



People's to People
The Newsletter of the People's Church of Dover
United Church of Christ
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MAY2011

Under the Bell Tower

DELAWARE'S NEW CIVIL UNION LAW

The Delaware legislature passed a law in April permitting persons of the same sex to enter into a civil union, and the governor signed it into law. Of four or five "hot button issues" in our country these days this open civil union stance is one of the hottest. To read the reports in the secular press, one would get the impression that everybody who favors same-sex civil unions is non-religious, and everyone who opposes it is a Christian. That stealthily slips into the idea that all Christians oppose it and all secularists support it: and with that, we have a shouting match. One side cites the Constitution, the other side cites the Bible. The only problem with this way to draw the dividing line is that it is quite inaccurate. There are non-religious people who oppose same-sex civil unions, and there are many committed Christians who favor it, support it, and are glad for the new law.

In my twenty years of intense research into the relationship of the church to same-gender issues I have come to the conclusion that a Christian's belief about it depends on his or her way of viewing the Bible. This means that before Christians can debate each other on the subject, they have to understand whether each other takes the ancient Hebrew laws as literally applicable to contemporary American society, or sees them as limited to their dispensation, culture, and the religious circumstances behind the words in the text.

Of course the new Delaware law does not reference scripture, nor should it: it is a secular law, and it does not even attempt to define "marriage." It is quite limited. Why do we even have it, then? Because there are more than 100 ways that heterosexual couples (married or joined by civil union) are given legal advantages that were previously unavailable to same-sex couples: the right to inherit, the right to make end-of-life decisions for the other, tax breaks (incentives) that married couples get but same-sex couples are refused, not to mention "family" insurance coverage.



Do we believe in equality of persons under the laws of our state and our country? Or do we believe that some people should be refused rights that others have? To me this Delaware law is a civil question. The "marriage" issue is not involved. You may disagree with me, but that's my point of view.

-Dan

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT THROUGH
APRIL 31, 2011**

Annual Church Budgeted Income	\$201,208	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income Weekly	3,869			
Income Received				
Income members		48,480.04	43,696.57	-4,783.47
Income savings		20,000.00	20,000.00	00.00
Expenses to Date		-68,079.00	-77,302.68	-9,223.68
Net Difference		401.04	-13,606.11	-14,007.15

ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL

2010		2011		Offerings
04/04	182	04/03	101	4,386.50
04/11	101	04/10	95	2,104.55
04/18	113	04/17	118	2,466.25
04/25	108	04/24	175	4,875.50
	504		489	\$13,832.80

May Birthdays

05/01	Roger M WHARTON	05/16	Brenda POLASKO
05/02	Jeffrey LEWIS	05/18	Victoria HEALEY
05/03	Erin BIDDLE	05/20	Joyce DARLING
05/03	Kathryn HANNAH	05/21	Robert DePUE
05/04	Joan CONARD	05/23	William A. HUFNAL
05/04	William R. DARLING	05/23	Harry OTTO
05/04	Nathan SMITH	05/24	Adolf WEISSENFLUH
05/07	Joyce GRAVES	05/26	Hattye BIDDLE
05/07	Gerald E. RICE	05/27	Cody DAVIS
05/09	Josephine STRONG	05/27	Jackie NIEHORSTER
05/10	Angela RAKSNIS	05/27	Andrew POLASKO
05/10	Colyn TYRE	05/28	Ann (Carolyn) LEWIS
05/11	Mary R. REED	05/29	Dillon HOTCHKISS
05/14	Sandra McNINCH	05/31	Denese R. LINDSEY
05/16	Mary Beth GOLDSMITH		

If we missed anyone, please notify thechurch office to get your name on the list.

May God Bless You on Your Birthday

VOLUNTEERS

Flowers

05/01	Jackie Niehorster
05/08	Joe & Judy Zingaro
05/15	Phyllis Tarburton
05/22	Nancy Guth
05/29	Barbara VanSant

Liturgist

05/01	Mark Biddle
05/08	John Downs
05/15	Mary Johns
05/22	Phyllis Tarburton
05/29	Cleah Muntz

Greeters

05/01 Cheryl Goldsmith
05/08 Cynthia Hotchkiss
05/15 Cheryl Goldsmith
05/22

Ushers

05/01
05/08
05/15
05/22

Sermons & Scriptures

05/01 "There Is More"

Daniel 12:2-4, 10, 13; Matthew 22:23-33
No Communion

05/08 "The Moral Life"

Psalms 62:8-12; Matthew 19:16-20

05/15 "Downward Mobility"

Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 20:20-28

05/22 "Consequences"

1 Kings 9:1-9; Matthew 23:37 – 24:8

05/29 "Remember Your Task"

Deuteronomy 8:11-20; Matthew 24:45-51



The Prayer List for Members & Friends of the Church

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS

Earl Clinton— home recuperating after surgery.

Sylvia Latourette – limited to her home with spine and hip problems.

Jim Miller – undergoing aggressive radiation at Johns Hopkins for lung cancer.

Bill Muntz – in treatment for severe leg pain.

Phyllis Simpkins—abdominal surgery scheduled for April 26 at Johns Hopkins Univ. Hospital.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS

Drexel Biddle – Cliff's nephew in GA, heart and lung problems.

Leon "Buddy" Carter – Brenda Polasko's brother: COPD.

Dawn Elliot—friend of Lyn Arnold, going through difficult times just now.

Rev. Kevin Gilliam – hope that he may regain some of his sight.

Gretchen Goulet – friend of Jane Dodd, has Lupus and a bone disease of the spine.

Evelyn Stubbs—Phyllis Tarburton's mother recuperating from a heart attack Feb. 15.

Diane Hanebutt – Paul's sister-in-law: surgery for endometriosis.

Marion Hanebutt – Paul's mother, hospitalized with acute cellulitis.

Sue Leonard – Cleah Muntz's sister: pain from spinal deterioration.

Keith Nicolls – Fred Hotchkiss' uncle: kidney failure.

Jean Tilley—Billie Boehmer's mother in PA: Parkinson's Disease and increasing Dementia.

Don Williams – Shirley Hawkins' brother-in-law in great pain with a crushed vertebra.

Debbie Yates – friend of Pat Thompson.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Shawn Carhart – Jennifer Childears' nephew in New Jersey.

Tom Ciampa – friend of Bill Hufnal.

Mrs. Terry Craig – friend of Kathy Hanebutt

Mary Ford – friend of Betsy Stewart

Melanie Giangrant -- friend of Judy Reed.

Barry Helbert – neighbor of Bob and Shirley Hawkins.

Howard Killian – Angela Downs' father.

Shirley Long – friend of Jackie Niehorster.

Gordon Minner – friend of Jeff and Judy Reed.

Lillian Schrantz – Cleah Muntz's sister-in-law.

Jean Lenox Toddle – Jim Miller's aunt, terminal lung cancer.

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Andrew Dennison – Marine deployed to Afghanistan, Joyce Warrington's nephew.

Tom Opalecky – Air Force, deployed to Afghanistan, Zingaros' son-in-law.

A Note from Frances and Earl Clinton

Frances is doing well getting around at home with a walker. Earl came home from Christiana on 4/9 still under the effects of the anesthesia or possibly a stroke. Thursday, 4/14, he started to come around, conversational and doing much better. Thank you all for your prayers

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

In a Service for the Reception of New Members on April 10, People's Church welcomed

Gladys Caldwell

Sue Dodd

James Wandall

Ronald & Jane Zink

FOUR YOUTH COMPLETE THEIR CONFIRMATION

After weeks of study and many hours of Confirmation Classes this spring, four youth confirmed their faith in Jesus Christ and became full members of People's Church of Dover. They are:

Wyatt Z. Hotchkiss

Alyssa N. Senato

Sarah M. Cole

Sage E. Cole

The memorial service for **Dale Stewart** will be a worship service at The People's Church of Dover at noon on Saturday, May 7. This will be a service with much music, reflecting Dale's deep love for the music of the church.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE YOUTH WHO SERVED
AT THE SPAGHETTI DINNER APRIL 3

Shannon Biddle
Sage Cole
Alyssa Senato
Maria Myer
Chloe Hannah
Kaitlyn and Paige Morris and friend Brandy

Shelby Cole
Josh Dodd
Katie Hannah
Erin Biddle & her friend Haley
Wyatt Hotchkiss

Cameron Decker
A. J. Senato
Sarah Cole

**GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE MAY 22
ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY**

Peter Oldziej, a leader in the central Delaware **Bah'ai** community, will be our special guest after worship on May 22. There will be a light lunch and his presentation, plus an opportunity for questions. Everyone is welcome.

THE FIRST RESTORED STAIN GLASS WINDOW

is now in place on the west wall of the Fellowship Room, and the restoration artist has the second window to restore. The congregational approval to restore and display these hundred-year-old windows included the invitation for anyone who would like to make all or a portion of a window into a **memorial for loved ones**. For further information about this, please see Fred Hotchkiss, who is overseeing this project.

LIGHT YOGA

Our church's light yoga sessions have begun for the year. The class meets in the church gym at 5:00 on Thursday afternoons. Participants are asked to make a \$20 contribution to help with the utility costs. Everyone is welcome

CHURCH VAN MINISTRY

If you or someone you know is interested in riding to worship and back home each Sunday in the church van, OR if you would like to volunteer as a van driver for this ministry, please call the church office and let us know. The Van Ministry began on November 21, so everything is in place to respond to your call.

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Thursday May 19th.
at the Countrie Eatery

BOARD OF DIACONATE

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

We are in desperate need of friends to donate just a few minutes on Sunday mornings greeting fellow congregants and/or ushering. It really doesn't require coming to church much earlier than you normally would and, while this service is priceless to God and your Peoples Family, it costs you nothing. Please find it in your heart and schedule to volunteer. Pick an open slot on the sign-up sheets in the rear of the sanctuary, call the church office, or contact Sandy McNinch.

Peoples Thanks You and God Bless You!

Our Church's Website

Have you looked at our church's website lately? www.peopleschurchofdover.org Special thanks to Elinor Baker for all the work she puts into her job as our webmaster.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There are many Christian Education activities and opportunities for everyone at People's Church this spring!

Adult Learning Opportunity: On May 22, after a light lunch, there will be a presentation from the area's Baha'i community, which should be interesting and informative.

Youth Group: a Movie Night is planned for an evening in May, more information to follow.

VBS: We will be joining with Wesley United Church this year for a joint VBS, the last week of June. Mark your calendars now!

Sunday School teachers will be recognized for their commitment, during the worship service on May 22.

The next CE board meeting will be April 10.

Jean Hitchens, chairperson

Youth Group 2011 -- Children Ages 6-11

Purpose: To create a group that not only teaches children about Jesus, but also involves them in community service and social activities that reinforce His teachings.

Mission Statement: Teach children to incorporate the lessons of Jesus into their own lives through community service and social activities.

There will be a dinner and movie night sometime in May. I have not yet determined the exact date but most likely it will be the Friday after Mother's day. This is a great "date night" for the parents and a good time for the kids. I will post more information when I finalize the plans.

I hope everyone is planning on attending Easter morning services. There will be a Liturgical Dance to start off service and an Easter Egg Hunt (for all the children of the church) after service. The Easter Bunny will be making a special appearance at the hunt.

Enjoy your week and as always, if there are any questions or comments, please let me know.

Jennifer

BOARD OF FINANCE

April 17, 2011

Dear members and friends of People's Church

Jesus is the reason for the season. This phrase is often used at Christmas time. We celebrate Christ's birth and we are humbly grateful at Easter. Christ hung tormented on the cross for our salvation.

Please look deeply into your heart when you contemplate your Easter Offering this year.

The Easter offering contributes to the operation of the church. The members voted to allocated 1% of the estimated income to this offering. That works out to about \$25 per person. Can you give \$30 or more?

The congregation of People's Church continues to be very generous with their time, talents, and treasures. Thank you for your personal generosity.

Christ is Risen!

The Stewardship Committee

Annual Church Budgeted Income	\$201,208	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income Weekly	3,869			
Income Received				
Income members		35,294.78	31,207.77	-4,087.01
Income savings		20,000.00	20,000.00	00.00
Expenses to Date		-53,177.00	-60,138.96	-6,961.96
Net Difference		-2,117.78	-8,931.19	-11,048.97

In the March newsletter you saw these figures. Did you stop to look at what they mean? The Church received \$4,000 less income than budgeted. Additionally expenses were \$6,900 more than budgeted. So for March there is a deficit of \$11,000. This is why the Easter donation is particularly important. It helps with expenses. Every bit helps. We thank you for you generosity. Board of Finance.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The board met most recently on April 17th. We have begun to examine closely both the current and long term sound and technologic capabilities in the sanctuary. Initially, there are microphone and listening device needs which require attention now. However, any rectification will require at least a slight upgrade in our current system. This leads us to examining and getting bids to move to a digital system. This would then allow future capability for adding speakers, microphones, maybe digital video and possibly allow digital activation of the bell tower chimes. More information is needed by the board to properly evaluate this issue.

The board recently accepted bids for replacement of the Women's Fellowship room floor. We approved a bid and are waiting for final determination of floor pattern. The schedule for replacement has not yet been determined. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a board member. The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th at 7pm.

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

One Great Hour of Sharing,

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, April 3rd, 2011.

Board of Mission and Outreach
Sue Harris-Hunt and Mary Johns



Food Bank Sunday is May 1st. The items needed this month include **Beef Stew, Spam, Applesauce (cans), Jello, small boxes, and any other non-perishable items.** All donations will go to **Holy Cross Samaritans Food Bank.** Thank you for your kind donations, they are greatly appreciated. People's Church is asking that all checks be made payable to the **People's Church of Dover**, so that one check can be given to the designated Food Bank for that month. Thank you for all your generous donations.

There are folders provided in each **pew hymnal rack containing Food Bank envelopes.** Your donation can be put in the collection plate on any Sunday. Thank you for your kind donations to the **First Baptist Church Food Bank** for the month of February. There were 60 food items donated and \$20.00 collected. All gifts were given to the **First Baptist Church Food Bank** for the month of February. Your generous offerings are greatly appreciated.

Sue Hunt and Mary Johns -- Board of Mission & Outreach

Women's Fellowship

Our guest speaker, Kathleen Splane, the family/financial extension agent from the U of D, spoke to members about Do's and Don't of Eating Out (eating wisely and more healthy). She was very informative and entertaining.

Santa's workshop is scheduled for Sundays, Dec. 11th and 18th after worship. Please start saving items appropriate for family Christmas gifts.

The new Easter banner will be hung after Maundy Thursday service on April 21.

The emergency phone tree has been established through the Board of Trustees.

We set a date of Sunday, 9/18 for the "slice is nice" sale of pies and cakes.

The Women's Fellowship is extending an invitation to all church members and friends to our spring luncheon trip on May 4th (Wednesday) to Hagley Museum. Admission is \$8 and will include the two hour Brandywine Bus Tour. We will have lunch at the Belin House Café; menu prices are \$4-\$10. We must have 15 attendees for the private guided tour. We will meet in the

parking lot at 10am to car-pool. Please invite friends and family to join us and pay Cindy the \$8 by May 1.

Our church will host the Church Women United spring luncheon in our chapel Fri. May 6th; we will serve a light lunch in the WF room after the service. Members were asked to bring a dessert.

Our next meeting will be our May 4th trip to Hagley Museum. The following meeting will be in September for our welcome back covered dish luncheon.

Caring Hearts Helping Hands (698-1900)

We prepared 96 baskets for our Easter Program in which each child received an basket of goodies (not just candy, but small games, books, etc).

We are accepting gently used and new spring and summer children's clothes; furniture, small appliances, kitchen items, linens, toys and board games (with all the pieces included) and always need cleaning supplies, paper products, personal hygiene items, and gifts for teen birthdays. No adult clothes please. Two men and a truck have volunteered to pick up and deliver large furniture items for our client families.

Our office hours are every Tuesday, 10 am - 2 pm; the first Wednesday evening of each month, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm and the first and third Saturday of each month, 10 am - 12 pm. We are always looking for volunteers to help sort and hang gently used donations that come into our warehouse next to Jonathan Landing Golf Club house. Please feel free to come by any time.

If you are interested in helping or know of any teens or college students who need hours of community service, we would be happy to have their help as well.

Thanks again for all your support.

Fran Clinton and BJ Van Kavelaar

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Com- munion today 4 PM Bible Study	2	3	4 10:30 AM Women's Fellowship Luncheon Trip	5 5:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir	6 11 AM – Ch Women United May Friendship Day at People's Ch	7 12 Noon Stewart Memorial Service 1 PM C.O.D.A.
8 last day of Sunday School this spring Mothers' Day	9 DE Music School NA & AA meetings	10 DE Music Sch AA meeting	11 DE Music School NA & AA meetings	12 5:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir	13 NA & AA meetings	14 1 PM C.O.D.A.
15 RACE DAY 4 PM Bible Study	16 De Music School NA & AA meetings	17 DE Music Sch AA meeting	18 7 PM BdMgmt DE Music School NA & AA meetings	19 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 5:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir	20 NA & AA meetings	21 1 PM C.O.D.A.
22 Teacher Recognition 11:15 Adult Learning Op. (Bah'ai faith)	23 DE Music School NA & AA meetings	24 DE Music Sch AA meeting	25 DE Music School NA & AA meetings	26 5:00 Yoga 7:00 Choir	27 NA & AA meetings [Church Office will be closed for holiday]	28 1 PM C.O.D.A.
29 No Bible Study	30 Memorial Day [Church Office will be closed]	31 AA meeting		JUNE ↓		
			1 NA & AA meetings	2 Ascension Day 7:00 Choir	3 NA & AA meetings	4 1 PM C.O.D.A.
5 Holy Communion 11:15 Diaconate	6 NA & AA meetings	7 AA meeting	8 NA & AA meetings	9 7:00 Choir	10 NA & AA meetings	11 1 PM C.O.D.A Annual Meeting of Central Atlantic Conf.
					UofD Reading Dev. Program begins in dining room Sat, Sun, Mon 6/18 – 7/25 →	

Rev. Griggs will be away for continuing education June 19 -26

Joint **Vacation Bible School** begins June 26 at Wesley United Methodist Church (here next year)