

February 2016

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 2 Issue 2



Out of the Saltshaker...

“Behold, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

LENT


All winter the earth looks and feels like iron
as if a falling tree would not even
scratch the surface
nothing moves

But below the gray skies and the frozen ground
the dead seed splits open underneath and
begins to crawl slowly
up and out

And so what seemed to be the end is actually
the beginning - God stirring beneath
the stiff and slumbering soil:
another resurrection

Written by David Meriwether

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Circle 7:00	3	4 Prayer and Worship 7:00	5	6
7 Communion	8	9	10 Lenten Lunch noon Supper & worship 5:30 & 6:15 7:00 Choir 7:00 Youth Group	11 Prayer and Worship 7:00	12	13
14 	15	16 Session 7:00	17 Lenten Lunch noon Supper & worship 5:30 & 6:15 7:00 Choir 7:00 Youth Group	18 Prayer and Worship 7:00	19	20
21	22	23	24 Lenten Lunch noon Supper & worship 5:30 & 6:15 7:00 Choir 7:00 Youth Group	25 Prayer at Dwight Stoller home	26	27
28	29					

February Birthdays:

Feb. 1- Sydney Reineck
 Feb. 2 – Jim Smith Sr.
 Feb. 2 - Mattea St. John
 Feb. 10 – Dan Karlstadt
 Feb. 11- Charles Strahley
 Feb. 12- Susan Paulus
 Feb. 13 – Bob Noneman

Feb. 14- Phyllis Lutz
 Feb. 15- Marty Crossland
 Feb. 15- Maely Crossland
 Alexander
 Feb. 15 – Arlene Cline

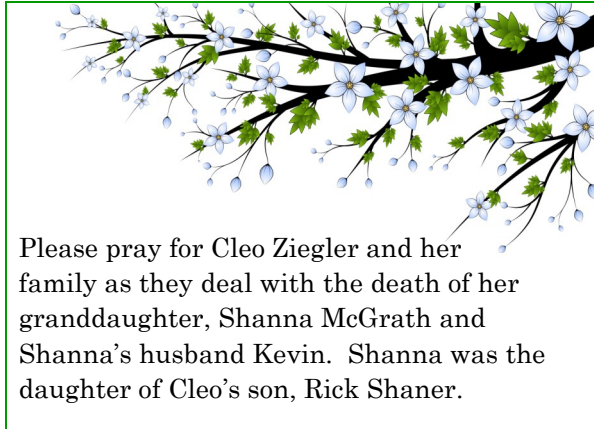
Anniversaries:

Feb. 16—Ken and Judy Robinson



A photo of how beautiful our sanctuary was on Christmas Eve with the candles glowing.

Christmas Eve Service



Please pray for Cleo Ziegler and her family as they deal with the death of her granddaughter, Shanna McGrath and Shanna's husband Kevin. Shanna was the daughter of Cleo's son, Rick Shaner.



Our ham and anything that goes with ham dinner was a great success. Pictured is Becky Craft pouring drinks for those in attendance. To the right is a picture of the table decorations, greenery with bright birds. A very nice job of decorating done by Jill Staley. Thanks Jill!



Lunch following Annual Meeting

Per Member Asking

Our church is asked to send a 'per member asking' to our denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and also to our presbytery within the denomination, the Presbytery of the Midwest, to support the work of these bodies.

The amount we are asked to give to the EPC is \$23 per member. The amount for the Presbytery is \$13. We pay based on our current active membership list of 83.

The Finance committee budgets these amounts (\$23+13=\$36 per member) into the annual budget to assure we are able to pay our fair share. Some members choose to 'reimburse' our church for their portion. Each \$36 the church receives offsets what was sent to the EPC and the Midwest Presbytery, and is a help to our own church's finances. There is a blue envelope in the front of your giving envelope box for this purpose.

If you are able to offset the 'per member asking' for your household, it is much appreciated but not required. The total amount for 2016 for 'per member asking' is \$36.

Note from Rob Constien:

The Constien family wants thank you so much for the support you have shown us this last year. Your prayers for my recovery have been much appreciated, especially the prayer shawl knitted by mu very own Aunt Dorothy! This was a very challenging time for me, but hopefully this last spine surgery is truly the last. I am feeling better all the time and will know for sue in the next 45 days or so.

We want to especially thank you for your prayers, love and support for our baby Lucas. He is a joy and a miracle. His second surgery was extremely difficult for him. It was truly touch abd go for a while. But with the prayers from our Paulding Church family and so many that expressed their love and prayers for Lucas he has pulled through. In fact he just got back from the Mayo Clinic and his 1 month checkup. He is doing great. We live with the fact that he will always be a "heart" baby with many special needs. His whole life will be one of special care, but with the love and support of so many people, I know he will thrive and grow to be a special young man.

The Paulding Presbyterian Church will always be our "home" church and we look forward to seeing you all again at Easter service.

Rob Constien
Rob Constien

From Jake Becker for the City School

I often and fondly tell my childhood story of being a nine-year old boy who moved from Northwest Ohio to the big city and what a culture shock that was! What was a hard adjustment in its beginning became my love and joy through my adulthood. I felt God's call to personally minister in the city during college and now raise my children (Caleb, 11 and Maggie, 6) in the same city I grew up in. I met my wife Jessica in Philadelphia when we were both attending college together at the University of Pennsylvania. She grew up in New York City, so she had to get over moving to such a small city!

I am truly passionate about honoring Jesus in the city through the excellent and financially accessible education of The City School. Jess and I first got involved when we were looking for a school for our own children. They are both thriving and we are overjoyed to be a part of this school community.

Thank you so much for remembering my family and the work God continues to call us to in Philadelphia. In fact, now Tim's oldest son, Luke, attends The City School in the same classroom as my daughter. His second son, Samuel, starts kindergarten in the fall. Both of my parents are planning to start volunteering once their housing situation settles, so this has truly become a family ministry.

I am so grateful for your generous donation to our work of excellent education in Jesus' name in the city. I would love to continue to partner with the church as you see fit. Thank you!

Blessings,

Items ready to ship to missionaries through

God's Share Program



Thank you so much for your generous year end gift to God's Share Program. As we begin 2016 we have several large missions projects in the works. The last quarter of the year can be taxing on the budget and funding for a new year can be daunting. So what a blessing to receive your gift. Children in Uganda and the Philippines will be the beneficiaries as they reeive supplies that will all them to attend school and be introduced to Jesus by the missionaries distributing those supplies. Thank you again for

your timely and generous gift! Kim and the GSP Team





Friday Night January 22



Our final 5th Quarter Party for this season. The success of these events were the result of prayer and a lot of hard work by many people. For the fortunate teens in our community, we say "Thank You!"



Bryson Hoover

God gave this church an opportunity to pray for a second baby needing heart surgery. Bryson is home now, with no oxygen tubes, no monitors.

Praise His Name!



Lenten News

Lunches:

The Lenten lunches will again be held in our fellowship hall with the following churches fixing lunch on the dates listed. Lunch will be served at noon. Each church will also have a representative bring a meditation to those attending. Last year was our highest attendance ever, with 75 to 80 attending each week. You are invited for good food and great fellowship to the Alpha and Omega - All Soul's Café.

- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - February 10
- CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE - February 17
- ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - February 24
- FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - March 2
- UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - March 9
- DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH - March 16

There will again be a box available each week to donate items to the local Caring and Sharing Food Pantry.

Suppers:

The schedule for our Lenten Suppers, prepared and hosted by a group within our church are as follows:

- WOMEN'S GROUP - February 10
- CHOIR - February 17
- DEACONS - February 24
- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - March 2
- SESSION - March 9
- YOUTH - March 16

These meals will this year be open to the public, and offered as free meals to the community. They will again be followed by a Lenten worship service. Meals will be served at 5:30, with the service following at 6:15. Regular activities (choir practice and youth group follow at 7:00)

"and from my smitten heart with tears,
two wonders I confess, the wonders of His
glorious love and my own worthlessness."



Special Lenten Services:

- Ash Wednesday - here at 6:15
- Maundy Thursday - here at 8:00
- Good Friday - House of Love at noon
- Easter Sunrise - here at 7:00
- Easter Service - here at 10:15

Prayer for Lent

"Oh, God, show me more of Your holiness.
Show me more of my sinfulness.
Help me to hate sin and to love righteousness as You do.
Grant me a deeper conviction of sin
and a more thorough spirit of repentance.
And make me holy as You are holy."
In Jesus' Name, Amen

Submitted by Becky Fishbaugh

Help Wanted!

Are YOU free during the day on Wednesdays?

The Lenten lunch series will be held in our Fellowship Hall each Wednesday from Wed., Feb. 10 through Wed., March 16 from noon to 1 PM. Women's Board would like someone from our church to be in the kitchen and dining room to serve as, essentially, a hostess to the ladies from other churches as they prepare their meal in our kitchen.

There is a typed list of what needs to be done, and you might be relied upon to keep the coffee flowing. As a bonus, you can enjoy the meal, the Lenten meditation, and fellowship with other Christian women from the community as well

The dates to be covered are Feb. 17, February 24, March 2, March 9, and March 16. The times would be from 9:30 AM until about 2:00 PM. That time could easily be split or shared by two people. If you are willing to help in this way, please contact Barb Searing, 399-3204 or barb@searingfamily.com

CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY

Hygiene Items for men and women:

Shampoo & Conditioners
Body Washes
Hand Sanitizers
Deodorant
Tooth Paste & Toothbrushes
Lotions for children & adults
Diapers
Toilet Paper
Bars of soap

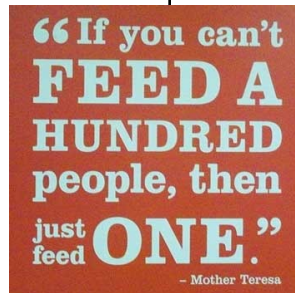
Other:

Dish soap
Laundry Soap
Antibacterial Cleaners
Scouring Powder

Condiments:

Ketchup
Mustard
Mayonnaise
Salad Dressing
Pickles
BBQ Sauce

Canned Fruit of all kinds



Keep your eyes and ears open!

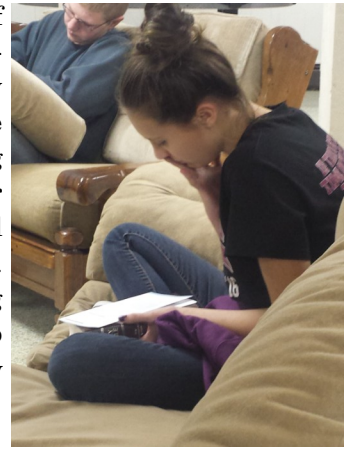
We're Gonna Have a Party!

In April, Sue Crossland celebrates her 50th anniversary of playing the organ at this church.

We will be helping her celebrate with a lunch after church and some other fun events.

Watch for plans and dates.

Youth Group received notice of their Compassion Child Sponsored. Thirteen year old Henry Hevera from Columbia. The Youth Group will be providing monthly sponsorship funds for Henry's care. The Group will take turns writing back to Henry. Pictured is Erin Karlstadt taking her turn in writing a letter to Henry. Please pray for Henry and this new mission.



Youth Group Mission Project

Organ Repair

Session has approved going ahead with the repair on our organ. The original estimate a few years ago was just over \$58,000. We currently have over \$48,000.00 in the Organ Repair fund. Watch for news on any fund raising projects that we have going on in the near future for that repair.



Sue Crossland playing "her" organ.

Lighthouse Library News

The library has two new books by a couple of our favorite authors:

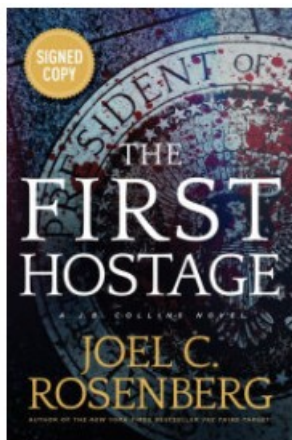
Joel Rosenberg... "The First Hostage"

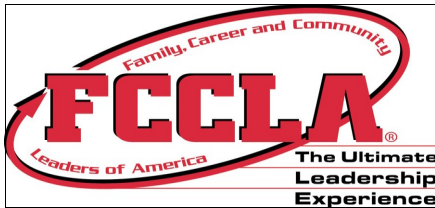
(You might enjoy this more if you read his book "The Third Target" first)

and

Jan Karon..."Come Rain or Come Shine"

Our library is such a positive part of our church and our outreach to the community and each other. Thanks to the people who pour so much love into it.





Two of our teens have a leadership project going on at this time:

Kacie Karlstadt, along with partners Taylor Schooley and Emilee Ringler, are working on their senior project.

They are collecting items for San Salvador Hurricane Relief. Items that they feel they can ship easily are:

Bath Towels

Kitchen Towels

Work Socks: for under work boots

The decision made to collect these three items came after Kacie talked with her cousin, Tiffany Razo, about what is still needed there following Hurricane Joaquin in October 2015. Tiffany has been in San Salvador assisting the residents there most of November and December, and is there again as this is written.

Erin Karlstadt, along with Allison Rieneck of the Nazarene Church, is working on her freshman project, a Hands of Hope diaper fund raiser. They are looking for mainly diapers. After talking with Patty Meriwether, they are also accepting clothing, bibs, bottles for newborn babies. They are not accepting any blankets, as Hands of Hope has **LOTS** of blankets at the moment.

If you are willing to donate, there is a box and a bassinette in the hallway for these projects. Both projects will also accept money. A check can be made out to the church with the project name in the memo line. The treasurer will combine the funds for each one and pass them on. Any money donated to hurricane relief will be used for shipping costs. Donations made to Erin's project will be given to Hands of Hope.

ALTAR COMMITTEE FLOWER CHART

We are truly grateful for the generous donations of memorial flowers and plants throughout the past year.

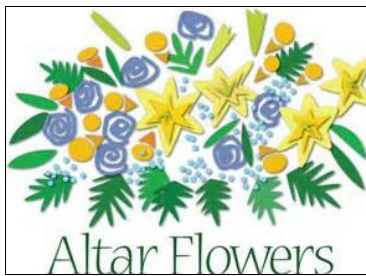
Your faithful response has been extraordinary.

Just a reminder as we begin a new year of celebrating with flowers....

Only one person or family is to sign for flowers on the chart for a Sunday donation. Please choose the the previous Sunday or the following one if the spot is already filled with a name.

The chart has designated Sundays of the church year for which the flowers are supplied by the Alter Committee as well (Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, etc.). Those dates are already filled in on the 2016 chart.

Becky & Jill



Three of the women putting the sanctuary back to its normal glory after Epiphany are Jill Straley (on ladder), Susan Crossland and Becky Fishbaugh. They were also three that helped decorate after Thanksgiving. Several others were involved, and all the hard work is appreciated and admired by the people in our congregation.

The Sanctuary is Back to Normal after the Holidays

Warm Hearts/Warm Homes

Help our less fortunate Paulding neighbors afford their utilities this winter.

Your contribution to Warm Hearts /Warm Homes will be rolled into one check by the church, and forwarded to the Paulding County chapter of the Salvation Army, which will administer the funds to Paulding County residents.

Checks should be made out to the church, please put Warm Hearts /Warm Homes in the memo line. 100% of these funds will be used in Paulding County.

This has been a project of Women's Fellowship since 2005.



VISION TEAM UPDATE



When the vision team last met on January 13, we talked about the “key question” we first considered a year earlier at the *Multiply* training event we hosted for the Presbytery of the Midwest: *How does God want to express himself through this church in this community at this time?* A significant part of our discussion was whether or not we’ve answered that question.

As I wrote in the annual report, we’ve partially answered that question (which the vision team simplified to, *How can we bless our community?*). We’re blessing our community more than we thought we were and at the same time we want to be open to further ways God can use us.

I had asked the vision team members to set aside a few minutes each day to pray about what we’re doing as a congregation in our community and I had given each of them a pocket notepad to write down anything that came to mind. One person had written down the idea of building a simple, small playground in between Cornerstone Cottage and the church building.

It seemed to this person to be “out of left field”, but the rest of the team thought it was worth considering and it also connected with some discussion a few of us of had had several years ago about building a playground. We felt like this would certainly be a blessing to our neighborhood, and so we will consider this as we move forward.

We also revisited a question we

had begun to consider at our previous meeting in December: *Has the vision team accomplished its task, or are we just getting started?* One could argue that we’ve accomplished our task in light of the fact that we’re already doing a lot in our community and that our outreach awareness has been raised considerably. One could also argue that we’ve just begun our task in light of the fact that the overall culture of our church hasn’t changed. We did agree that we’ve “moved the needle” in the past year, and so we’re definitely on the right track.

We will meet again after Easter and then at least once more before June (the Session had asked the vision team members to make a commitment at least until this coming June).

We’re also interested to know how you think “the needle has been moved”. We’ll be inviting people to share their thoughts on 3 X 5 cards, more on that soon. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

Session Highlights

At the January 19, 2016 meeting, elders:

- *approved the transfer of inactive member Robert Gilbert to the Grace Presbyterian Church in Ft. Wayne

- *approved the Gideons request for the use of the church fellowship hall on Sunday February 28, 7:00 to 8:30 am, for their Rally Sunday

- *elected Barb Searing as Clerk of Session and Carol Razo as Treasurer

- *approved Elder assignments for 2016: Christian Ed: Rhonda Smalley; Worship: Rhonda Smalley; Mission: Phyllis Lutz; Finance: Ed Cline; Personnel, Property and Nominating: Dave Nice; Congregational Life/Outreach: Barb Searing

- *reviewed, discussed and approved the 2016 budget

- *the Vision Team met on 01/13/2016 with many good ideas being shared

which will be put into action.

- *approved \$2,500 for church van repair expense to be taken from the unspent \$5,023.61 reserves from 2015. Also approved not to exceed \$200 for two privacy blinds for Cornerstone Cottage. Delayed decision on flooring in cottage until mid-year after finances are reviewed.

- *discussed organ repair. The organ repair fund now has over \$45,000 due to fund raising projects. Session approved to involve the Finance Committee to make a Session recommendation for the \$13,000 shortage. Sue Crossland to contact Lima Pipe Organ in Elida to accept their bid and get the repair work on their calendar.

- *a new \$1,200 yearly meal fund was approved from the carry-over monies. Anyone who buys and cooks a meal for the First Wednesday meals can be reimbursed up to \$150.00 if they choose.

- *Red Cross Shelter Agreement approved

- *Deacons and Elders were ordained and/or installed during January

- *discussed membership classes to be led by Pastor Dave: adult class on Saturday the 12th from 10 - 1 and Saturday the 19th from 10 - 1 for youth.

- *approved Pastor Dave’s vacation request for 03/02 through 03/07/2016 and 05/11 through 05/26/2016 (which includes two Sundays)

- *approved milestone celebration events: either April 17 or 24, 2016 for Sue Crossland being honored as our church organist for the past 50 years and also on June 12 for Pastor Dave’s 25th anniversary as our pastor and his 60th birthday.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held January 24, 2016. All reports were read and approved. The budget was approved with little discussion. After being dismissed with prayer, lunch was eaten in the fellowship hall.



Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00
Praise Music: 10:15
Worship Service 10:30

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**In Essentials, Unity.
In Non-Essentials, Liberty.
In All Things, Charity.**

