

THE DOVE

BERWICK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CO-PASTORS:

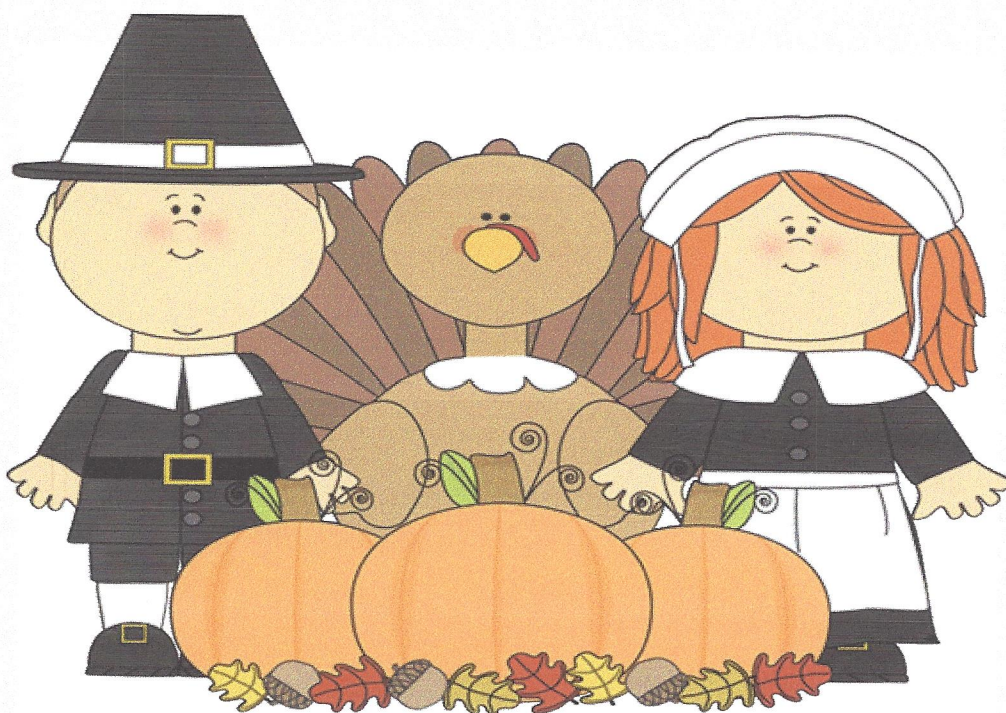
Rev. Richard Miller-Todd
(Jan-March and
July-September)

Rev. Theron (Tom) Conrey
(April-June and
October-December)

Sunday Services and
Sunday School:
9:00 AM

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

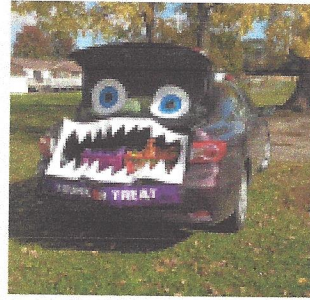
COMING UP

ADULT BIBLE STUDY -

Pastor Tom will be leading an advent Bible Study beginning November 29, at 10 AM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Mark your calendars for the Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 6 at 9:00 A.M



"TRUNK OR TREAT" WAS FUN!

HANGING OF THE GREENS -

The same day (November 29) we will be decorating the church for Christmas beginning at 4 PM. Bring a small pot of chili to share!

CHOIR

The Choir Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 20 at 9:00 A.M.

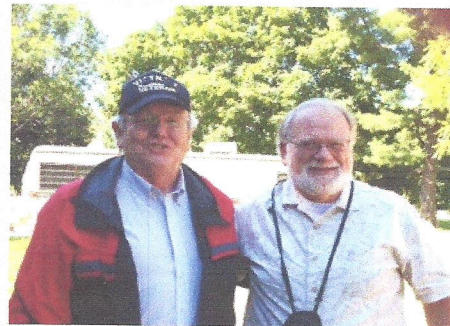


CHRISTMAS EVE

The annual Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 will be at 5:30 P.M. and this year includes bagpipes in addition to other special music.

THE PULPIT

Pastor Tom Conrey (on the left below) will be in the pulpit November, and December. Then Rev. Rich Miller-Todd will be back with us in January.



PRAYERS FOR:

- Charles & Hazel Neagle
- Don Townsley
- Gerald Banning
- Maren Hegna
- Dan Appleby's brother
- Mary Fetters
- Karen Pearce
- Those who are home-bound



THANKS TO OUR MANY HELPERS!

USHERS:

Nov. 8—Lori & Don
 Nov. 15—Shelly
 Nov. 22—?
 Nov. 29—Patty
 Dec. 6—?
 Dec. 13—Lori & Don
 Dec. 20—Shelly
 Dec. 24—Kathy
 Dec. 27—Patty

CLEANING THE CHURCH:

Nov. 1—Karen & Nelson
 Nov. 8—Don & Lori
 Nov. 15—Brandsens
 Nov. 22—Ray & Amy
 Nov. 29 ?
 Dec. 6—Don & Lori
 Dec. 13—Brandsens
 Dec. 20—Shelly
 Dec. 24—?
 Dec. 27—Ray & Amy

COMMUNION:

Nov: Jodi; Dec: 6 ? Dec. 24: Kathy

FELLOWSHIP:

November: Lori & Don
 December: Robys

SUNDAY SCHOOL—

Christmas Program Practice with
 Lori Nov. 1-29. (Program Dec. 6)
 Dec. 13—Don Holmes
 Dec. 20—Choir cantata
 Dec. 27 ?

MISSIONS:

NOVEMBER:
 Olivet College or Salvation Army
 Food Pantry (Mac & Cheese)
 Happy Life Children's Home
DECEMBER:
 Pan American Institute (Christmas
 Fund);
 Sponsor a family at Christmas
 Food Pantry (Peanut Butter)

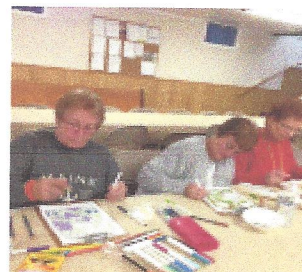
NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

Nov. 15 10 AM. The new board will choose officers and decide on a time for meetings for the year.

ORGANIST

Thank you to Bill Sprague, Judy Sprague and Nelson Pearce for transporting our organist, Jerry, to practices on Wednesdays. Jerry has been working with the choir for some special choral music at the beginning of the service, before a prayer, and before communion.

Pictured below: Kathy, Jackie and Patty coloring while watching a movie at the October Ladies' Night Out.



BIRTHDAY BAGS :

We will be making birthday bags as part of our Food Pantry support. There is a great need for food at all local Food Pantries and we will also contribute items such as mac and cheese, peanut butter etc. The birthday bags (which contain cake and frosting mix, decorations etc for a birthday party) have been a big hit. There is a large plastic bin in the entryway at church to collect Food Pantry items—bring them anytime. Cash gifts are always appreciated as well.

BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Iowa-Nebraska Association is planning to ask its member churches to help participate in a mission trip to Pennsylvania where they will be spending a week the end of June, 2016 building a complete house in a week. For further information, see Kay Miller-Todd or email Rikki Hamrick at Rikki@smunet.net



We enjoyed visiting at our church recently with Dan and Jodi Appleby (above) of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

GUYS' NIGHT OUT

A "Guys' Night Out" is also being planned, with no date set yet.



LADIES' NIGHT OUT

We are planning a fun "Ladies' Night Out" on Saturday, November 14 at 5:30 PM at the church. Bring your favorite snacks to share and we'll play games!

SEMINARIAN (EMILY) IN CALIFORNIA

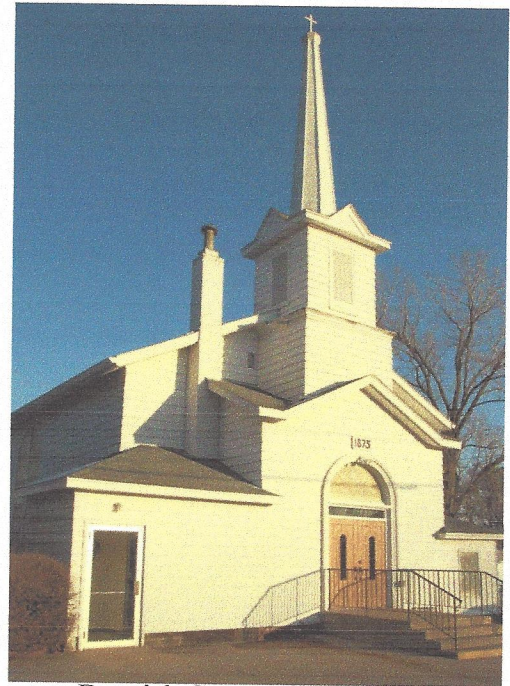
Rev. Rich shared the driving with Emily from Dallas to Anaheim where she will be an intern for the next few months. Emily's new address is 203 North Evelyn Drive, Anaheim, California 92805. We are delighted that she is working with Dr. Jim Schibsted at Anaheim's First Congregational Church.

UPCOMING DATES:

Nov. 14—Ladies Night Out
 Nov. 29—Bible Study 10 AM
 Nov. 29—Hanging of the Greens 4 PM
 Dec. 6— Sunday School Program
 Dec. 20—Choir Christmas Cantata
 Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service 5:30

To contact Berwick Church:

Church Phone: 515-262-0949
 Rev. Rich: 515-669-9554 (Jan-Mar; July-Sept)
 Pastor Tom: 515-480-3396 (Apr-June; Oct-Dec)
 Church Secretary: 515-262-9047 (Karen)
 SUNDAY SERVICES: & SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM



Berwick Congregational Church

MESSAGES FROM OUR PASTORS, REV, TOM CONREY AND PASTOR RICH MILLER-TODD

Well, here it is again. That time of the year when kids get excited about all the presents they will be getting and adults get excited about how they are going to have to pay for all those gifts!

Parents haven't really changed much over the years. My dad and his brother got me an electric toy train, a Marx brand, for my first Christmas. I was all of 9 months old. Of course, they played with it and broke it before I had a chance to use it. I still have the locomotive for the set, and it still runs. Amazing!

I think its awesome that we are able to plan out our Advent and Christmas events. It all falls under our plans and our schedule. We even plan out when Pastor Rich and I will phase in and out of the pulpit and it is always on the church's time schedule and done for the best of the church and the church family. And every year it goes off without a hitch.

We forget that the very first Christmas was planned from the very beginning of the creation of the universe and it was on God's schedule and his time. From the beginning, as recorded for us in Genesis, God knew that his Son, Christ would have to be born and then die for our salvation. So, not only was that first Christmas planned at the beginning of time, but so was that first Easter!

I can't even begin to fathom the patience that God must have had to know how that very first Christmas and the first Easter would play out and still kept to the plan. As the Scriptures say, "it was all in God's time."

If God was able to keep to the plan of salvation, how much more will he keep his promises to us, his promise that he will always be with us, his promise to bring us eternal life and his promise to bring us to live with Him, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and all the Saints of the Church!!

Pastor Rich and I have been blessed to be your pastors and I know that it is a great privilege to do so. As we go through our visitations of the shut-ins, the hospitalized, the weddings, baptisms, and funerals, we do so representing you, the church family. It is a great privilege indeed to be your pastors!!!

Praise be to God

Pastor Tom

I continue to be pleased with the manner in which Tom and I work out the pastoral responsibilities of the church year. I think that our church grows stronger and stronger in our faith and outreach. It is significant that Berwick is on the map in many small ways. For a congregation of our size we continue to find new ways to reach out to the community beyond the church.

We have paid more attention to the Liturgical Year. While we have always changed the church paraments at the pulpit and altar, we have been more attentive to the church seasons with choir choices and special cantata preparation. Seasonal **banners** have also been purchased or designed and constructed by Patty. In recent months Amy has taken over the **flower arrangements** and these also reflect a seasonal theme. All these efforts have strengthened the worship experience and have involved more people. Our music has taken another step forward with the **introduction of theme music** to open the worship and prayer pieces.

A number of 3-week Bible Studies have become more prevalent and the use of the video capability has enhanced the ways that we can draw people into the material. Beginning with a study of the wise men, we have been able to use flat screen technology to assist in our studies when we desire. The purchase of a large screen TV for the basement has been a great addition.

The women have taken it upon themselves to **meet for support and laughter**, often sharing a movie or doing a theme event. They have pressed the men to do something similar but the men haven't come up with date so we haven't moved forward on that yet. There is serious talk about a card game one night when the women meet.

Our **new bike trail** started a bike riding event that took us to the Bondurant Depot for fellowship, and the ice cream social was a success because of our efforts to invite bike trail riders to come down for ice cream and cake. I do hope that something will come of it in the Spring when we might look at an exercise event or a regular bike event as an outreach option.

Recently we started a **TRUNK OR TREAT** event for kids that had all the possibility of failing. I took fliers to the Pumpkin Paradise and others used word of mouth and we started out with a healthy new beginning that could turn into another fun event next year.

We had our **Mission Aviation Fellowship** couple back and with us for a visit. Dan and Jodi Appleby have been assisted by our church since 1995. We are glad to continue to assist them in their outreach. Other missions (local, regional or international) have been in our mission support for several years. Each year we vary our mission support for worthy projects. Our big effort is with the support of Johnathan in Kenya. In the coming year we will look at how we contribute to the food pantry as one of our local missions. *Rev. Rich*