



insideNewberry

To honor the past...inform the present...envision the future, *insideNewberry* is published quarterly by Newberry Community Partnership (NCP) as a service to the neighborhood to promote community pride and facilitate communication between residents, schools, civic organizations and businesses. NCP is a non-profit community-based organization established in 2006. Please support our sponsors who made this issue possible!

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insideNewberry

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Guitar, Graphic Design, and Community Service: A Profile of Rod Chubb



Rod Chubb currently plays in three different bands that perform before live audiences.

Rod Chubb did not know that when he and Alannah Gabriel talked about creating an online archive for *insideNewberry* issues in 2008, he was at the beginning of a long tenure with the Newberry Community Partnership. The two met at a gathering of citizens concerned about an incoming unsavory business, but what came out of the conversation was the website that makes *insideNewberry* accessible to Newberrians here and those scattered across the globe.

Now, Chubb is passing on the reins of the website, and we want to celebrate his service while lifting the curtain a little on the man who has been behind the

scenes of insidenewberry.org. Webpage maintenance is not all that exciting, but Chubb has a different passion that has served as his throughline for most of his life – music.

Chubb first moved to the Williamsport area from New York state with his family when he was a senior in high school, landing at Montoursville High. Williamsport has a long tradition of music, but Chubb had already gotten hooked on the guitar at age 9, and by the time he was 17, he was giving lessons to others learning to play the instrument. During and between his 9 to 5 jobs, Chubb has taught guitar lessons ever since.

Chubb moved to Nashville in the mid-90s to learn graphic design and work there with the L. M. Berry Company, which did the Bell South Yellow page ads for communities all over the country (for those of us who remember the yellow pages!), but moved back to Newberry in 2000 to work in graphic design for ShopVac, a job he held for two different periods of time, ultimately ending when

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Guitar, Graphic Design, and Community Service: A Profile of Rod Chubb

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ShopVac's graphics division was outsourced in the recent sale.

Chubb would do his music and guitar instruction full time for a while, then pull back on that side of life and settle into a normal job for a while, but the music has always been there. He explains the unusual pattern as due to his getting distracted easily. "Part of being a musician is that you get bored easily," Chubb says. "So sometimes I got tired of doing music ALL the time and stepped back for a change, but musicians also have to find something to supplement their income." After focusing more on a normal 9 to 5 job for a while as a "break," Chubb says he would "then get rejuvenated for music."

Would Chubb recommend young musicians to try to make a career out of music? "The music industry is dead," he says, "and it has been dead for a long time." Chubb explains that the problem is that there are too many music creators and too few ways to distinguish themselves or actually make a living from their music. "There will always be the big acts, like a Taylor Swift, who will make a lot of money, but no one can possibly listen to all the self-produced, self-promoted music" that is now available through music home studio tools and personal music platforms on the internet.

If not to make a living, why should people pursue music? Chubb encourages people to do so for the love of the music itself. "There's really no reason to play an instrument unless we love it," he says. Having lived in Nashville, the music capital of the US, Chubb got to see up close and personally the difficulty of "breaking into" the industry and the importance of keeping the love of



Rod Chubb has been teaching guitar lessons in all genres since he was 17.

music central. In Nashville, he played as a backup artist at the Grand Ol' Opry and played as a studio artist for several people recording songs, but there was little money in it – and sometimes NO money, only "exposure." To play a set in many Nashville bars, the artists would even have to pay the bar \$200 upfront and then hope they made it back in tips and fame.

One of the reasons Chubb loves music is that it is impossible to master; there is always more to learn, which helps him stay focused. "Music is a journey, not a destination," he explains. "And really, you have to have a goal that is never fully attainable, and then you break that into smaller goals that you can work towards." This process of constant achievement but never "arriving" has kept Chubb's love of music fresh all his life.

(Continued on page 3)

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Guitar, Graphic Design, and Community Service: A Profile of Rod Chubb

(Continued from page 2)

Of course, it also helps that he does not stick to one genre of music in his playing or his teaching. He teaches all styles, from basic chords for people who want to play in church to fingerpicking, from driving heavy metal to smooth jazz. “I love it all,” he says. His guitar lessons are tailored to what interests each student – what helps them reach their music goals – because “everyone gets motivated by different things.”

Asked about the difficulties of teaching people the guitar, Chubb noted a difference between his students’ lives when he was first teaching compared to now. “Now, people don’t have the time to dedicate to the instrument,” he says. “We’re all so inundated with content. When you were a kid, you were into what you were into, whether it was baseball or music or electronics, not into a dozen things and scheduled for a different activity every day of the week. You can’t be good at anything with that much diversity. You need your 10,000 hours of good practice in something.”

When students, especially adults, come to the lessons expecting to master the guitar quickly, they often get frustrated and discouraged, but those who put in the time succeed in building the guitar into their lives, and that leads to Chubb’s greatest reward of teaching music – seeing his former students out around the town and hearing from them how they are continuing to play, love, and grow in the guitar. “I love seeing people achieve their goals and then setting new goals, making the guitar part of their life,” Chubb says, “especially because I can remember when many of these students would say, ‘I’m never going to be

able to get this.’”

Chubb is not too worried about how Artificial Intelligence apps (AI) will affect music’s future because many such apps have already been integrated into music. Chubb has used AI for years to mix in background instruments he needed but couldn’t obtain live. He points out that “most of what you are hearing now on the radio isn’t real instruments anyway, [and] as long as we accept it as consumers, that’s what we’ll have.”

What Chubb is more concerned about is the lack of creativity in music, as in other business and artistic fields. In his corporate jobs, he watched people borrow and repackage ideas they found on the internet, passing the ideas off as their own, and he highlights the trends of remakes and imitation in movies and music. Part of the same problem, in his view, is commentary culture: more people on YouTube and podcasts are interested in talking about making music than they are interested in actually making music. Making the music takes time, hard work, and doing it out of the public eye – but that’s where the creativity for new sounds comes from.

Besides teaching guitar full time, Chubb spends time himself working on new music, recording a ton of music that can be found on [youtube.com/RodChubb](https://www.youtube.com/RodChubb) or at his website RodChubb.com. He also plays currently with three bands: the Ken Wittman Trio (jazz), Souls of Us (classic rock), and Loose Cats (classic rock and country). If you catch one of these acts, tapping your foot to the music, be sure to thank Rod Chubb also for his long-term service to Newberry!



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Brodart and Harvest Moon Again Bring Santa to Town

For 15 years now, the Newberry community has gathered at the brick pavilion on Arch and 3rd Street to kick off the Christmas season with carols, the lighting of the Christmas tree, and a visit with the jolly old elf in the Brodart lobby. This past December 11th was the 15th anniversary of this Newberry holiday tradition. Hot cocoa and cookies warmed the carolers as they came into the lobby from the cold, and each child had his or her turn telling Santa what presents they were hoping for, or possibly helping Santa revise some of this last year's incidents from his "naughty and nice" report!

The tree-lighting tradition has been a true community event. "There's something special about a community Christmas tree lighting," says Michele Frey, President of the Newberry Community Partnership (NCP). "Neighbors coming together, bright tree lights, and the spirit of the season unites everyone in attendance in joy and hope."

While the NCP has done much of the organizing, Brodart's Lilly and Lisa served as Santa's helpers by distributing the cookies and hot cocoa to the people there, and Dee Dee made the arrangements to get those goodies. Brodart owns that corner lot and pavilion, and they have been an integral part of the event each year. Recently, Rick Dill, CFO and Vice President of Brodart, has even approved a proposal to plant a live Christmas tree at the pavilion, one that can brighten the corner at Christmas for years to come.

The massive tray of delicious cookies was provided by Harvest Moon, from just across the street, and Wegmans helped fund Santa's "travel expenses." The tree itself, purchased by the NCP, was transported, set up, and decorated by the City of Williamsport Parks and Recreation Department. The beautiful lights are powered by the use of Lamar Advertising's outlet at the site.

Watch on the NCP Facebook page next fall for announcements of this annual event, and come join us as we welcome the Christmas season!



The son of Adam and Sarah Yoder has a heart to heart with Santa after the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

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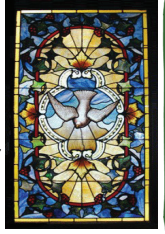


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NOTE: These are active groups that welcome new members; let them know you'd like to attend. To be listed, contact the Editor, **insideNewberry**, 913 Diamond Street, Newberry, PA 17701 or **insideNewberry@yahoo.com**.

Spring Events to Clean Up Newberry, Support the Community

You have probably seen the dull glint of a squashed plastic bottle or the flutter of a candy wrapper on the street, and when the snows melt, the wind sometimes collects the winter's garbage in corners and neighborhood "tide pools." To address this problem, each Spring and most Falls, the Newberry Community Partnership (NCP) organizes a community litter pickup day to clean up Newberry streets and sidewalks, and they invite you to join them on Saturday, April 19, from 9:30-noon, at the West End Christian Community Center (WECCC).

Besides being an eyesore, the garbage that collects in our public spaces has other negative consequences. According to Keep America Beautiful, the umbrella organization for the NCP Spring cleanup, people tend to litter more when there is already litter on the ground, but when the streets are clean, people are more willing to look for a trashcan or hold on to their litter until they get home. So, litter on the streets becomes a compounding problem.

Much of the litter is also unsanitary. Plastics don't go away, but after time in sun and rain, they do shed microplastics into the soil and water, which make their way into waterways, agricultural land, and eventually back into humans. One estimate is that the average American consumes the equivalent of a credit card's weight in plastic each week, with those who drink water out of plastic bottles being significantly more exposed according to an analysis of 26 studies, as reported by the Plastic Pollution Coalition. The extent of the damage of consuming and inhaling microplastics is not known, but plastics have been found to disrupt


hormone levels and affect child development. Other litter such as cigarette butts is just unsanitary in the normal way of distributing bacteria and other contents of people's saliva into the environment.

Julie Hulslander and Margaret Tupper have organized the Newberry clean-up events for most of its history. They are still involved as helpers, but they are now passing the torch – or the garbage bag – to Matthew Schmidt and Conrad Shank, members of Newberry Christian Fellowship. Schmidt is involved with the Diamond Square Market, and Shank is the Director for New Growth Learning Center in Newberry. Organizing the clean-up involves registering with Keep America Beautiful and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, coordinating with the City of Williamsport, publicizing the event, soliciting volunteers, and of course organizing the physical resources for the day of the clean-up, including safety vests, garbage bags, gloves, maps, transportation for the collected garbage, and pizza for the volunteers!

"The efforts of the volunteers can readily be seen. When everyone pitches in – even for just a short time – we really can make a difference with litter in our town," reiterated Michele Frey, President of the NCP.

The WECCC, at Diamond and 4th Street, provides a central hub for the clean-up, as well as lending tables for the event. Several community groups have participated together in NCP's clean-up over the years, including Americorps Seniors, Boy Scout Troop #14, the Phi Mu

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Spring Events to Clean Up Newberry, Support the Community

(Continued from page 6)

Delta fraternity from Pennsylvania College of Technology, and student groups from Williamsport Area High School. Contact NCP at insidenewberry@yahoo.com for information on how to participate for official community service hours with your organization.

If you are looking for more ways to contribute to the well-being of the Newberry community, consider how else you might participate in the Newberry Community Partnership. Scan the QR code for a basic video explanation of the organization.



Besides joining the NCP meetings, contributing articles, or helping with the clean-ups, you also have the opportunity in **March** to donate to the NCP through *Raise the Region*, a 30-hour community fundraising marathon organized by the First Community Foundation Partnership (<https://www.fcfpartnership.org/what-we-do/raise-the-region/>). For more information, see the July to September 2023 edition of *insideNewberry*, pp. 8-9, at insidenewberry.org



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New Church Comes to Newberry

The Common Places Church at Newberry is a new fellowship that popped up here in October 2024. It meets, pardon the pun, at a common place – the West End Christian Community Center – on Sundays at 10 a.m.

The church is actually an outgrowth of the Common Places Church in Lock Haven, which itself is part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination (CMA). Pastor Gerry Peña and his wife Juliette helped start the Newberry branch because they felt led to this area of Williamsport. “In 2022, we both felt God was calling us to something fresh and new, but we didn’t know what or where it was,” Gerry and Juliette said.

Gerry was born in Pennsylvania, though his parents were born in Mexico. “We would travel back to Mexico every summer to visit my grandparents in the state of Michoacan,” he said, and he is able to speak English and Spanish fluently.

Gerry grew up Catholic and attended Penn College, graduating with a degree in plastics in 2004. It was in college he says that life circumstances pushed him to turn to God in a new way and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He then began working with the CMA and ended up with the Common Places Church in Lock Haven.

“Pastor G,” as several call him, explained that a few years earlier he had been leading an “evangelistic small group at my work and was accepted into the LEAD CMA program.”

Gerry said the “LEAD CMA is a cohort-based program that is geared to equipping people to become ministry leaders. It fulfills the credentials needed to become ordained in the Christian and Missionary Alliance, which is the network of churches Common Places belongs to.”

The Peñas have three kids, and it was seen, firsthand by one of our daring reporters, that their baby girl loves donuts!

“God was working faithfully and opening the doors for us to see the needs of our community, Newberry, and he gave us the desire to do something about it,” the Peñas said. “We knew planting a church with a missional focus to reach



Gerry Peña speaks to the new congregation meeting in the WECCC

Newberry and its people was our task, and this was the place.”

As explained on the Common Places website, their churches are intended to be small, meeting in already-existing common areas instead of in specially built sanctuaries. Their pastors are “co-vocational,” which means they work for a living alongside their work with the church, and the churches develop multiple people to share in the ministry, including different speakers on Sundays.

Gerry said it’s their vision to work with all denominations for the betterment of the community. “Our goal is to work with the other churches in the area,” Pena said. “We plan to do some events outside when the weather warms up.” He added, “I am excited for people to see that Jesus has a plan and purpose for them. God has given every single one of us gifts to do things no one else can do. Everyone and anyone is invited to our church. We welcome everyone with open arms.” ~ *By Don Smith and Joshua Hill*

NOTE: For more information about the Common Places Church at Newberry, visit Commonplacechurch.com.

More than an Heirloom: Reflecting on a Holy Space

When I walked out of our church for the last time, I put my hand on the brick wall and asked God to bless the place that had been our spiritual home for so many decades. The building sold, so there was no going back. The past was now the past, and the heirlooms I'd packed would be tangible inheritances of what we could not relive.

Our congregation had been nested at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church for a few months, so this was my first time back to the Lycoming Presbyterian Church building on Arch Street. As other members organized for our upcoming sale, I had spent the previous couple of weeks cleaning out the office file cabinets. I sorted the discards from treasure, begrudgingly sacrificing what we would not preserve for posterity's sake – a difficult task for this genealogist and historian. This last afternoon together, generations of Lycoming Presbyterian saints loomed large in my psyche.

I carried boxes of archival material from the office past the mural depicting Noah's Ark. The pastor's wife and I, decades earlier, had spent many, many mornings painting it. We were two young mothers, nursing babies as we got to know each other. We've remained friends, and those memories have sweetened with time. It saddened me that I could not roll up that mural and tuck it under my arm, but I tapped a photo for memory's sake.

My palm was still on the brick, and I said what I hoped would not be a final goodbye. She couldn't speak for herself, but she would coax me to laugh if a building could. She'd remind me of birds and teens in the belfry, the deer that bolted through the sanctuary, and the night of a youth retreat when a water balloon knocked the portrait of Jesus off the wall. I smiled. So many youth antics, so many tender confessions shared on those overnight retreats.

"You're in good hands," I assured her and myself. The new owners intend to preserve her integrity. Deep down, I held out hope she would still be available to comfort us at funerals and share our joys at weddings.

Our children had all been baptized here, as

was my husband and ancestors before him. Our family sat in the same pew for generations. The Updegraffs were among the founders who gathered to listen to circuit evangelist David Brainerd more than two centuries earlier, which prompted them to build a log church. I joined when we baptized our first child, so I don't share centuries of history with the church. But what I do share is meeting Jesus in this space. I will be eternally grateful to godly members who mentored me as a young believer.

I closed the trunk of my car on the box of jots and tittles of church history I planned to explore. Mysteries beckoned. I was particularly intrigued by the ledger entries for those buried in the church cemetery. John and Isabella McBride caught my attention – both noted as assassinated on July 22, 1873. Also of interest was E. E. Ferguson, one of the Fairplay men, a group of English people who settled on land contested by the Iroquois Indians on Pine Creek. That list included generational families and descendants I had come to know as friends. I wondered what fascinating stories remained between the ellipses on the tombstones in the church's basement. Homework for another day.

When our congregation decided to sell the church, my husband lamented that he had been baptized and married here, and he had thought his funeral would be here as well. "Life moves on," he concluded with a painful sigh.

Yes, dear, life moves on.

But it needs to be remembered – treasured. As we prepared for the church sale, he chose a couple of pieces of memorabilia. And our children did the same, as did many who shopped at our closing sale. Folks bought LPC embossed dishes, recalling the church suppers and special celebrations. Candle holders, hymnals, and even doilies would become cherished memories. The husband of a woman who grew up in the church bought hymnals with bookplates honoring her parents. "The perfect Christmas gift," he told me.

Another family purchased the Advent wreaths that graced the entry doors. We remember them with fondness.

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More than an Heirloom: Reflecting on a Holy Space

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Yet all the heirlooms that traveled to new homes cannot contain the memories made in this space, our spiritual home. All of us recognized that. We were actually the legacy of nine-plus generations of congregants. It was the intangible moments that bonded us together. It was more than those special communal memories of singing by candlelight "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve. It was the realization that Lycoming Presbyterian is still a work in progress. Yes, we had given up the beloved container of our history, but we are the legacy of all those who had come before us.

Those godly ladies who introduced me to Jesus will come to mind whenever I use their hand-crocheted doilies. And I will lose myself in the yellowed pages of old church newsletters and ledgers. I will remember.

So here, dear friends, is an ode to the stoic edifice at 825 Arch Street. Here is the toast to the lady who held our tears at funerals and our joys at weddings and baptisms. May your future continue to be humble and grand. ~ *Roberta Updegraff*



Photo from Lycoming Historical Society Calendar of early 4th street and the Newberry Bank.

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Newberry Youth Focus Group

If you are interested in being on a contact list, or possibly on a Newberry Community Partnership subcommittee, focused on brainstorming ideas for, organizing events for, and finding funding for Newberry youth, email insidenewberry@yahoo.com.

We welcome your tax deductible donations to support the continued efforts of the Newberry Community Partnership to bring quality of life improvements and community events to our neighborhood.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2025

- 1 **WEDNESDAY** New Year's Day (Federal Holiday, Banks Closed)
- 2 **THURSDAY** Last Day of Chanukah (Jewish)
- 6 **MONDAY** Epiphany (Christain)
- 7 **TUESDAY** Orthodox Christmas Day
- 9 **THURSDAY** National Day of Mourning for Jimmy Carter (Federal Holiday, Banks May Be Open)
- 14 **TUESDAY** Orthodox New Year
- 20 **MONDAY** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Federal Holiday, Banks Closed)
- 29 **WEDNESDAY** Lunar New Year (Observance)

FEBRUARY 2025

- 1 **SATURDAY** National Freedom Day (Christian)
- 9 **SUNDAY** Super Bowl LIX
- 11 **MONDAY** Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday, Banks Closed)
- 14 **FRIDAY** Valentine's Day (Observance)
- 17 **MONDAY** President's Day (Federal Holiday, Banks Closed)

MARCH 2025

- 4 **TUESDAY** Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras (Observance) (Christian)
- 5 **WEDNESDAY** Ash Wednesday (Christian)
- 7 **FRIDAY** Employee Appreciation Day (Observance)
- 9 **SUNDAY** Daylight Savings Time Begins (Set Clocks AHEAD One Hour)
- 12-13 **WED-THUR** Raise the Region (See pg. 8)
- 17 **MONDAY** St. Patrick's Day (Observance) (Christian)
- 20 **THURSDAY** March Equinox (Season)

APRIL 2025

- 1 **TUESDAY** April Fool's Day (Observance)
- 12 **SATURDAY** Passover Eve (Jewish)
- 13 **SUNDAY** Palm Sunday (Christian)
Passover (1st Day, Jewish)
- 15 **TUESDAY** Tax Day (Observance)
- 17 **THURSDAY** Maundy Thursday (Christian)
- 18 **FRIDAY** Good Friday (Christian, Orthodox)
- 19 **SATURDAY** Holy Saturday (Christian, Orthodox)
Annual Spring Clean Up (See pg. 7)
- 20 **SUNDAY** Easter (Christian, Orthodox)
Last Day of Passover (Jewish)
- 21 **MONDAY** Easter Monday (Christian, Orthodox)