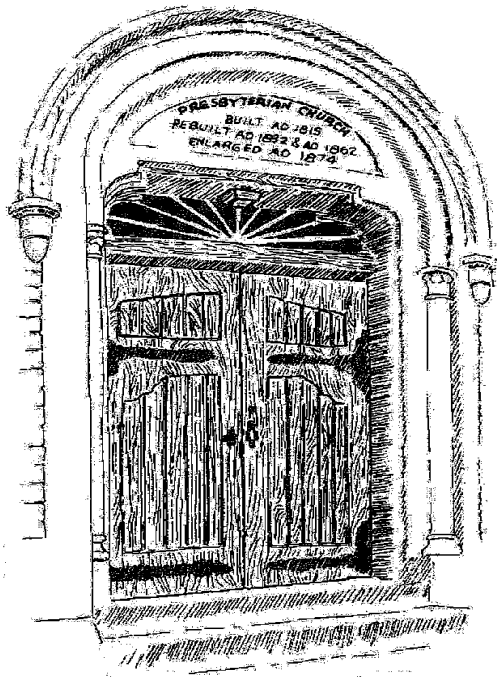


Covenant Presbyterian Church

Butler, Pennsylvania



June 23, 2013

The Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 724-752-8383 / 724-712-1407

Church Office Phone: 724-287-7731

Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>

1813-2013

*Celebrating the Advent of
Our Third Century in Christ*

Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

June 23, 2013

Ten O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson
Choir Director /Organist: Miss Beverly Antis
Liturgist Today: Pam Patterson

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE ~ ALL ARE WELCOME HERE !

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come – this church opens wide her doors and offers warmest welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and the Light of the world.

PRELUDE *Prelude on "Beach Spring"* Wilbur Held

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From God comes the wonder of creation.

People: **We gather to worship God our Creator, creating still.**

Leader: From God comes healing for the brokenness in our lives and the brokenness in our world.

People: **We are here to worship God, our Redeemer.**

Leader: From God comes the strength to face each new day.

People: **We gather to worship God, our Sustainer and our Guide.**

Leader: God is here--

People: **Let the conversation begin !**

*OPENING HYMN 404 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* PRECIOUS LORD

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world; yet we acknowledge we are:

**more apathetic than active,
more isolated than involved,
more callous than compassionate,
more obstinate than obedient,
more legalistic than loving.**

Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles that prevent us from being your true disciples; and awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' name.

A TIME FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION (in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: As Paul writes to the Romans (*chapter 8*): "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

This we also believe and affirm, that by his death and resurrection Christ has freed us from the bondage of sin and the power of death.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

*GLORIA PATRI #578 Old Scottish chant

+ This setting it is likely to have been the one used in the very early years of our congregation.

*Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH PC(USA) Study Catechism, Questions 29-31

Leader: [Question 29.] What do you believe when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as “God's only Son”?

People: **That Jesus Christ is a unique person who was sent to do a unique work.**

Leader: [Question 30.] How do you understand the uniqueness of Jesus Christ?

People: **No one else will ever be God incarnate. No one else will ever die for the sins of the world. Only Jesus Christ is such a person, only he could do such a work, and he in fact has done it.**

Leader: [Question 31.] What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as “our Lord”?

People: **That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, I give glory and honor to God.**

*GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS; REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Kings 19:1-15 (*Pew Bible OT p. 319*)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON Galatians 3:23-29 (*Pew Bible NT p. 178*)

Liturgist: Here ends the second lesson.

All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL READING Luke 8:26-39 (*Pew Bible NT p. 64*)

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE - Hymn 322 LIVING GOD

Spirit of the Living God

**Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.**

SERMON “*PROPHET ON THE RUN*” Pastor Jim

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER (“debts” and “debtors”)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, GIFTS

ORGAN OFFERTORY *Offertoire* Charles Alexis Chauvet

*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, accept our offerings, and use us to bring life and health and hope to your world. Make us generous and faithful stewards of your mysteries, doing your will and proclaiming your word; through Christ we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 439

In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - Hymn 599

Jesus, Remember Me Jacques Berthier

***Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.***

*A TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE & DISMISSAL

Pastor: Now may the blessing of God rest on our heads,
And the Truth of God set us free from all dangers,
Real and perceived;
So that in our labor and in our leisure,
In our rising up and our sitting down,
In hours of joy or in days of sorrow,
We shall with gladness of heart
Commend our lives wholly unto Him
Who keeps us from falling.

Let us go in peace, and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "St. Peter"

C. S. Lang

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by David Blewett

PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS
FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME

*Immediately following our
worship each Sunday we
gather for a time of food and
fellowship.*



*Our thanks to **Nancy & Bill Rice** for providing our
refreshments today. Visitors are encouraged to join in our
weekly time of fellowship. We'd like to get to know you!*

Noisy Offering of Loose Change

Next Sunday, June 30th

*Bring your change to worship with you and be prepared
To "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!"*

Name That Preacher...

Who am I? I was born in 1784 and died at Concord in 1867. I once served as pastor at your church for about nine years (known then as just "the Presbyterian Church" in Butler.) I was the youngest of ten children, and my father had always wanted me to go into ministry but I never knew of his desire until after I had begun preaching. I moved to Butler from Washington County with my widowed mother in 1797 and "lodged in the wilderness" near my three older brothers, who were among the earliest settlers in this area. Although family worship was always observed in my home, I never actually heard a sermon until I was 16 years old. It was under a large spreading oak tree near the stone church at Scrubgrass that I heard my first sermon, preached by Rev. Moorehead.

Who am I?

Public Notice:



**SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING to vote on
a proposed change in our By-Laws**

TODAY

following this morning's Worship Service

At the regular stated meeting of Session held on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to put to a vote of the congregation a proposed change to the bylaws of the church: "to reduce the number of elected elders in active service from 5 to 4 per class."

Terms of service would remain unchanged at 2 years each, with a 6 year maximum (eligibility restored after 1 year inactive) as at present.

If passed, the change would be effective for nominations this year for the class of 2015. Therefore the size of the Session would be reduced from 10 to 9 until next June 2014, when a new class of 4 would be elected, bringing the final total to 8 elders in active service from that time on.

Please give prayerful consideration to this proposed change and plan to stay after worship today for the congregational vote.

The "Upper Room" Daily Devotional

July/August 2013 edition is now available in the narthex.

Take one, they're free!

**Our next BIG Bicentennial Event is
Coming Up Soon !**



*All-Church Picnic
& Fireworks!
at the Dunmire Farm★*

**Saturday, July 13, 2013
Beginning @ 6:30 pm**

**Bring your favorite salad, side dish
or dessert to share!**

Hot dogs & hamburgers (and buns), baked beans,
beverages, tableware & condiments provided by our
gracious hostess, Enid Dunmire.

★Optional:

*If you have lawn chairs... bring them with you so that
you can enjoy the fireworks while seated in comfort!*

**Directions from Butler to the Dunmire Farm
are available in the narthex.**

OTHER BICENTENNIAL EVENTS THIS YEAR:

- ❖ **SAT., AUGUST 24 at 3 pm** ~
Community Symposium on the Underground Railroad in
Western PA & Inauguration of our Museum, with Special
Music (Civil War Era) by Amy M. C. Bole & David Halin
- ❖ **SAT., SEPTEMBER 14 at 3 pm** ~
Pipe Organ Concert by David Daugherty
- ❖ **SAT. /SUN., OCTOBER 5-6**
All- Church Heritage Banquet (Sat., beginning at 4 pm)
with previous pastors in attendance;
Sunday Worship at 11:00 am with Olde-style Communion
- ❖ **SUN., OCTOBER 27 at 3 pm** ~
Scottish Heritage Day with Vocal Concert of Scottish Tunes
by Leanne Heaton

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

Donna Hobaugh scheduled for outpatient surgery on
June 28 at Passavant--Cranberry;
following doctor's orders to rest now

For Continued Prayer:

Marian Curran, Enid Dunmire, Dorothy Hershberger,
Gary Lokovich, Lawrence Lokovich, Eugene Miller,
Gladys Strobel, Phyllis Thoma, MaryLou Wilson

Birthday: Mark Hitchcock (*June 29*)

Anniversaries:

Jim & Karen Swanson ~ *June 30 (40th Anniversary!)*
Karen & Matt DeLorenzo ~ *June 30*

TABLE TALK 2

An initiative to promote dialogue and understanding

The “Final Report of the Special Committee (appointed by the 218th (2008) GA) to Study “***Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage***” has been issued. (*Note: visit Covenant’s website to read the entire document.*)

The next Beaver-Butler Presbytery “Table Talk” will provide a forum for exploring, learning, and sharing viewpoints and information about this issue. You are invited to attend one of the following: **Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.** or **Tuesday, July 23 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Presbytery Conference Center located at 143 South Main Street in Zelienople, PA.

Please inform Pastor Jim or Elsie in the church office of your desire to attend; a reservation will be called in for you.

Car pooling is available for anyone who wishes to attend the Tuesday morning, July 23 event

Keep Our Mission Partners in Prayer !

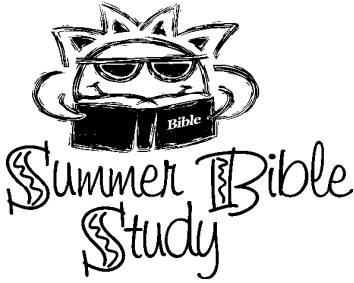
We support four “world mission partners” with funds in our mission budget. It’s easy to forget who they are and where they serve. Take a few minutes this week to pray for them and their families.

Becca Lawson	Philippines
Eric & Becky Hinderliter	Lithuania
Leslie Clay & Carl Agsten, Jr.	Nicaragua
Martha Sommers	Malawi

Remember, also, in your prayers:

Hunter Farrell, director of Presbyterian World Mission

New Study begins this Thursday, June 27th!



Now that the People for Peace Study Group is taking a summer vacation, Pastor Jim will be offering a four-session study on the book of Ecclesiastes.

Thursdays at 11:30 am in the Assembly Room:

June 27, July 11, July 25 and August 8

The book of Ecclesiastes, or “the Preacher,” is unique in scripture. There is no other book like it in the Bible because it reflects a distinctively human, rather than a divine, point of view. This book (believed to have been written by King Solomon) is filled with error, and yet it is wholly inspired.

Solomon was in a unique position to undertake his writing. Judah and Israel were at peace during his forty year reign; he had all the wealth he needed and he was known as the smartest man in the world. So...he set himself the task of discovering “what life is all about.”

Ecclesiastes has special relevance today in our materialistic society, for it helps us to see the vanity of many earthly pursuits, and it contains valuable lessons for all who undertake its study. Won't you join us? The study is open to all, so invite a neighbor or friend. Mark your calendar now.

(We'll follow the same format as People for Peace, so bring a lunch, AND bring your favorite Bible translation.)

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

--Romans 15:4 (NIV)

***First Presbyterian~Covenant Presbyterian
Bi-Centennial History Page***

No. 26



This past week a very nice letter was received in the church office from **Veronica (Tamaska) McConnell**, who lives in Butler. Her name may not be familiar to you at first, but as you read on you may recognize the chapter in our church history to which she belongs.

Veronica writes:

“I just read the article in the Butler Eagle about your church and send congratulations on its 200th anniversary. I have a story to relate which tells how the church has affected myself and my family in previous years and I thought it might be of interest to you. The pastor at that time was the Rev. Carl Bogard. I have many wonderful, inspiring memories of my time spent in the church. It has given me a solid Christian foundation... Thank you for this opportunity to tell my story.”

Enclosed was an article titled “It’s A Dream Come True,” first published in 1955 in Pullman Standard’s newsletter *Carbuilders*. (Veronica was just a tiny baby at the time.) A major portion of the article is reprinted below:

Bewildered, Steve and Irene Tamaska, with little six months old Veronica in their arms, pressed down the busy gangplank from the huge ocean liner. It was a warm and beautiful day on the New York City waterfront that 19th day of April in 1951. Blazing in the early morning sun, the Statue of Liberty was their first glimpse of America.

In the distance, the Tamaskas could see the gigantic skyscrapers, the endless streams of cars and buses, and the maze of television aerials jutting from nearly every rooftop. A little later, at closer range, they marveled at the plentiful store displays of refrigerators, stoves, bathroom sets, automobiles and TV sets, the likes of which they had never seen. A new world had been opened to this little family.

Just eleven days later, Steve sat down to his drawing board at our Butler, Pennsylvania, plant. He was now a draftsman in the die engineering department.

Today, nearly four years after that eventful day in April, 1951, if you were to ask Steve and Irene how they feel about their adopted land, your heart would be warmed by all the good things they would have to say. "It's a dream come true," is their appraisal of their new life in this Western Pennsylvania community.

Steve Tamaska was born in Alsovadasz, Hungary, a small agricultural community noted for its grapes, flax, fruit, tobacco, and its excellent hunting. His parents, since deceased, both were teachers in the high school, his father retiring as superintendent. A brother, Andrew, a lawyer and member of the administrative gendarme, and a sister, Mary, still live there behind the Iron Curtain.

After the war, Steve decided he would remain in the French zone of Germany, rather than return to the wretched conditions and insecure political situation of his own country. Accepting a job as draftsman and illustrator in the French Military School, he was later given the position of Controller of foreign languages in fourteen displaced persons camps. At all of these camps, the DP's gained a speaking knowledge of the language of the country to which they wished to immigrate, thus enabling them to get a start in their new countries.

But in all these dismal years in the DP Camps there was one "bright spot," for it was in one of the camps that he met and fell

in love with a pretty little brown-eyed girl from far away Chisinaut, the capital city of Besarabia. Irene was a secretary in a DP organization and she, too, had known the terrors and privations of war and the camps. Shortly after they married in December, 1949, Steve and Irene decided to begin a new life together in a new country. On the application for immigration they indicated the United States, Canada and Australia as their first, second and third preferences.

Since his youth, Steve had always wanted to come to the U. S. His correspondence with an English Boy Scout, and his contact with American students at Heidelberg and with our armed forces deepened this longing. But the Nazi propaganda machine almost wrecked Steve's concept of our country. For example, innocent pictures of young people jitterbugging were described "as race riots." Fortunately, the kind and considerate actions of our conquering armies restored his faith in what one day was to be his new homeland.

After a year of plodding through official red tape, the young couple was OK'd for passage to the U.S.A.

Little Veronica's arrival just before their appointed sailing date delayed them another six months. But finally, after a total of nearly two years of waiting, the Tamaska family arrived in New York. They were to have made their home in New York City, but another refugee family had apparently missed the boat in Europe so the Tamaska family chose to take this family's place and thus were headed for Butler instead. They boarded the night train for Pittsburgh. With his wife and daughter safely tucked away in their berths, Steve went searching for a snack in the dining car, ending up by ordering a complete meal. It was so delicious -- his first real meal in many years! Travelling at an amazing clip by European standards, it was no time until the sleek train was braking for Pittsburgh.

The Tamaska family was met at the Pittsburgh depot, and brought to Butler by members of the First Presbyterian Church which sponsored them.

They soon were initiated to some strange sights. "What's that? A pop-up toaster?" It was the first time they had ever seen one. "How scandalous!! -- a doctor's son raking leaves for pin money?" "A minister's daughter working as a secretary?" Yes, these were indeed strange. Such things just couldn't happen in Hungary. It wasn't according to custom. But this was America, and these Americans just wouldn't be bound by such customs.

It's all behind them now: the long years of bare existence, of unbelievably poor living conditions in the DP camps; whole families forced to live in a space no larger than a Pullman berth. No plumbing or refrigeration, and little heat. A black market bleeding the people of their few possessions. (Steve once saw an old fellow yank a gold tooth out of his mouth to trade for a loaf of fresh bread.) All of these conditions are now only memories. The Tamaskas are truly happy in their new land!

Steve is taking an active interest in the community that gave him a 'new start.' He has been a guest speaker at various Butler organizations' meetings. An accomplished artist, his recent painting of a Butler scene won an honorable mention in a local art exhibition. He sings in his church choir and serves as a committeeman for Troop 15, Boy Scouts. He acts as translator for his pastor and is presently tutoring a young lady from nearby Indiana, Pennsylvania, in the German language, preparatory to her studying music on a scholarship to Munich.

The "American way of life" is more than just a phrase to the Tamaskas. It's the grocery cart loaded to the gun'ales without restrictions, it's the speaker's platform unchallenged by informers, and the church chimes unmuted by tyrants.

'Tis is truly "a dream come true."