can be best communicated in Jesus’ own words, “they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I

say to you, they have their reward in full.” A fast is something that is between you and God ALONE. As Jesus says, it is to be done in secret. The moment one tells another what they are giving up and how hard it is, they have just canceled out any true benefit of the sacrifice. As Jesus says, “when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret.” If someone asks you if you are giving anything up for Lent, gently remind them that such things are best left between oneself and God.

It is my hope and prayer that God will grant you the discipline to focus on Him and others this season. If you are not one for giving something up for Lent, you can purpose to set aside time every day to read your Bible and pray. It is through these disciplines of faith that Easter can mean so much more than spring vacation, pastel colored eggs, and bunnies. May God richly bless you with an overflowing abundance of His Spirit this Holy season.

C E N S U S T I M E – T I M E T O U P D A T E O U R C H U R C H R E C O R D S

A new committee has been formed in order to try to identify and locate active and inactive members as well as their information. This will assist us in keeping the most updated records for our annual reports that we must submit to the Presbytery and National office.

Within the next two months, you will be receiving a letter in the mail with the information we currently have on file for you. It is very important that you review the information

and return the form back to us as soon as you can. We want to make sure we have an accurate record.

The form will include membership status, address, phone, and birth date for all family members.

Membership status includes the following:

Active member—person who joined the church and is an active participant in the church either physically or financially.

Inactive member—person who joined the church, but has not been actively involved in the

church physically or financially in the last 2 years. Note:

According to the Book of Order, session is to attempt to contact the member and bring them back to active status . If that attempt should fail, the session has to review the status and consider removing them from the church roles. This is why it is very important to hear back from everyone!

Friend of the church—a person who has not joined the church, but is actively involved physically and/or financially.

We truly need the help of everyone!

R E V L O C S E S S I O N N E W S

A congregational meeting was held on January 30. Following a delicious supper of soup, sandwiches, and desserts, the meeting got under way. Elders elected for 2010 are Jeff Keilman, Kitty Kovach, and Don Shay. The 2010 budget was approved.

The Men's Breakfast will be February 14.

Since it is on Valentine's Day, the women are invited as well. Afterward, we'll head over to Colver for a spaghetti lunch.

There are no fundraisers scheduled until after Easter. There is a tentative garage sale/bake sale in the works to be scheduled some time this spring.

By Jane Elms, Clerk

R I C H & P A U L I N E

We would like to thank
Rich and Pauline
Blough for their 12
years of service as
financial secretary and
assistant financial
secretary. We
appreciate their
dedication and service.

Thank you, both!

COLVER COMMITTEES 2010

During the January session meeting, session members were assigned to committees. The following is a list of session committees, standing committees and their chairpersons.

Christian Education—Belinda Lambie (Chair), Tina Taylor, Greg Headrick, as well as Sunday School Teachers

Building—Ken Taylor (Chair), Michael Shutack, Shawn Link

Missions—Evalyn Martin (Chair), Robert Wallace, Nancy Bumford

Worship—Pastor Chaz, Kathy Davis, Anna Marie Wallace, Connie Kostelnik, Dottie Headrick

There has also been a new temporary committee formed—Membership. This committee will help the clerk try to locate and update information on active and inactive members. The committee includes Robert Wallace, Beverly Shutack, and Evalyn Martin.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

This year there have been a number of updates and repairs.

The most identifiable is the sign on the Colver T that invites our friends and neighbors to join us on Sundays and special events.

An addition that people

may not notice was the installation of a motion detector light in the back of the church. This light was installed as a result of our community friends making us aware of individuals climbing on the back roof of the church. Hopefully this will deter people from

climbing on the roof as well as keep them safe.

We now have a new heating oil provider—Barber Oil since Jim's Oil is no longer in business.

We know from examining the church infrastructure that repairs will soon need to be made.



You are always welcome to help with committees and or offer your suggestions.

NEWS FROM OUR WOMEN

The women are busy planning their calendar for the upcoming year. Their plans include what everyone looks forward to like the Calendar Party, Bazaar, Christmas Program, Pie Socials, and bake sales just to name a few. Any female

interested in joining the Women's Association is welcome. Circles meet on the first Wednesday of the month.

Anyone wishing to help the women out with their activities and fundraisers, help is greatly appreciated.

2010 Women's Association Officers

- Anna Marie Wallace, Moderator
- Mary Jeanne Davis, Vice Moderator
- Evalyn, Martin, Secretary
- Debbie DeGretto, Treasurer
- Nancy Bumford, Fellowship
- Dottie Headrick, Missions
- Anna Marie Wallace, Evalyn Martin & Judy Grenell, Nominating Committee
- Bea Ewing, Circle I Leader
- Connie Kostelnik, Circle II Leader

COMMUNICANT'S CLASS

This year Colver has four young men who are taking the communicant's class through the Sunday School program. Jarod Eastman, Jonah Lambie, Jesse Beck, and Anthony Taylor have been studying a number of different topics such as:

- history of the Christianity
- the Trinity
- God
- Jesus
- the Holy Spirit
- the Sacraments (communion and

- baptism)
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Confession
- Book of Confession
- Book of Order
- governmental system of the Presbyterian Church,
- Fruits of the Spirit
- Service to the church

what they have learned. Session will be voting to approve these students as well as others interested in joining the church.

Those joining the church will be accepted into the church during the morning worship service on Palm Sunday. Please consider showing your support of our upcoming members with your attendance at this service.

The boys will soon be attending a session meeting to share a PowerPoint presentation that they created to summarize

Spaghetti Dinner
February 14
1:00-5:00 pm

Colver Presbyterian Church
 Eat in or Take Out

Under 5
FREE!!!

\$6.00
Adults

\$4.00
5-10 yrs

Call
748-7275 or 748-7773
For advanced tickets

COLVER COMMUNITY COMMUNION

Colver Session would like to reach out to our community in a way that we haven't done before. We realize that some in our community may not feel comfortable coming to church, but they often miss out on the important and meaningful expressions of our faith in Jesus Christ.

This Lenten season, the

church would like to include our neighbors in celebrating and remembering the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us. To do this, session will be sponsoring communion for our neighbors in their own home. Anyone interested in receiving communion at home during Lent can call Pastor Chaz at 931-9944 or Ken and Tina

Taylor at 748-7275 to arrange a time for a communion visit to your home.

**UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WORKS
WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR MORE
DETAILS...**

REVLOC

- This spring's garage sale & bake sale

COLVER—HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

- Turkey dinner sometime during Lent

COLVER-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- Easter Cantata
- Lenten Family Dinner
- Special Program by the Sunday School Children
- The breakfasts

- Christian Education Committee events
- VBS
- Mission activities
- Bible Studies
- Children's activities



activities.

Please consider supporting our churches and our neighbors.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REPORT

In January, Colver held its annual congregational meeting to review 2009. We know that we've had some trying years in the past and this one is no different.

We currently have 116 members on the active roll, however, we only see about 35-40 on a given Sunday.

Obviously we would like to see more people to fellowship and worship with.

Financially through the help of the Women's Association and their fundraisers, we have managed to pay the bills, but times are tough as we all know. The auditors have shown us that we've been keeping a float but

anything we had in reserves is quickly being eaten up to pay the bills.

We would like to take this time to thank all of our members and friends of the church for their financial support in ways that we see in the income as well as gifts that we don't see that often go unnoticed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 14—Men's Breakfast (Revloc)
- 14—Spaghetti Dinner (Colver 1-5)
- 15—Colver Session Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 17—Ash Wednesday Service (7:00 pm)

March

- 1—Colver Crafters (1:00)
- 1—Women's Association Executive Board Meeting
- 3—Women's Association Circle Meetings
- 15—Colver Crafters (1:00)
- 17- Session Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 28—Palm Sunday

April

- 1—Maundy Thursday Service w/ Communion (7:30)
- 2—Good Friday (7:00 pm)

April (continued...)

- 4—Easter Sunday w/ Communion
- 5—Colver Crafters (1:00)
- 5—Women's Association Executive Board Meeting
- 7—Women's Association Circle Meetings
- 19—Colver Crafters (1:00)
- 21—Session Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 24—Women's Association Pie Social (5-7)

May

- 3—Colver Crafters (1:00)
- 3—Women's Association Executive Board Meeting
- 5 & 6—Calendar Party
- 17—Colver Crafters (1:00)
- 18—Women's Association Primary Bake Sale
- 19—Session Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 23—Communion Service

Colver & Revloc Presbyterian Church
Colver, PA 15927

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