

OCTOBER 2021

Ridgeview Mennonite Church

BUDGET

Budgeted	\$196,800.00
YTD Received	177,164.00
Education Fund	-(550.00)

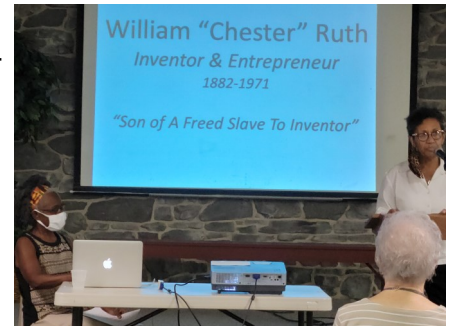
TUESDAY ALIVE

What a delight for the approximately 65 people who gathered for the September 2021 meeting...the first since December 2019! One difference since we last met is that masks are encouraged.



Evie Hershey welcomed the group and led a prayer.

She then introduced the morning speaker, Gwen Ruth Dickenson. Through story and pictures, she told the story of her grandfather, William Chester Ruth.



Chester, as he was commonly known, was born of a freed slave and became well known in the Gap area as a blacksmith and inventor.

Gwen shared some of the family history beginning with Samuel, a boy born on the plantation of Master Robert Ruth who may well also have been the father of Samuel. His mother had been snatched as a child and brought in a slave galley ship to the US where she was bought by Robert Ruth and was named Leah. When Samuel was a very young child, Leah was chained, sold and driven off to a new owner. Samuel never forgot the sight and sound of that horrific scene. He never saw her again until as a grown man he tracked her down on an island off the coast of South Carolina.

When Emancipation came to the Ruth plantation, someone yelled, "RUN!" and Samuel ran. Eventually he ended up in Massachusetts and was found hiding along a river by the sons of the Pinn family who gave him a home. The Pinns had a daughter Louisa. Samuel and Louisa were married and had 10 children, one was William Chester Ruth.



Chester had an early interest in mechanics, eventually opening a blacksmith shop in Gap using old buggy springs to make a variety of farming tools. He bought land in East Fallowfield, eventually acquiring 120 acres.

In the mid 1920's he traveled to Washington DC to apply for his first patent. The baler-feeder is now displayed at Landis Valley Farm Museum. In 1928, he had sold 28 in one day.

He also adapted a manure spreader to invent a cinder spreader when he saw the difficulty drivers were having getting up the Gap hill when it snowed! In 1934, Penn-Dot bought 150 of the cinder spreaders!

Chester and his wife, Gertrude, had one son Robert, Gwen's father. Family and faith were very important to him. He did not gain wealth or fame but was "absolutely at peace" having been obedient to what God asked him to do. He said, "You are born with a purpose in the world. Develop your capabilities."

Following a prayer, people were served a luncheon. The fellowship around tables was enjoyed by all.



BIRTHDAYS

4 Sierra Langston
6 Isaac King
8 Ray Ranck
9 Jason Rohrer
15 Brendan Rohrer
16 Levi King
17 Kate Sommers
19 Steve Jacke
24 Elaine Shirk
25 Autumn Rohrer
28 Bob Heine
Joyce Thomas

ANNIVERSARIES

4 Larry & Elaine Shirk
6 Rick & Heidi Loncosky
9 Robert & Audrey Kanagy
16 Steve & Francesca Crane
20 Dennis & Janet Shirk
26 Paul & Judy Smoker

SEPTEMBER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

East Chestnut Street Meal: The meal provided for persons at the ECMC will be held on November 1. Several persons volunteered to help prepare and serve the meal.

Foyer: Currently Branch Community and Ridgeview are working to raise the dollars needed for this project which is slated to begin during the winter of 2022. After the last congregational meeting several small tweaks were made to the planned design. Current cost estimate is about \$100,000.00

October 3: A joint worship service and fundraising meal to benefit the foyer will be Sunday, October 3. Persons in our congregation are at different places regarding the pandemic, masks and gathering in person and to care for everyone the service as usual will be livestreamed and the meal will be available to eat in person in the 1990 Hall or for take-out. Darlene Lapp volunteered to do the table decorations .

Ministry Structure: Audrey Kanagy presented a power-point presentation on the recommended structure change that was introduced at the last meeting. The new structure is built around three ministry groups—Up, In and Out with three ministry groups rather than four in the old structure. It adds a small Pastoral Advisory Council of the pastor and two to three other persons.

Action; To approve the revised structure as presented. (unanimous)

The next step will be the discernment of persons to serve on the Pastoral Advisory Council. They will assist in the discernment of persons to serve in leadership of the three ministry groups, Up, In and Out. During this discernment, attention will also be given to the question if additional paid staff is needed.

2021-2022 Budget: The new church year begins October 1 and continues through September 30 of the next year. The 2021-2022 budget numbers are based on input received, the budget for the present year and the spending in the present year, noting that it was difficult to construct the budget because spending was not normal during the pandemic.

Action: To approve the 2021-22 budget as presented. (unanimous)

ALL SAINTS DAY began in the third century to honor martyrs of the Christian faith. As with a lot of other excesses of the medieval period, these two days began to add a lot of popular mythology and became overlaid with layers of superstition. Yet



beyond those issues, the church has valued as this time to celebrate heritage and those Christians of the past who faithfully transmitted the faith to succeeding generations. Today, many Protestant churches focus not only on honoring departed members of the church and local congregations, but also those still living who have contributed to the work and ministry of the church in significant ways.

OCTOBER 31, (5TH SUNDAY) GO SUNDAY

We will be offering a simple All Saints Day service at Ridgeview @ 10:15 in remembrance of those who God has given us, both those who have departed and those who are still living. You may also choose to express worship by visiting someone who has been a great source of encouragement to you, take time to honor a family member or friend who has died, or comfort someone who is grieving or in need of support.

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." Colossians 1:3-4





**COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE
BRANCH COMMUNITY & RIDGEVIEW**



October 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 SS & Worship- Combined with Branch Fellowship meal 7pm Chil- dren's zoom	4	5 5:30-9:00 Quilters	6 9am Food Pac 6pm Admin- istration mtg	7	8	9
10 SS & Worship Branch Worship	11	12 10am Alive with 55	13 9am Food Pac 11am-1pm PV Pastor's gather- ing	14	15	16
17 SS & Worship 7pm Chil- dren's zoom	18	19	20 7am Men's breakfast 9am Food Pac 6:30pm Minis- try Team	21	22	23 ACC Fall As- sembly
24 SS & Worship Branch Worship	25	26	27 9am Food Pac	28	29	30
31 SS & Worship						