

Mt. Gretna Campmeeting News



Fall Edition 2018



Letter from the President of the Board of Managers

submitted by Ted Martin

In the blink of an eye, the summer is over and it's a whole new season. The crowds, the concerts, the busy porches with their rockers and slamming screen doors pass into history, we breathe a sigh of relief at the new found quiet, and we move on. We're Gretnans; it's just how we roll. Welcome to the fall. While your cottage life may have quieted a bit, the work of your Board of Managers continues moving forward at a more than brisk pace.

During the Annual Meeting back in July, I outlined many issues we'd be facing in the coming months. At that time I reminded residents that there was no shortage of challenges to tackle. In the past two months we've begun facing issues one-by-one.

Rental Properties in the Campmeeting

First up to consider, the state of the Campmeeting rental environment. Is it changing? Is it growing? Is it a positive or a negative? How many cottage owners rent and how many properties does that mean? Is there more noise? Cars? Trash? Do we need more rules? All of these questions and more have been asked of the Board by many residents, and as they've stacked up it became more and more evident that it was time to take a proactive and overall look at the state of rentals. At the August meeting, the Board unanimously agreed to create a Special Committee on Rentals to look at these issues closely and prepare recommendations for the Board to consider later this year.

The Board then appointed a diverse

committee made up of residents—Jon Green (chair), Tammy Travitz, Bob Rader, Val Swarr, Fred Opalinski, Justin Williams and Mary Kopala—and they have been meeting regularly for several weeks. Their charge from the Board is to review the rental environment, gather information on where things stand, suggest possible rule changes to better govern rentals, and to find the best ways to balance rentals, the residents and the culture of the Campmeeting. In NO WAY were they brought together to find ways to end cottage rentals in the community. In every way they were charged with listening to residents, realtors and renters to understand all sides of the situation. And let me be clear, NOTHING will be changed without a full hearing and public airing of their recommendations. All changes to rules and policy MUST be read publicly and voted on by the Board of Managers. Stay tuned, the Board of Managers is on target to start publicly airing the rental recommendations later this year.



Retirement & Changes in Personnel

As we all know, we're also facing personnel changes in the Campmeeting. After long years of talented service, our Superintendent, Ed Neidigh, will be retiring at the end of October. Few have worked as hard as he to make the Campmeeting shine and sparkle. His dedication and remarkable service have been noted by so many and we only have to look around to know we should be grateful. For his years of managing projects and planting and trimming and generally stretching in all sorts of ways to make the place look great, speaking for myself and the Board of Managers, we are all personally grateful. And we're grateful to his wife Cindy who contributed mightily to making our community a better place. Assistant Superintendent Carol Clemens did tremendous work as well, and she'll be moving on too. We are grateful for all their service. When you see them around the Campmeeting, please thank them for their hard work. They deserve it.

Community Halloween Activities

This year the Halloween Parade will be held on Friday, October 26th. The Parade forms at the Jigger Shop at 6:30 p.m. See the "Fire Company" listing in this newsletter for more details. Trick-or-Treat Night is Wednesday, October 31st from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Lebanon County. The Mt. Gretna Community Library will be open for Trick-or-Treat Night.



Property Management

Finally, in October we'll be welcoming a new way of caring for the Campmeeting. Starting this month, Doug Cheyney and his company, Cheyney Property Maintenance, of Palmyra will be transitioning into supporting the community in all the ways superintendents have in the past. Doug Cheyney grew-up in Mt. Gretna and knows the Campmeeting well, and he will be taking on the role of the Superintendent. His company will be providing the everyday services and grounds care you've come to expect, and over the next few weeks they will transition into the full-time maintenance service you have come to know. Ed Neidigh is working closely with Doug Cheyney on this transition, and I think this will make everything easier and more seamless. While I expect this change to be barely noticeable to residents, I ask everyone to be patient throughout the process. Not only did the Board decide this was the most cost-efficient way to move forward, but we believe you'll still receive the high-quality workmanship that makes our community stand apart. We firmly believe that when you get to know him, you'll like Doug. He has also asked for a better opportunity to meet residents, and we are working to put together a special gathering very soon. Please stay tuned; you'll all be invited.

There you have it. Expect a busy fall ahead and know that your Board of Managers is working hard to make your community a place you will always love, enjoy, and above all—hold dear.

Nominations Committee Update

The election of one new Board member and the reelection of three current members of the MGCA Board of Managers took place at the July 28 Annual Meeting.

Current Board members Larry Bowman, Lisa Carr and Sally Marisic were re-elected to the Board of Managers. The newly elected Board member, Barb Myers, was elected to the Board and her three-year term will begin in January 2019. She is attending Board meetings as an

observer, although she cannot vote until her term begins in January.

A big Thank You goes out to George Resh who chose not to run for re-election and will be retiring from the Board at the end of his current term in December 2018. We appreciate his service to the MGCA.

Buildings & Grounds Committee Update (Installation of Campmeeting Dumpsters)

submitted by Ted Martin

In August and September the Buildings & Grounds Committee (B&G) of the Board of Managers discussed issues surrounding trash and trash collection in the Campmeeting.

Many residents have complained about trash being left out throughout the week as well as the proper pick-up locations for bags and recycling. Some of these complaints led to warnings and fines to residents and the committee has begun the process of reviewing the overall situation. One particularly egregious repeat complaint concerned trash being left out long before the allowed time. The Campmeeting Rules outline that trash is to be placed out for pick-up no earlier than the night before collection day which translates to as close to Sunday evening as possible (Rules and Regulations, Page 5, Point 4). Sometimes residents or guests leave early in the week and they leave their trash out as they depart. Not only is this unsightly, it's just unhealthy.

To meet this particular concern, B&G ordered two trash dumpsters for the community for residents to use throughout the week as an experiment. One now sits near the garages on First Street, and the other on Bell Avenue near the pump house and water tower. They will be emptied weekly, and everyone who has trash for disposal earlier than Sunday is encouraged to use them. In the coming weeks we'll see how successful they've been and then make decisions on their location, whether or not to invest in fencing to hide them (or at least make them NOT so obvious), and how they fit in the overall

trash pick-up scheme. So for now, let us know what you think. This experiment may work, and it may not. Only time will tell, but for now bear with us as we try something new.

Community Activities Committee Update

The Summer Season has come to a close, but planning for 2019 is well underway. If you are interested in volunteering for any events, please let us know! It takes an army of volunteers to organize the Annual Campmeeting Porch Sale, and the Heritage Festival. Interested in lending a hand? Contact Tammy Travitz, MGCA Community Activities Committee Chairman at ttravitz@me.com.

Mount Gretna Community Library & Ad Hoc Library Committee Update

Mount Gretna's first "Little Free Library" officially opened for business on September 7, 2018. The library was unveiled as part of the Community's First Friday event. Many community residents gathered to celebrate the opening.

The Little Free Library project was initiated by Sally Marisic, an MCGA community member, board member, library volunteer, and retired elementary school teacher. Her idea grew to involve many residents and friends in the community . . .

A labor of love, the book exchange box was designed and built by Mt. Gretna's retired postmaster, Steve Strickler. Placement of the box was accomplished with the help of Ryan Fretz, a local landscaper, and Bob Chaundy, a resident





who is a potter. Embellishments to the exterior of the box were the handiwork Fred Swarr (aka Francois), a local artist. Sally Marisic was involved with the whole project from conception to the official unveiling.

The Mount Gretna Library Committee members are the official stewards of the Little Free Library. It is a welcome addition to our unique community. The committee would also like to thank everyone who visited the library this season. The library closes after trick-or-treat night. Follow the library's Facebook page as events are planned for the coming season.



The Feral Cats of Campmeeting: Everything You Need to Know and How You Can Help

Many residents have noticed a growing number of cats in the Campmeeting and some questions have been raised to the Board about what can be done. Here are some facts and information provided by Ally Cats Allies.

First, a feral cat is not a cat that is anyone's pet. Though it may be used to being around people, it has never been domesticated and prefers to be left alone and live outdoors. However, very few feral cats can survive by hunting alone and often depend on people feeding them to survive. Because they live

outdoors and often have to endure hunting and hiding, they form colonies to survive.

Cats by nature are usually loners and have territories, but will form colonies for survival. A well-maintained colony of spayed/neutered and vaccinated feral cats keeps the numbers of rats, mice and chipmunks in balance and deters raccoons and skunks from getting into trash, without spreading disease or growing in numbers out of control. An uncontrolled colony means more kittens which can lead to disfigured sickly cats and starts to attract foxes and coyotes to the neighborhoods. One female cat can reproduce three times per year with an average of four kittens in a litter. If a kitten survives, its life expectancy in a healthy colony can be an average of eight to ten years. In an uncontrolled colony, increased numbers of cats often result in yowling, over mating, spraying and fighting amongst members of the colony.

What can be done and what does a healthy colony look like? First of all, getting rid of all feral cats in Mt. Gretna is likely to invite more problems. Remember, cats are territorial. So if all of the cats are removed, a new group will find their way in. A healthy colony will help to keep other cats at a distance. No colony means the small rodent population will begin to grow and that leads to all types of issues. A healthy colony is one that is fed on a regular basis, consists of spayed/neutered and vaccinated cats, and is tracked to identify quickly any new cats in the colony. Along with this, their left ear is tipped so that each cat can be easily identified as having been vetted. These actions promote health and break the cycle of females reproducing. Will there be new cats that come into the colony? Probably. There are usually intermittent newcomers for various reasons.

So how does the Campmeeting create a healthy colony? Trap, neuter and release (TNR) programs have been implemented across the country as a humane way to control the feral cat population in all kinds of settings. Disney World and other famous places like the Hermitage Museum in Russia maintain a feral cat population to keep the smaller rodent

population to a minimum while not bothering tourists and guests. Local nonprofit organizations have expressed interest in helping to finance a TNR program in Mt. Gretna to stop uncontrolled breeding and promote the health of the cats already calling the Campmeeting home.

Moving forward, two local organizations have stepped forward to assist with establishing and financing the start-up costs of a TNR program for the Campmeeting cats. The TNR program will need to have the collaborative effort of all Campmeeting residents. A designated time of the month will be established when trapping will occur in the Campmeeting and all residents will be notified in advance so that personally owned cats can be kept indoors. Permission to trap on and around properties where cats have been seen and where residents feed cats will be extremely important for the success of this program.

There are several ways to help make this TNR program a success:

- Canned and dry cat food donations will be needed to bait traps and feed kitties while they are being held for a few days before and after surgery.
- Volunteers to check traps in the morning during the scheduled trapping dates will be needed. No one needs to touch the traps, just notify the designated TNR coordinator if a trap has safely captured a cat. Safety for all people and animals comes first. If there is an animal caught in the trap and it is unhappy, volunteers will be asked to simply place a plastic shower curtain or old towel over the cage until the coordinator can arrive and remove the trap. Plastic shower curtains work best for skunks. Non-cat animals will be relocated to a different location. Cats trapped will be taken to the vet for spaying/neutering and vaccination. Females will be held for a few days afterward due to the incisions requiring some time to heal before being returned healthy and released in the Campmeeting.
- Residents who feed will be asked to pull in all other food during scheduled trapping dates. If cats are being fed other than in the

traps, it will be extremely difficult to trap them.

- Everyone is asked to please be aware of any new cat or kittens in the area and report them immediately. All cats trapped will have their left ear tipped so that new cats without left ear tips can be easier to identify. If a cat has had an ear tip, it has been vetted. Staying ahead of unaltered cats is vital to the wellbeing and success of this TNR program and for a healthy/happy Campmeeting colony.
- A manager and contact person for the TNR program will be needed after the program is up and running. This person will be the contact person when a new cat or kittens is identified and will coordinate having the cat or kittens humanely trapped.

If you are interested in helping with this program, please contact the Campmeeting Office at office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org or 717-964-3040 and let us know. Feral cats serve an important purpose in the balance of the ecosystem, but only if their health and reproduction is controlled. YOU can help to make that happen. For reliable information regarding feral cats, please visit alleycatallies.org.

Vintage Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Chairs For Sale

submitted by Larry Bowman

The Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Association is making available for sale a quantity of vintage wooden chairs used over the years in religious services and other activities in Mt. Gretna. Stored away on the second floor of the Tabernacle for the past several decades, these oak chairs date from at least the 1940's and were used by the United Brethren Church for church services and Sunday school during the fall and winter months in the first-floor, back room of the Tabernacle prior to the construction of the current Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church. They were also used for programs operated by Camp Mt. Gretna during its years of existence in this community.

Because these chairs have not been used for some time, the Tabernacle Association's Board of Trustees has decided to sell them. Doing so, the Board feels, will allow interested Campmeeting cottage owners and other Mt. Gretna residents to retain a piece of Mt. Gretna history, while also freeing-up a significant amount of storage space in the Tabernacle.

There are approximately 46 of these chairs available, and they will be sold on a first-come basis. Each chair will include an engraved plaque denoting some of the chair's history. Because of the expected demand for these chairs, purchases are being limited to one per person or cottage. The cost for each chair is \$35.

Attached to this newsletter is an order form for use by people interested in purchasing a chair. For those people whose orders for the chairs cannot be filled once the supply of available chairs has been exhausted, we will notify you as early as possible and will return your payment to you.

The chairs will be available for pick-up at the Tabernacle on Saturday, October 27th from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Alternate arrangements for the pick-up of the chairs will be made for those people not available on that date.



Mt. Gretna Fire Department – Station 38, Community Events

Interested in volunteering at the Fire Department? If you'd like to volunteer at fund raising events, contact Karen Lynch. Interested in being a volunteer firefighter—contact the station at 717-964-3511. Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information and events.

Mark your calendars . . .

Ongoing Raffle

The Quilt Raffle continues until up until

December 8th. The drawing will occur on December 8th, you do not need to be present to win. Tickets are on sale at all Fire Company events.

October 26, 2018

Halloween Parade. The parade forms at the Jigger Shop at 6:30 p.m. and begins at 7 p.m. The parade route ends at the fire department where hot dogs and drinks will be available for the kids. Parents are served after the children. For the younger children a cake walk is also provided.

November 4, 2018

Fall Breakfast Buffet from 8 a.m. until noon. Enjoy breakfast with a donation to the fire company.

November 10, 2018

Soup Cook-Off from noon until 2 p.m. Contact Thatcher Bornman at 717-228-7506 for details to enter the cook-off.

November 17, 2018

Fall Cottage Crafters Show from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

November 18, 2018

BINGO! No need to pre-register; doors open at 11 a.m. and the games begin at 1 p.m.

December 8, 2018

Cookies with Santa & Santa Shop from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Enjoy fun and games for the kids. The fire company is accepting donations to the Santa Shop. Contact Karen Lynch at kjanelynch@gmail.com for further information.

January 19, 2019

Pasta Night from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Enjoy dinner with a donation to the fire company. Dinner includes several pasta dishes, non-alcoholic drinks and desserts. If you'd like, feel free to BYOB.

From the Office

Don't forget—Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 4, 2018. Turn your clocks back one hour.

Welcome new Association Members!

- Mike Deitzler—207 Seventh Street
- Fay & Paul Maulfair—206 4th Street

- Dale & Sandra Diller—400 5th Street
- John & Barbra Bailey - 51 1st Street

All new Members are required to meet with a representative of the Property Ownership Committee prior to settlement whereby Property Transfer form(s) are signed.

Be Respectful of Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. until 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday and all day on Sunday year round—please no leaf blowers!

Pavilion Rental at Heritage Park

Plan ahead for next season . . . the Heritage Park pavilion is available for rental on a first-come, first-served basis. The pavilion is available from April through October. The rental fee is \$25 along with a \$25 security deposit. Be advised, rental is for the pavilion-only. The surrounding park area, playground and rest rooms remain available to the public. Contact office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org for additional details, or to request a rental application.

Update your Association Membership Contact Information

If you've changed your phone number, mailing address, email address or any other contact information, please notify the Campmeeting office. Email communication is preferred.

Rules & Regulations

In an ongoing effort to enforce Campmeeting Rules, in the third quarter (July-September) seven warnings were issued for noise violations, and not observing rules related to trash collection. Three fines were issued, totaling \$300 for Rules violations including noise violations and trash collection.

For Your Convenience & Safety

“Mutt Mitt” stations are located throughout the Campmeeting . . . please be courteous of neighbors by cleaning up after your dogs. No smoking signs are placed throughout the Campmeeting . . . please refrain from smoking on public Campmeeting grounds, streets and pathways. Smoking is not only a health concern, but a fire safety issue.

Stop signs, 15 mph speed limits and one-way streets are for your safety . . . please follow these

simple rules.

You're Invited

The Board of Managers meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church. Association Members are welcome to attend.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee meets the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church.

Association Members are welcome to attend.

Building Permits Required for Exterior Renovations

Campmeeting members should be advised that a Building Permit Application is required for exterior renovations.

Examples include:

- Construction or renovation work which alters the external boundaries of an existing structure;
- Installation of a driveway, parking area, or hardscaping of impervious material;
- Remodeling of a porch or deck;
- Relocation, upgrade, or addition to household waste and/or water lines;
- New chimney construction or reconstruction of existing chimney;
- Foundation improvement;
- Relocation and/or upgrade to electrical, water, sewer or HVAC systems;
- Installation of fences, patios or landscape.

Before starting any of the above projects, members must submit a MGCA building permit application to the MGCA Board of Managers for review and approval, a process delineated in the most recent Rules & Regulations (R&R) handbook. In addition to the MGCA building permit request and approval, a separate building permit may be required by the Lebanon County Planning Department (LCPD) agent for West Cornwall Township (WCT).

Additional information is available in the “MGCA Building Permit Information” document that is posted to the MGCA website. The Board of Managers recommends that before starting any renovations to their property, Campmeeting members discuss the project with a member of the Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Committee.

COMMITTEE ROSTER

Are you interested in volunteering? Contact office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org or speak with any MGCA Board/Committee member.

Executive

Ted Martin—President
Mary Kopala—Vice President
Sally Marisic—Treasurer
Margaret Hopkins—Secretary

Buildings & Grounds

Ted Martin—Chairman
Larry Bowman
Scott Carr
Doug Lorenzen
Bob Travitz

Communications

Kevin Burd—Chairman
Pam Bishop
Deborah Erb
Sally Marisic

Community Activities

Tammy Travitz—Chairman
Esther Mefferd

Finance

Sally Marisic—Chairman
Larry Bowman
Kevin Burd
Margaret Hopkins
Mary Kopala
Ted Martin

Nominations

Esther Mefferd—Chairman
Pam Bishop
Kevin Burd
Mary Kopala

Property Ownership

Pam Bishop—Chairman
Kevin Burd
Lisa Carr

Recreation

Margaret Hopkins—
Chairman

Ad Hoc Archive

George Resh—Chairman
Esther Mefferd
Ted Martin

Ad Hoc Library

Lisa Carr—Chairman
Kristi Donahue
Mary Kopala
Sally Marisic
Michelle Shay
Joan Sherman
Val Swarr

Ad Hoc Policy

Margaret Hopkins—
Chairman
Pam Bishop
Sally Marisic
Deborah Erb

Ad Hoc Superintendent

Search
Mary Kopala—Chairman
Kevin Burd
Lisa Carr
Margaret Hopkins
Sally Marisic
Ted Martin

Tabernacle Association

Larry Bowman—President
Esther Mefferd—Vice-
President
Tom Heberling—Secretary
David Pierce—Treasurer
Kevin Burd

Bruce Gettle
Margaret Hopkins
Bob Kettering
Mary Kopala
Sally Marisic
Ted Martin

The Board of Managers and the year through which they serve

President, Ted Martin (2020)
Vice-President, Mary Kopala (2019)
Treasurer, Sally Marisic (2018)
Secretary, Margaret Hopkins (2019)

Pam Bishop (2020)
Larry Bowman (2018)
Kevin Burd (2020)
Lisa Carr (2018)
Esther Mefferd - Tabernacle Assoc. Rep.
George Resh (2018)
Tammy Travitz (2019)

Committee Chairs

Buildings & Grounds - Ted Martin
Communications - Kevin Burd
Community Activities - Tammy Travitz
Executive - Ted Martin
Finance - Sally Marisic
Nominations - Esther Mefferd
Property Ownership - Pam Bishop
Recreation - Margaret Hopkins
Ad-Hoc Archive Committee - George Resh
Ad-Hoc Library Committee - Lisa Carr
Ad-Hoc Policy Committee - Pam Bishop

Superintendent: Ed Neidigh (717) 454-7693
Superintendent@MtGretnaCampmeeting.org
Office Manager: Debby Erb (717) 964-3040
Office@MtGretnaCampmeeting.org

Vintage Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Chairs For Sale

Order Yours Today!
Supply is Limited!



STORED AWAY on the second floor of the Mt. Gretna Tabernacle for the past several decades has been a quantity of oak chairs that have a

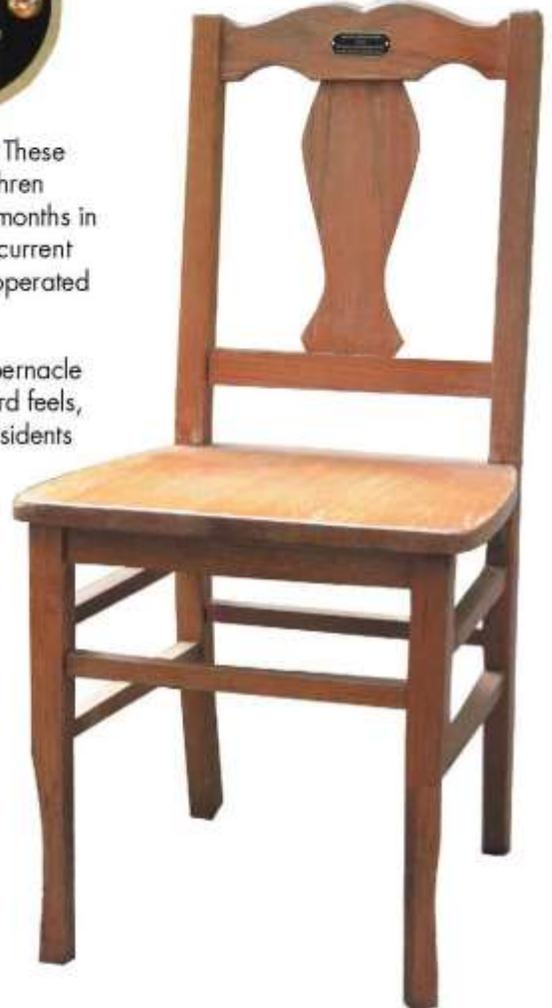
long history of use in religious services and other activities in Mt. Gretna. These chairs, which date from at least the 1940's, were used by the United Brethren Church for church services and Sunday school during the fall and winter months in the first-floor, back room of the Tabernacle prior to the construction of the current Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church. They were also used for programs operated by Camp Mt. Gretna during its years of existence in this community.

Because these chairs have not been used for some time, the Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Association's Board of Trustees has decided to sell them. Doing so, the Board feels, will allow interested Campmeeting cottage owners and other Mt. Gretna residents to retain a piece of Mt. Gretna history, while also freeing-up a significant amount of storage space in the Tabernacle.

There are approximately 45 of these chairs available, and they will be sold on a first-come basis. Each chair will include an engraved plaque as shown in the photo above left. Because of the expected demand for these chairs, we are limiting purchases to one per person or cottage.

We hope you will plan to order one of these historic chairs for use and display in your cottage or home. To order your chair, simply complete and return the order form below.

We have scheduled Saturday, October 27, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for the pick-up of chairs at the Tabernacle for those people who have ordered them. For those people whose orders for the chairs cannot be filled once the supply of available chairs has been exhausted, we will notify you as early as possible and will return your payment to you.



Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Chair Order Form

I would like to order a Mt. Gretna Tabernacle chair and have enclosed my payment.
(Orders cannot be accepted or processed if payment is not enclosed).

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cost: \$35 per chair (Sales tax included)

Send checks made payable to the Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Association to:

Mt. Gretna Tabernacle Association, P.O. Box 408, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064.

Questions? Email us at bowmanL322@comcast.net or call 717-964-3803.