From the Pastor’s Desk...
Welcome to Spring! Rejoice in newness of life here at Cornerstone and from the artist palette of God.

Interior Photos by M. Truesdale,
outdoor photos by G. Thomas
May 2014

In Worship
This Month

Sunday, May 4
10:30 am—Worship
with Communion

Sunday, May 11
10:30 am—Worship

Sunday, May 18
10:30 am—Worship

Sunday, May 25
10:30am—Worship

Remember: The last person to leave the church building should be sure that all doors and windows
are closed/locked, door alarms set. In addition, the Academy Street door into Fellowship Hall will
be kept locked during the Sunday worship service. Thank you for helping us take care of our
facilities.

News from Events!

A huge thank you to all who came out to help on church clean-up day. It
made our Easter Services more welcoming!

••

The next BE OUR GUEST Dinner will be held on Friday, May 2nd. The
first one was a great success. Thanks to everyone for giving of your time
and efforts for this worthwhile endeavor.

••

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 1st.—a little later in
the year than usual, so please mark your calendars.

A HUGE THANKYOU to our volunteers and participants for our second FREE
CLOTHES SWAP! Leftover clothes were donated to Generations for their free
clothes closet. Please start saving your fall/winter clothes you no longer need, as we'll
be doing it again in the fall!

Did you know...about Cornerstone's prayer chain?

Anyone in the church can make a request for the prayer chain. We can
(and will!) pray for friends and family members even if they are not
personally known to us.

If you would like prayers for yourself or someone you know, please call
or email the church office (hours are 9:00 am to 12:30 pm M-F) and your
request will be given to Pastor Greg and/or to Molly Truesdale. (You may
also speak with them directly). The prayers will then be sent out to the
prayer chain members.

If you would like to serve on the prayer chain, you may call or email the
church office and let us know if you would like to participate by email
or by telephone.

And a reminder: Please remember to notify the church office if you
change your email address!

Pastor:
Rev. Greg Thomas

Organist/Choir Director:
Howard W. Curry

Administrative Secretary:
Kris Useted

Remember: The last person to leave the church building should be sure that all doors and windows
are closed/locked, door alarms set. In addition, the Academy Street door into Fellowship Hall will
be kept locked during the Sunday worship service. Thank you for helping us take care of our
facilities.

Connections is published 11 times a year at The Cornerstone Baptist Church, and is put together by
a host of valuable volunteers. Please try to have articles and information to the office by the 15th of
the month, and no later than the 20th. If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please let
the church office know. Thank you.
Connections

Cornerstone Baptist Church Sunday School
May Newsletter

Recap of April
We had a Jelly Bean Service to remind us how Jelly Beans are like the Resurrection and Jesus!!

Ongoing Campership Fundraiser
We will be collecting cans and bottles year round to help support our campership fund. Please bring cans and bottles and leave them in the big box in fellowship hall. Thank you

MAY HAPPENINGS
May 4th – Woman at the Well (John 4:3-15)
May 10th – Camp Wightman Spring Clean up
May 11th – Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
May 18th – Paul (Acts 9:1-19)

Lenten Project
Our Sunday School Spring Missions Project is to provide families in third world countries with animals to better their way of life. Please bring in your collection box by May 4th

YOUTH GROUP
We meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 11:30 – 1:30pm.

5th grade – High School
At our first meeting in April we began planning for our VBS program. Crafts, Snacks, Games, Bible Stories, and more!!! It’s going to be really exciting. Make sure to tell all your friends and neighbors with kids.

At our second meeting we had a sleepover and made all of the goodies for our Easter Bake Sale. We hope you enjoyed them!!!! We raised $280 more for our VBS mission project. We are now up to $560. Thank you everyone!!!!!

In May we are visiting Camp Wightman for their Spring Clean-Up and making a stop at Buttonwood Farms for Ice Cream on the way home. Anyone is welcome to join us.

We are collecting unwanted, unneeded “STUFF” for our Yard Sale on June 7th. Please bring in items and leave them in fellowship hall.

WEIRD ANIMALS
Earn $5/year, Save $5/year!
The Moderator’s Musings While Awaiting Spring!

It seems like this year, everything is a month behind. The snows have finally melted…in April instead of March. The cold winds in April are more like those we expect in March. Spring flowers and buds on the trees are just starting to appear. It’s time for the Annual May Meeting which will be held in June. Everything’s a month behind except for tax day. Those of us who paid our estimated state and federal taxes and those who filed annually still had to pay and/or file on April 15. When one looks at the great strides that Congress has made this past year in doing ANYTHING one has to wonder if they aren’t a bit behind time as well. Sorry..back on topic!

The Easter message from Pastor Greg reminded us that Jesus didn’t come to establish liturgies, forms and written procedures for the church to “religiously” follow. He came teaching that Heaven is to be lived out on the earth today..for everyone. We help the poor farmers of the world by looking for the Fair Trade labels on the products that we buy. Our coffee, tea and chocolate in the narthex are all Fair Trade products brought to us by the Equal Exchange worker-owned cooperative.

Our Sunday School supports Heifer International, an organization that works to provide livestock, irrigation systems, agro forestry training. Heifer also works collaboratively with Equal Exchange to bring their combined resources together to help communities improve their living conditions and become self-sustaining. Both organizations deserve our whole-hearted support.

Cornerstone’s first “Be Our Guest Supper” was a success in the eyes (and stomachs) of those who came to our church hungry. Debra and all of her helpers showed how to live out Christ’s message to “feed the hungry”. Future dinners are planned for the first Friday of each month.

Kathy Hexter will be telling us about her experiences while on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic with a team from combined American Baptist Churches. There is no end to the people who are in need! If the people in the faith communities don’t help, who will… and when???

This is the month that the Nominating Committee will be filling the vacancies on the Advisory Board. When they call, prayerfully consider what you can do to help Cornerstone continue to move forward with the Easter message. The committee will be asking you to take on a short one or two-year task. The two years will go by quickly, I promise you!!

Grace and Peace,

Caroll

A Taste for Murder is our little Hu Dunnit, the question is...
Is there a Felony Assault or is it just a Red Herring?
Did Da' Butler do it?
What’s to become of our dear Dee Parted? Who is Gil Tee?
Sit down, tune in and find out.

A wild and wonderful look into the future using the past. Past friends, past menu’s, past comedy and past, past. The main question is will you get caught up in the past? Come enjoy a repast with..."A Taste for Murder." May 31st is opening night and will be a dinner theater experience - tickets are $20. Dinner will be served at 6 pm with the performance to follow. The second performance is Sunday afternoon at 2 pm - no meal - tickets are $10.

See Sheldon Hampton for tickets and more information. All proceeds go to community youth program development.
Minutes from Advisory Council Meeting March 11, 2014
The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by moderator Caroll Marston. Pastor Greg then led us in prayer. A Devotional was read by Gina Mills.

What Have You Heard?
It was discussed that a number of parishioners were concerned about the lateness of the service a few weeks ago. Suggestions were discussed about how to handle this problem when it occurs.
The minutes were accepted as corrected by a motion by Debra Grandelski and seconded by Jim Hilow.

Treasurers Report:
It was noted that contributions were down this month and the Gas Bill is still high. As this is our first year using gas, it was just a guess how much to budget, and the coming months will be much lower. The report was put on file for the auditors.

Dates to Remember:
- Adult Book Study: Wednesday
- Youth Group Movie Trip: March 23
- Investment Committee: March 27, 6:15
- Clothing Swap: March 30
- Mission Time w/ Sarah Woodard: March 30
- Be Our Guest Dinner: April 4
- Church Clean-up Workday: April 12
- Maundy Thursday Service: April 17
- Youth Group Sleep Over/ Bake Sale: April 19
- Joint Coffee Hour w/ St. Albans: May 4

NEW BUSINESS:

YOUTH GROUP & CAMP FUNRAISERS
Sandra brought up that is becoming increasing difficult to keep track of finances needed and used for the camperships. With more and more children going to camp. She would like to have us open a special account that will be used just for the camp fundraising efforts and youth group activities. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and that the treasurer and financial secretary would help set this up. The same protocol will be used for handling the deposits as the rest of church funds.

PASTORS REPORT:
Movie Nights will be held during lent on Friday nights. The music committee has met and are talking about summer musicians and Friday night concerts perhaps after the Be Our Guest meals. Dinner Theater is being planned. Planning to have a face painting booth at 3 local events in Danielson. Joint coffee hour with St. Albans is in the works for May 4. The 501c3 with KBIC is nearly complete. Will be holding baptism conversations with the teen Sunday school class. The house on academy st that is for rent is possibly going to be available for low income housing if it can be given to the right organization to get grants. Will keep us updated. Holding a Maundy Thursday service. Will work on welcome packet with worship deacons.

continued on page 6
Deacon Reports:

Education & Discipleship: Sandra reports the youth group will stay local for their mission trip this year due to lack of funds. Will take stuffed animals to CCMC and have decided to hold VBS here at Cornerstone. Sandra has met with people from Woodstock Baptist and they are more than happy to help. The dates will be July 21-25 from 9a.m till 12.

They also hope to have a table at the town yard sale in Davis Park on June 8. They will also start collecting cans and bottles for fundraising. Pat took this time to thank Sandra for all of her time and enthusiasm for the youth.

Gina asked about setting up for the clothing swap and when that could happen.

Events & PR: Sponsored luncheon after Eleanor Marcheterre’s funeral. Campership breakfast was a success, netting a profit of $773.22. 15 people have responded to help out with Be Our Guest Dinners. The first one will be scheduled for April 4. The small freezer has been full lately and we might need to think about purchasing another small one.

Mission & Outreach: Anne reported that the RMMO offering will be put off till later in the year. In March we will collect for the America for Christ offering. Instant Potatoes are also being collected for local pantry for Easter. Anne also stated that she would like to see Cornerstone donate $100.00 to the Chaplaincy Program at Day Kimball.

Pastoral Relations: Jim reported that the mediation meeting was held with Reverend Stacy Emerson. There was an honest, sincere dialog between everyone attending. Reverend Emerson followed up with a letter in which she gave recommendations for going forward to keep lines of communication open. Would suggest a workshop. Everyone thanked Jim for his hard work and dedication on this committee.

Property & Finance: Jim reported that the gutter that fell off from ice will be repaired when the weather breaks. One bid is in the office.

Safe Church: Kathy reports that all is well and safe (except for gutter falling during worship)

Sexton: Will set up a church grounds cleanup day for April 12 from 9 -1

Worship & Membership: It was unanimous vote to accept request for membership for Sheldon. It will be brought before the congregation for vote. The list of communion deacons needs to be given to Kris so that she can e-mail reminders.

Old Business
Letters have been sent to property owners next to Howard Valley, and Sarantopoulos will send one to property owner on Palmer St. The investment committee will meet on March 27. The envisioning committee will meet and report back.

The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2014. Mary Grandelski moved to adjourn, seconded by Jim Hilow. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18.

Members present: Debra Grandelski, Mary Grandelski, Kathy Hexter, Jim Hilow, Pat Rocheleau, Caroll Marston, Anne Milliard, Jim Milliard, Pastor Greg, Mike Lehoux (with a small h) Sandra Rukstela, and Gina Mills.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Grandelski
Border reflections—Mercy Gonzales Barnes

Ministry Update:

This year has been one full of academic challenges. My classrooms are full of really bright students who constantly challenge me to be my very best. Patti is taking Greek in her free time and is teaching Greek to some of the other students. It’s been over 25 years since I took Gree, so I can’t help her with grammar questions.

We have received many visitors including my dear colleague and friend Mylinda Baits, who shared about her ministry with victims of human trafficking; a team of pastors from Maine led by Sheila Heneise who came to learn about the ministry in Baja; they were a blessing to all of us. We also had a work team from CA come and finish installing the kitchen on the second floor as well as paint. We will soon be receiving Mario Morale, a colleague who will be sharing about his ministry.

From March 11-17 we had a short term mission team from Central Baptist westerly, RI and two churches from CT. they worked with a mission church on the border, painted at the seminary, interacted with the students and made a difference. At the same time I was in Puerto Rico on a bereavement trip speaking at my uncle’s wake and renewing family ties. Thanks to Tim Long, Cal Lord, Martin and all who made this STM experience a successful one.

I (Mercy) have been working in the border area since January 2002. Throughout the years I have been blind to some situations and my eyes have been opened to others. I have seen my students change and evolve from young and naïve to mature and to people who have become my colleagues and are being used by God to bring the promise of redemption to the border area.

I have doubted God’s capacity to work and have learned what I tell short term mission teams all the time. God was not waiting for me to come here to work. God was already here. I thank God for God continues to shape me as I learn to minister here.

The development of leadership is a lifetime task. I ask for your continued support as we cannot do what needs to be done without your help. This is OUR mission. I hope to be able to visit with each of you who supports the ministry here in Mexicali. If you don’t support financially I ask that you consider giving whatever amount on a monthly basis. You may give electronically by going to internationalministries.org/givesearch for Barnes and give.

You may also give through your local church, just make sure that you write that the gift is for ONGOING Support Barnes. It can be channeled as a targeted gift, a WMO gift or a UM gift. You can also give by calling International Ministries at 1-800-222-3872 and ask for International Ministries or you can send your gift to

International Ministries
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

ONGOING SUPPORT Mercy González-Barnes

I thank you for your continued support of all of the missionaries who respond to God’s call to serve.
A Fish Story

In Luke 5:1–11, Jesus teaches people about God while he sits in a boat. Then he went fishing with his disciples. Read the story. Then choose words from the fish in the net that will fill each blank below. Then you can read what Jesus told his disciples.

1. 8 be
2. 3 From
3. 7 will
4. 9 catching
5. 10 people
6. 5 on
7. 4 now
8. 1 Jesus
9. 6 you
10. 2 said

Answer: Jesus said, “From now on you will be catching people.” Luke 5:10

How Big Is Your Faith?

Cross our every other letter (the first one is done for you). Then write the remaining letters in the space provided to find out how Jesus described heaven.

```
  B T I H G E B K I G N B G I D G O
  B M I O G F B H I E G A B V I E G N
  B I I S G L B I I K G E B A I M G U
  B S I T G A B R I D G S B E I E G D
  B I I T G I B S I T G H B E I S G M
  B A I L G L B E I S G T B O I F G S
  B E I E G D B S I B G U B T I G G R
  B O I W G S B T I O G B B E I T G H
  B E I G G R B E I A G T B E I S G T
  B O I F G T B R I E G E B S I G
```

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It is the smallest of seeds, but grows to be the greatest of trees. Matthew 13:32.

Answer:
A man was taken to court for stealing an item from a store. The man said to the judge, “Your Honor, I’m a Christian. I’ve become a new man. But I have an old nature also. It was not my new man who did wrong. It was my old man.”

The judge responded, “Since it was the old man that broke the law, we’ll sentence him to 60 days in jail. And since the new man was an accomplice in the theft, we’ll give him 30 days, too. I therefore sentence you both to 90 days in jail.”

And we will sit upon the rocks,
Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks
By shallow rivers, to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

Come live with me, and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That valleys, groves, hills and fields,
Woods, or steepy mountains yields.

– Christopher Marlowe, from The Passionate Shepherd to His Love

Presence
I lift my head
To find on high
A wheeling hawk
Upon the sky –
So far above,
There too, my love?

Down at my feet
A weed has pressed
Its scarlet knife
Against my breast –
O miracle,
Are you here too?

– From The Unicorn and Other Poems, 1935 -1955, by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Copyright 2014 Logos Productions Inc.
All rights reserved