



Connections

May 2014

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Celebrating Mothers

It is hard to believe we are already entering the month of May. With all these April showers, I'm ready to see some beautiful May flowers! As we see the new life of flowers, trees, and grass during spring, it reminds me a lot of the upcoming holiday, mother's day. I think it is very fitting we celebrate mother's, those who gave us life, during a season where new life is blooming all around us. Not only have our mothers given us life, but most of our mothers have enriched them and fostered them with their love and care.

When I think of my mother and what she means to me, I am overwhelmed with a feeling of gratitude and appreciation. My mother has been someone who was always been my biggest fan and number one supporter. When times were hard, I sought refuge in her arms. This endearing quality mothers have reminds me of a promise from our God. While we often refer to God as our father, I also tend to notice numerous maternal qualities of God. In Isaiah 66:13 we are encouraged that "God will comfort his people like a mother comforts her child." I don't know about you, but that sure brings a smile to my face, and a safe sensation to my heart. How fortunate are we that we too can find safety and refuge in our God's arms, much like a child finds comfort in their mothers.

While some of us may have mothers who are no longer with us, or have strained relationships with our biological mothers, we all have women in our

life who have shaped who we are today. I can think of many women in this church who have mothered numerous people. Whether that means praying for you, teaching your learning community, or greeting you with a warm smile during a Sunday service, these 'mothers' are everywhere. These gestures, no matter how small, have a profound impact on our lives, and give us a sense of purpose and worth in this world.

As I have gotten older I have begun to realize how much mothers, and other mother figures do that often goes unnoticed. Whether that's waking up at the crack of dawn to get your breakfast made or lunches packed, or suffering through frigid weather watching your sporting events, or the hours they lie awake at night thinking and praying about your safety and wellbeing. So many acts of love and compassion that are so often taken for granted. When we stop to take the time to reflect on those who have mothered us, we truly have so much to be grateful for.

So as we rejoice in the signs of spring, and new life, won't you too rejoice and honor those who have breathed life into your life. Let us honor our mothers, and mother figures, not just today, but every day!

*Blessings,
Pastor Kim*

Letters from Our Missionaries

If you would like to read updates from our missionaries all over the world, please visit the Missions Bulletin Board in the lobby near the main entrance of the church.

Congregational Council 2014

Mark your calendars now for the Pre-Council Meeting on Sunday, June 1 at 6:00 p.m. and the 2014 Congregational Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m.

This is our annual business meeting where we will be celebrating what God has accomplished in and through our congregation within the last year, as well as, look forward to where God would like us to move within the next year.

Congregational Council packets will be available starting on Sunday, May 18. In our continued efforts to be good stewards of our resources, we will be distributing hard copies of the following reports: pastoral, church board, Administrative Team, Ministry Team, financial, and Grantham Church Leadership. All other reports will be available for download on-line at www.granthamchurch.org and hard copies will be available in the church office upon request.

Church Family Updates

Death: Please continue to pray for Glen and Linda Pierce, on the recent death of Glen's mother, Mary Pierce.

Upcoming Sermons

May 18	Ephesians 5:21-6:4	One Plus One Equal Three
May 25	Pastor Ru	
June 1	Pastor Ru	
June 8	Pastor Ru	
June 15	Fathers Day	

Library News

The library now has two new books for parents of boys – *The Hair-Raising Joys of Raising Boys* and *Boys Will Be Boys*. The author, Dave Meurer, provides helpful tips, hilarious observations and profound reflections on bringing up boys. Look for these on the Reading Challenge cart near the entrance of the church library.

Eddie Asbury

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*All members of the
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 *Grantham Church*



Service Sunday 2014

In Acts 10 we are told “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil because God was with him.” This sums up my goal for this years’ Service Sunday which was to emphasize helping others in our area who are in need.

I personally feel we have many in our community who are in need and it would be a great example of Christ’s love if we were to come to their assistance. I wanted as many projects as possible to not be about us at Grantham Church. I agree we need to help those in our congregation if they are in need, but I again felt strongly that we should be reaching out to those outside our secure walls here on the hill.

I want to thank my team of volunteers: Carmen Williams, Duane Asper and Chris Young for their dedication, ideas and hard work in making this a successful endeavor. I also want to thank all our project leaders, Marion Yoder, Ken Martin, Linda Gemberling, Coleen Johnson, Jodie Smiley, Chrissy Hoffner, Laura Hoffman, Ru Wideman, Denise Fogelsanger, Gretta Owen, Joan Asper, Hannah Sollenberger, Wayne Cassel, Julia Johnson, Kim Ickler, Rich & Polly Stevick, Otto Monroy, Pete Fraser, Keith Sultzbaugh, Dale Fogelsanger, and David Yoder. I also want to thank Dan Asbury and his team for the meal and Rick Dent and Sherri Wolgemuth for taking photos.

As you can see it took a lot of people to make this happen. We had 23 projects in all and close to 200 people participating, an increase of 50 people over last year. I attribute this to the congregation getting use to the idea of a Service Sunday. I look for even more involvement next year.



There were a great many stories from Service Sunday that touches the heart, but I wanted to share my project as an illustration. In July of 2012, my neighbor, Vicki, lost her husband in a motorcycle accident. The last 22 months have been very difficult for her. She has suffered from depression and other medical problems. She also recounted the story of how after her husband’s death, many family and friends were so unkind with how they took advantage of her and even stole items from her. The worst being a gift card a local church had given to her which was taken from her house by a friend of her son.



The breaking point may have been this past February. In our area on the south side of Pinchot Park, we were hit very heavy by an ice storm. We were without power for four days. Vicki had numerous large trees and branches that fell

down on her property. One landed on her garage and the largest fell inches from her house. I decided to ask her if we could clean this up on our Service Sunday; she could not believe it and agreed.

In all we had 13 adults and kids travel to the wilds of Warrington Township for this project. The day before I told another neighbor, Jim what we were doing and he asked if he could help. Of course I said yes. With the help of numerous chainsaws, many hands and Jim's tractor, we were able to get the job done. This was a great example of Christ's love to not only Vicki, but also to Jim who I would guess has not seen the inside of a church for decades. Vicki could not believe all that we did. I also want to thank the church for donating a \$100 Giant gift card which we gave to Vicki in a card signed by all 13 who helped out. She was stunned and I hope it made up for the one that was stolen.

The following day my wife Lisa ran into Vicki and asked her how she was doing. She told Lisa she spent the rest of the day Sunday crying over "the love of Christ shown to her by our church." She said she called all her friends and told them what we had done. She also mentioned she was planning to donate \$100 to the church for doing this, but instead, we go and give her that same amount. She was in disbelief.



We never know how our actions touch those around us. I know many of the other projects had similar stories and I hope we can have them told as well. Going forward I hope we grow in the projects reaching out to people in our community. We should also be purposeful to carry the spirit of Service Sunday with us throughout the year. It is truly more blessed to give than receive. I will end with a part of Pastor John's closing prayer the week following Service Sunday that struck me, "love and serve the Lord, and rejoice in the Holy Spirit."

God Bless our church and our community.

~ Ken Sechrist

See more about Service Sunday on page 6





Service Sunday 2014

A team of eleven worked at Sandy Kline's home today in Mechanicsburg. Sandy has become a widow within the past month and was very appreciative for the help. Our group consisted of: Ken Mark, Ryan Mark, Ann Mark, Landon Mark, Dane Mark, Ken Martin, Yvonne Martin, Doug Martin, Phil Martin, Jon Wheat, and Ellie Yoder.

We washed the house windows inside and outside, edged all the beds, trimmed the arborvitae, cut down a twelve foot tree and removed the stump. We also spread 12 cubic yards of mulch donated by The Outdoor Touch. We began work at 9:00 a.m. and concluded about 1:30 p.m. so we had to settle for McDonald's burgers for lunch.

We had a great time working together and Sandy was overwhelmed with appreciation as she is experiencing tremendous loss with Skip's death; both his presence and his work as he always did the outside jobs.

8 of us played games and shared snacks with about 25 residents of Claremont Nursing Home in Carlisle. They especially enjoyed the four teenagers and three years old. The volunteer coordinator said two of the residents who came had lost spouses recently and do not come out of their rooms. They came because they wanted to see the young people!



Thank You

Thank you for the contribution of \$2,000.00 to Mennonite Central Committee U.S. received on April 1, 2014 which you designated for peace.

Dear Pastor John and Grantham Church Congregation,

Thank you very much for the generosity of your church in partnering with us in our ministry to individuals and families affected by gun violence and our efforts to help reduce the violence. We were honored to share in your Peace Sunday service, and we have been blessed through the offering which you share with our church. As always, we are grateful for your partnership and support.

Sincerely,
Lynda Gephart/Harrisburg BIC Church

“The yearly clean-up the Grantham Church provides is a Godsend to people like myself who are widowed and physically compromised. When Dave Yoder approached me regarding this project, I was stunned. No one had ever offered me such generosity. I felt a huge weight lighting from my shoulders, and broke down knowing relief was at hand.

I thank the Grantham Church for having this project, and for the following people who helped on Sunday and Monday (April 27, 28): Dave & Velma Yoder, Art & Donna Bert, Sam Brubaker, Bill Duncan, and Dale Bicksler. I thank God every day for life, health, family, and for people like these in your congregation, who go out of their way to help people like myself.”

My sincere Thank You from the deepest part of my heart.

A community member

The Arts Hub Update

Thank you to all who made this year’s Arts Hub series a great success. The worship commission and I are back to the drawing board and are cooking up some ideas for next year’s series. We have some great artists we are eyeing for concert events, workshops and community gatherings. Look for a new calendar coming out over the Summer!

GRANDMOTHERS in PRAYER MEETING May 22, 2014

Our May meeting will begin in the church Parlor (Room A4) at 10:30 a.m. At 11:15 a.m. we will meet at the Fireside Grill at Messiah Lifeways for lunch. Cost is about \$10.00 by cash or check. (No credit cards accepted.) If you are planning to attend lunch, please RSVP to Velma Yoder by Friday, May 16. All grandmothers are welcome and encouraged to join us as we support each other and pray for our grandchildren. Please contact Velma Yoder at 697-2699 or velyoder@aol.com with questions.



Marriage Ministry at Grantham: Introductory Series Sundays 9:00-10:00 a.m. Room C8-10-12

May 18 – The Decline of Marriage 1963-2013: What Happened to Whom & Why – Roger Sider

May 25 – Marriage Matters: The Powerful Benefits of Marriage (for children, women, men, and the harmful results of its absence) – Roger Sider

June 1 – Mobilizing the Resources of the Scriptures and the church to Strengthen Marriage – Merle & Ila Brubaker

During the last class, the leaders will give a brief introduction to the Fall Learning Community entitled, “Toward a Covenant Marriage: God’s Design for Joyful Intimacy” led by Kathy Stuebing. People of all ages and marital status and welcome and encouraged to join us for these classes.

Youth Ministries Update

On April 25th the youth held their annual Youth Auction. It was an amazing night of fellowship and fundraising! We brought in around \$10,000. A HUGE thank you to all who made this night possible. The money will go towards our summer mission trip to South Carolina, and all remaining funds will go towards our international mission trip next summer. We are honored to take this money and shine in the community by doing the Lord's work! Thank you all so much for your generous donations! We will be in South Carolina from June 15 – 20 doing home repair and construction with Salt N' Light Ministries. Please keep the youth in your prayers as we prepare and embark on our missions trip.



Service day was a big success for our youth. Eighteen of us headed over to Advance Auto Parts on the Carlisle Pike and gave free car washes! When people tried to give donations we told them we were not accepting them, and explained to them the mission of Grantham's Service Sunday! It was a terrific outreach and a great way to get Grantham's name out there. Thank you so all the youth who worked hard on making those cars shine!

On May 2-3rd the youth attended a youth ministry conference in Baltimore called Acquire the Fire. We took 20 people total! It was a great weekend of speakers, worship, and fellowship! What a wonderful event to experience God's love and get to bond as a youth group!

Our Bible Quizzing team has two final events on May 3rd.

Our final Sunday Night Youth Group will be May 18th. We will celebrate our seniors this night and have a night of fun, games, and fellowship. This summer we have several outings in the works such as our Mission Trip to South Carolina, capture the flag, paintball, tubing the yellow breeches, and a picnic at Pinchot! I can't wait for warmer weather and a fun filled summer with our youth!

Children's Ministry Update

Our annual Easter egg hunt was held on April 19th. It was a beautiful day for an egg hunt! We had over 150 kids in attendance, predominately from the community! What an incredible outreach. Thank you to all who donated candy, and to the youth for putting on a puppet show, and supplied snacks for breakfast! I have heard so many wonderful responses, we should be very proud as a church for providing such a wonderful outreach opportunity.



Service Sunday in the children's wing was another wonderful outreach! The kids made bags for college students, put together MCC kits, and decorated flower pots for give to Paxton Street residents! What a wonderful way to get kids involved in service! Thank you to all who facilitated this event!

The next event on our calendar is our children's choir will be singing on Mother's Day, May 11. They have been working hard on a special piece for moms; you don't want to miss the cuteness of this!

Our final big event coming up is Grantham's Summer Vacation Bible School. This will be taking place Monday June 23-Thursday June 26 from



9am-12pm. VBS is open for kids entering kindergarten through kids entering 5th grade. Our theme this summer is Jungle Safari.

Buckle up for a wild ride as we take a Jungle Safari through God's word. At Jungle Safari VBS kids will KNOW what's so great about God, EXPLORE the nature of God, and SERVE God in practical ways. Each day we will focus on a different aspect of God's character: Day One: God is CREATOR, Day Two: God is PROVIDER, Day Three: God is PROTECTOR, Day Four: God is SAVIOR & KING. We are excited for four days of fun and learning, we hope you will join us this summer on our Jungle Safari!

Participant and volunteer registration and information is available on-line at <http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/granthambic> or link to this page from www.granthamchurch.org. We are in need of help to staff various stations and be group leaders. Please contact Pastor Kim if you are willing and able to help out!

HOW CAN I HELP?

Grantham BIC Church believes it is important to give back to our community. Therefore, the Missions, Peace, and Service Commission provides a number of on-going ways that you can be involved with supporting our local community through material resources.

1. **New Hope Ministries** is a Christian social service agency that shows the love and hope of Christ by serving our neighbors in times of need and supporting their efforts towards stability. We provide a variety of assistance and services in the Dillsburg, Dover, Hanover, Mechanicsburg, and West Shore areas of Pennsylvania.

New Hope Ministries is currently in need of the following items for their food bank: peanut butter, canned tuna/chicken, canned fruit (no fruit cocktail), canned vegetables, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salt & pepper, sugar, flour, coffee, jelly, deodorant, dish detergent, and laundry detergent.

2. **Harrisburg BIC Church Food Pantry:** Harrisburg BIC Church has a food pantry which it opens to the community twice a month. Food is always appreciated.

3. **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)** health, newborn care and school kits. These kits are distributed to people in need in many parts of the world. As you think about it while you're shopping for school and health supplies for your family or for a new baby in the community, consider adding a few items to contribute to someone in need. A list of requested items can be found on top of the donation bin.

Items for School Kits: 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 1/2 x 10 1/2 in and 70 sheets), 8 unsharpened pencils, 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30 cm and 12 in), 12 colored pencils (in packaging), and 1 large pencil eraser

Items for Health Kits: 1 adult-size toothbrush, 1 large bar bath soap, 1 fingernail clipper (good quality), 1 hand towel (larger than fingertip, dark color)

Items for Newborn Kits: 2 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material), 2 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves), 4 cloth diapers (flat-fold preferred), 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel; minimum 36 in), 4 safety pins (2 in), 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper), 1 pair of socks, 1 cap

Donations for all projects can be dropped off anytime in the marked bins under the coat rack by the library.

Ministry Highlights: Grounds Keeping Ministry



The grounds keeping ministries here at Grantham Church is a picture of volunteerism at its very best. Everything that happens, happens because of the hard work and dedication of a core group of volunteers. We as a church family are blessed by these volunteers, but I would hazard a guess that if you asked any one of this group of workers, they would say that they too are blessed in the giving of their time and energy. So, you might say, then, that the volunteers are doubly blessed: blessed in the giving, and, blessed as recipients as well. Our facility is surrounded by a significant amount of property; every bit of it requires considerable attention to maintain and care for.

The grounds keeping efforts fall into two broad categories: 1.) Lawn Care and 2.) Landscaping care and maintenance. With regard to the lawn care, we have a dedicated group of volunteers who work in teams to assure that the mowing is done on a timely basis. This entire effort is ably administrated by Dale Wolgemuth. Your volunteer mowers are: Duane Asper, Art Bert, Wayne Cassel, Bill Duncan, Blair Duncan, Norm Eby, Tim Garland, Joe Hess, Dave Leppo, John Luft, Denny Mann, Nevin Myers, Carl Poffenberger, Janet Rudy, Tom Rudy, Michael Sites, Dale Wolgemuth, and Marion Yoder.

Landscaping care and maintenance includes all the various beds containing flowers and ground surrounding the church building. Additionally, there are literally hundreds of shrubs and trees that

need constant attention. What follows is, in brief, a summary of what minimum landscaping entails for our property:

1. As soon as the snow the snow is gone, it is necessary to replace all of the divots in the lawns caused by plowing snow.
2. On the large bank by the retention pond the ornamental grasses need to be cut down and the day lily beds need to be cleaned. All the dead foliage from the previous year needs to be pulled out and hauled away. This can amount to as much as 8 pick-up loads each spring.
3. A number of the shrubs need to be trimmed; i.e., the butterfly bushes get cut down every spring.
4. We have about 90 global boxwoods that need to be trimmed twice annually; once in the spring, once in the fall.



5. All of the beds need to be edged to keep the grass from overrunning them. We usually rent a bed edger for an entire day. Then the edges need to be dressed and the tanbark renewed as needed.
6. Speaking of tanbark, all of the beds are tanbarked and require constant attention and renewal.
7. The larger trees need to be pruned. On occasion, one or more of them will need to be cut down. At such times we usually call on Dale Wolgemuth and his trusty chain saw.
8. By far, the most challenging and time consuming part of this effort is weed control. We pull, dig, spray, and remove weeds by the pick-up truck load.

I got a little tired just writing this. It seems like a big job, but it's not done all at once; it is broken down into a variety of tasks. Still, we owe our thanks to the team of volunteers that performs all these tasks. That team is made up of: Wayne Cassel.

Lest you think I got distracted and forgot to finish the list, let me assure you that the list is complete; shame on us, for allowing the burden of all these tasks to fall on one person. We surely owe Wayne a huge debt of gratitude!

Helping with our landscaping would be a wonderful project for one (or more) of our small groups. I hear chatter about small groups branching out into doing some service; this would be an excellent opportunity. Or perhaps one of the adult learning communities would like to branch out into service; this would be an excellent "home-grown" project. Landscaping is also a great job for individuals or families. Many hands make light work.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that we could surely use your helping hands in this ministry. You will find that you will be doubly blessed in the process, and you'll not regret that you gave of yourself to your church family. If you'd like to help, even if it would be in some small way, we would be very glad to hear from you. You can e-mail me at rdourte@granthamchurch.org or call me at the church office at 766-0531. We await your contact.

Financial Update as of April 30, 2014

- Giving through the first 35 weeks of the fiscal year has fallen behind the planned budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
- On Week 35 of 52 expected giving levels are at \$496,400. Actual giving is \$486,817 or \$9,583 behind expected levels.
- Actual Expenditures year to date do continue to hold below current budgeted levels.

Current Budget

(September 1, 2013 thru
August 31, 2014)

\$709,142

Contributions and other Receipts
as of April 30, 2014

\$486,817

Difference \$222,325

Remaining weeks of Giving: 17

Average Receipts required per week
to make budget

\$13,078

Current Average

\$13,909

Current average without large gift

\$12,480

*Based on historical giving trends over the last 5 years, 30% of the total giving for the fiscal year will be received after week 35 producing an expected total giving below budgeted levels. **Please note** the above report does not yet reflect the Youth Auction Receipts from April 25th.*

A Word of Thanks

As this ministry year draws to a close I want to say a word of thanks for the numerous volunteers that assist us with worship. So many of you dedicate your time and abilities for the good of our church body week in and week out. From our musicians, to the sound and projection crews, to the ushers, to our scripture readers, to our worship commission, to our choir, to our visual arts task force. Particularly, Shelly Eyster, Rebecca Coover, and Melanie Shubert make our worship possible. Elisa Siebert and Luke Forshey thank you for leading our worship teams. Thank you Ellie Keller for you work as our Worship Arts intern. Its a privilege to work for the kingdom with you all. You have our heartfelt thanks.

~ Pastor Otto, Director of Worship Arts



We are, once again, participating in the Capital Area Pregnancy Center's annual Baby Bottle Blessing fundraiser running from Mother's Day (5/11) to Father's Day (6/15).

Baby bottles were distributed on Mother's Day. Our goal is have every family to pick up at least one baby bottle and fill it with spare change/bills (checks are ok, too) and return it on Father's Day, June 15, 2014.

Remember to pray for moms, dads, and their unborn children during this time.

- \$20 will pay for 12 women to receive a free pregnancy test and accurate information on their options.
- \$30 will pay for 12 women to receive a "Hope" Bible specifically designed for women facing an unplanned pregnancy.
- \$40 will pay for 1 woman to receive an ultrasound and see her unborn child for the first time.
- \$50 will pay for 10 clients to receive our "Basic Decision Making" materials.
- \$75 will provide Bible study workbooks for 8 women to receive Biblical counsel in our post-abortion support groups.

Any amount you give will help CAPC share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who God brings through their doors!

"For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

- Psalm 139: 13-14a



Your Missions, Peace & Service Commission is laying the groundwork for a 2-day adult service project, this July, at Brethren Housing Assn in Harrisburg. Brethren Housing is a faith-based organization that provides safe housing and mentoring for formerly homeless mothers and their children, in the Allison Hill area. BHA holds a warm place in their organizational heart for the Grantham church, as a result of the wonderful help our adult service group provided 3 years ago. And they are excited to have us return!

BHA is in the midst of more construction, including a set of townhouses and the complete remodeling of another existing house, all on their block. We don't know yet what our tasks might be in July, but there is no question that there will be work to do. We would welcome any youth who would like to join in the effort.

The dates will be **Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19**. We will be meeting at church each morning, and returning at the end of our day. You can serve others and still sleep in your own

bed at night! Do put these dates on your calendar and consider making this service opportunity a part of your summer schedule. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.



To quote from the Everence Toolkit newsletter: "A study by Carnegie Mellon University of adults 51-91 found that those who volunteer at least 200 hours per year reduced their risk of developing hypertension by 40 percent...." So come and join us – foster a healthy lifestyle while helping others!

If you have questions contact Art Bert, for Missions Peace & Service Commission.