

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 2 Issue 4



Out of the Saltshaker...

... we will in all things grow up into him
who is the Head, that is, Christ.
(Ephesians 4:15)

**Bigger isn't better, smaller isn't better,
better is better.**
(Rick Warren)

I want our church to grow, but I don't care how big it is. I really don't, not anymore. Actually, I do like it when more people are in worship, and I would love it if more were in worship week to week, but it's taken me a long time to internalize the fundamental truth that success in the church is about *health*, not about size. Growing in health, not numbers, is what really counts. Often, growing in health does lead to growth in numbers, but not necessarily. And it is common in churches of all sizes to worry about growing in numbers and give little thought to growing in health.

I first read about this concept a few years ago in *The Purpose Driven Church* whose author, Rick Warren, is the pastor of a church literally almost the size of Paulding County. He wrote that small churches could be healthy and big churches could be unhealthy, and vice-versa, and that the

key thing in a church is not size but *health*. I immediately agreed with him, but it's only been within the last few months that I've finally and fully let go of the idea our congregation is less than it should be because we are small in number.

We may indeed be less than we should be, but it's not because we are small in number. In fact, we are smaller in number than we have been at any time in the almost 25 years that I've been here. Our average worship attendance in 2015 was almost exactly half of what it was in the late 90's. Up until recently that bothered me. I said it didn't, but it did, just a little bit. Now it doesn't at all. Not because I wouldn't welcome more people in worship, but because I don't think average attendance is any kind of measuring stick for success.

I don't think the writers of the New Testament did either. The book of Acts does mention large numbers of people responding to the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost, but I don't see anything in the New Testament about large churches. What I do see is a lot about large *believers*. That is, believers who are becoming more like Jesus. To paraphrase what I quoted above from Ephe-

sians 4:15, **we will grow up and become more like Christ .**

I've written about this before, probably fairly recently, but I've been hit between the eyes with it again as I've been reading a great book called *The Grasshopper Myth*, by Karl Vaters, who is the pastor of a small church. This is what he says, in a nutshell: **You may not grow a big church ... but when you and your congregation are comfortable in your own skin and are following the way God is leading you, the result will be a great church.**

When we follow the way God leads us, who knows what specific things might happen, but one thing will happen for sure: we will grow up and become more like Jesus. As another megachurch pastor put it, "God's not interested in big churches, just big people." The measuring stick is not numbers but health. And the essence of health is likeness to Jesus Christ. More on this later.

Shalom!

Pastor Dave

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Adult membership class 10:00 in the cottage
3 Communion	4	5 Circle 7:00	6 1st Wednesday meal 5:30, service 6:15 7:00 Choir	7 Community Prayer and Worship 7:00 At the Senior Center	8	9
10	11	12	13 7:00 Choir	14 Prayer and Worship 7:00	15	16
Kitchen Kleen up week: not a good time to have company—Kitchen Kleen up week: not a good time to have company— Kitchen Kleen up week:						
17	18	19 Session 7:00	20 7:00 Choir	21 Prayer and Worship 7:00	22	23
not a good time to have company——						
24 Celebration for Sue Crossland's 50th anniversary as organist, lunch following	25	26	27 7:00 Choir	28 Prayer and Worship 7:00	29	30

April

3rd - Joseph Reineck

4th - Brock Verfaillie

5th - Candi Koenig

10th - Megan Fife

10th - Nikki Verfaillie

16th - Caitlin Pennington

21st - Allie Meriwether Brown

21st - Cleo Zeigler

23rd - Paul Panches

29th - Deston Verfaillie

Session Highlights

At the March Session meeting, elders:

*heard a report on the recent Presbytery meeting, including a presentation on "Embracing the Small Church". Elders were also invited to consider being commissioners to the General Assembly of the EPC in Livonia, MI in June.

*heard from the property committee that they recommend keeping the van, and that Cody Clark will continue maintaining the lawn. This committee also reports that the garage replacement project, started by a large donation for that purpose, is at the point of exploring zoning requirements before a design can be determined.

*were reminded of the adult membership class on April 2. The youth class had to be re-scheduled due to a conflict at school.

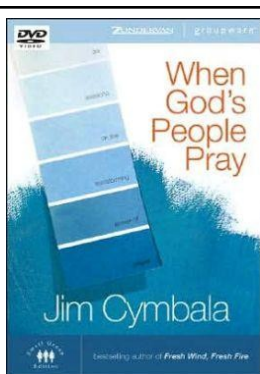
*were told that the Stallkamp wedding, which was approved to be held at our church on July 9, is now being held elsewhere.

*learned that Pastor Dave is working with radio station owner Joe Barker to have sermons from our church on the air twice a month for a year

*approved use of the Fellowship Hall for a Red Cross Bloodmobile on Thurs., May 5; for the Bargain Bin spring luncheon on Mon., May 9; and for Megan Fife's graduation party on Sat., May 28.

*learned from treasurer Carol Razo of a "large donation to the permanent mission fund with the intent of duplicating all mission spending from 2015". What a praise!

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session



Discover the keys to powerful prayer. Prayer can change lives and circumstances like nothing else can. In this DVD, Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, shows us truths about prayer that God used to turn his own church from a tiny, struggling inner city church to a vital, thriving community of believers who pray with passion, focus and faith. Please join Pastor

Dave in a 6 week study on prayer beginning April 17th.

New Adult SS Class Study

It's Kitchen Kleen Up time!

Starting on Sunday, April 10th, there will be numbered signs on various areas of the church kitchen cupboards.

During the week of April 11 -15, anyone who is able and willing is asked to come to the church at your own convenience and pick an area to clean. If you have a special area you'd like to work on, you are welcome to put your name on a numbered area on Sunday to reserve it for yourself, and it will be known that you will take care of that area during the week sometime.

"Clean" means to take everything out of whatever cupboard section you choose, wipe out the cupboard, remove anything that needs to go (outdated food, unmatched dishes, etc.), wash anything that needs to be washed, and put everything back.

"Common Sense" will be the rule of the week. Once 'your' cupboard is clean, take the number off the cupboard so the next person knows what has been finished.

There will be a lost and found table in the Fellowship Hall for things that appear to belong to someone, and also a miscellaneous table for things that aren't needed in the church kitchen but that someone might want to adopt. Those tables will be there all week through Sunday April 17 so that people can check for their lost casserole or spatula or whatever on the lost and found table, or if they want to adopt anything from the miscellaneous table. After April 22, whatever is left on the tables will be donated to the Bargain Bin.

If you look good in yellow rubber gloves, this is a project you'll want to be in on, and thank you in advance!!



The Women's Board

God's Share Program

Pictured below are Phyllis Crossland, Alan Kohart (Phyllis's brother), Kim Wilson and Barb Kohart. Phyllis is delivering two boxes of craft supplies and curriculum to Kim to distribute to missionaries.



Did You Know?

Session has created a fund to reimburse those who volunteer to prepare a 1st Wednesday Community Meal. The rationale is that people who are willing to prepare a meal or maybe meals are their gift and they want to take charge more than once.....should not have to bear the cost of feeding 50 people on their own. To volunteer to be in charge of a 1st Wednesday meal, check the clipboard at last check, Wed., May 4 was still vacant. To claim reimbursement from the new "meal fund", place your receipts (or a note listing your expenses), with a clear notation "Please reimburse (name) from the Meal Fund" in Carol Razo's mailbox at the church. Thank you in advance for your help with this outreach.

First Wednesday Meal and Service

Supper at 5:30

Worship at 6:15

Choir practice follows at 7:00

Join us and invite your friends as the meal and service are open to the community.

Women's Circle

Tuesday April 5th

All women invited as we spend time together in study and fellowship.

7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY

Think Spring!

All kinds of household cleaning supplies are needed. If you use it to clean, then it can be used at the Food Pantry

Hygiene Items for men, women and children: always needed!



Senior Trip To New York City

Kacie Karlstadt and Megan Reineck at the entrance to Central Park (above) and (below) in front of the Plaza. We have a few more young ladies, or maybe just Kacie, thinking the New York City is the place they want to end up after college.



National Honor Society



Lauren Hill being inducted into the NHS by Megan Reineck. Outstanding! Congratulations to all of our NHS students.

It's All About 50 Years of Service to the King

"It's just what you do..." Sue Crossland's desire for caring, doing, helping and serving has deep roots. Her dad, Don Sr. was always coaching something, or leading the opening for Sunday School at church. Her mom, Phyllis, ran the church nursery, directed Bible School, or had some volunteer project going. Sue herself has served in many ways over the years: Girl Scouts, Alpha Xi Delta president twice, head of the Paulding Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the pastor search committee twice, EMS coordinator for many years, church organist for 50 years, as well as choir director for many years, pianist for music programs at school, coaching track, gymnastics and volleyball. It's just what you do.

Sue's love of music, her love of her church and her Lord have kept her here at First Presbyterian in Paulding. She began playing for the Sunday School opening while in Junior High ("only the simple hymns," she states) and continued with piano lessons until she moved on to the organ. Her first Sunday to play was a Youth Sunday service, and she has continued on since. While attending Defiance College, she put many miles on the car her parents bought for her just for the purpose of getting her back and forth.

On April 24, we will celebrate the love and the faithfulness of the Lord, shown to us through the music of our wonderful pipe organ as presented by our friend, Susan B. Crossland. We will sing for joy at the work of His hands, accompanied by her music.

For many of us, music is the bridge between our every day life and the life we wished we lived as a Christian. Music gives us a taste of the glory, a taste of the love and power of the Lord. When she plays, this church senses His majesty. We feel the love of the parents of the newborn Jesus as she plays at Christmas, we feel the fear of the shepherds, the joy of the angels. During Holy Week, through her music, we know the pain and suffering that Jesus endured, we experience the sorrow and loss of those who loved Him and then we rejoice at His resurrection. All these emotions come through the

Celebrate, April 24th at 10:15, informal lunch to follow

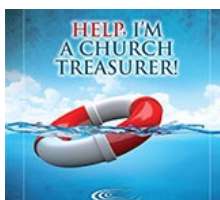


hands and heart of the woman playing the 100 plus year old pipe organ.

None of this comes easily: even when you are given a spiritual gift, you have to do the work needed to grow and improve that gift. Sue is here every week to practice for Sunday. She is here for every choir practice. Not feeling well? Too bad, gotta go to practice. Had surgery? Too bad, gotta go to practice. Broken finger or toe? Too bad, gotta go to practice. Coughing so hard you think you'll slide off the bench? Too bad, gotta go to practice.

Music is deeply rooted in our souls. And for the followers of Jesus, it is a powerful means of encouraging each other along the journey of faith. Whether our hearts cry out, "Create in me a clean heart, O Lord." (Ps. 51:10), or joyfully shout "And He will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15) the power of music that exalts God lifts our spirits and grants us peace.

You are invited to join us as we sing to the Lord, listen to His music, celebrate Sue's dedication to serve both God and her fellow congregants on Sunday April 24 at 10:15. Lunch will follow. with an informal program.



If YOU have occasion to submit bills to treasurer Carol Razo for reimbursement, please be sure to label them clearly as to who is to be reimbursed and from which fund, before placing them in her church mailbox. If you charged something, those slips also can go in her church mailbox. Let Carol know that this was a charge, from which store, and from which fund they should be paid. This is a huge help to Carol when the bill comes from the Chief, the hardware store, or wherever. Carol is a marvelous treasurer, but she is not a mind-reader. THANKS

Submitted by Barb Searing



The pool at Kirkmont Center needs \$65,000 in repairs before summer camp starts!

Thus far, the 50+ year-old pool has passed inspection with minor patches. This year, we have until June 1 to make extensive repairs to the pool deck and rim. Let's pool our resources and make this happen!

What is summer camp without a pool? We have committed in faith to make the repairs and need your help.

Last year Kirkmont Center was named a Camp that Changes the World by the Center for Faith and Service. You can throw Kirkmont Center the lifeline it needs to transform campers' lives. To talk to a board member about this effort, call Buzz Reed at 937-238-9695 or email buzzfdr@gmail.com.

Kids need camp! Camps need pools! Let's make this summer a great one. Thank you!



The Music Man Paulding High School Musical



Basketball Awards Paulding Sports Program



The Music Man was presented at Paulding High School during April. Pictured are Joe Reineck and Brian Matson. Also in the performance were Kacie Karlstadt and Erin Karlstadt.

Pictured at the Basketball Awards Program are (above) Julia Fife and (in the lower photo) Sydney Reineck.



1



2



3



4



6

Photos from Chuck and Phyllis Lutz

5



1. Chuck and Phyllis sitting in the bleachers ready for a volleyball game, By the end of the season they realized that they were sitting under Carl's banner.

2. In Florida with Bill and Becky Hurtig, Julie and Kai at John's Pass

3. David Lutz comforting his daughter, Gina, while she was still hospitalized

4. Grandson Alex Ayers holding his newborn son, Lutz's first great grandchild,

Kameryn, along with Grandma Chritie Ayers

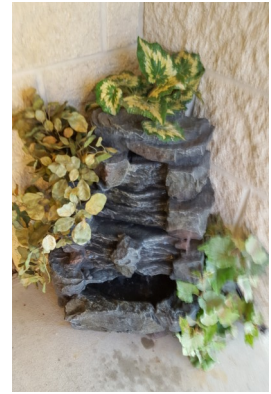
5. Chuck and Phyllis in Texas with David, Gina, Brenda and Josh

6. Gina says "Thank you so much for the pretty prayer shawl."

Easter Sunday



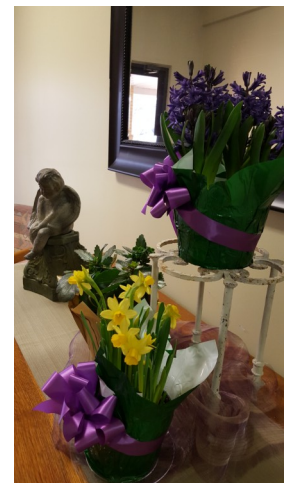
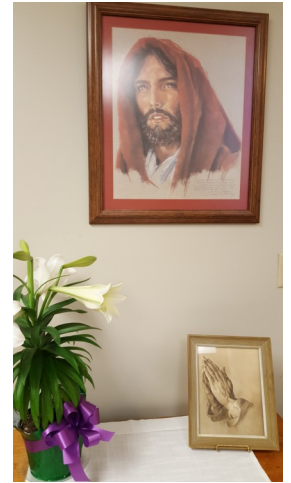
Dr. Dave Beatty waits between early service and regular service. Thanks for driving from Fort Wayne, Dr. Dave!



The above decorations greeted worshipers on Easter before they entered the church building.



Table decorations for breakfast following the Sunrise Service.



Our house of worship looked beautiful as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord. A huge "Thank you" to Becky Fishbaugh for the hours of prayer, planning and labor that went into the decorating.



Megan and Sydney Reineck enjoy the company of beautiful little Autumn.



Dave Nice fixes pancakes for the meal.



Bud Koenig and Rick Craft "working" in the kitchen.



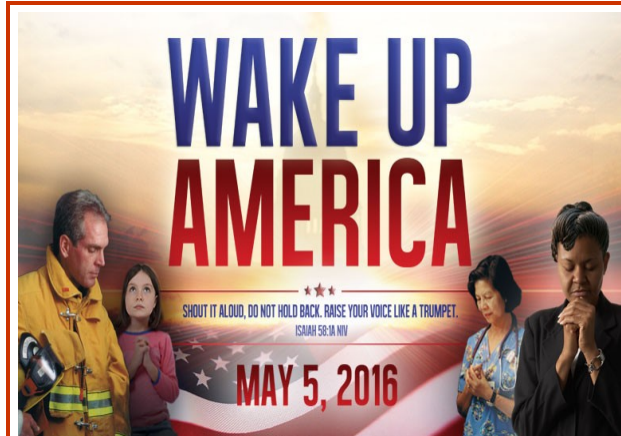
Kristen Razo celebrates her 15th birthday with a hug from her grandma, Sue Paulus

2016's Last Lenten Supper

Our last Lenten Supper for the year was breakfast served in the evening by the adult Sunday School classes.



In the kitchen preparing for our meal: still doing the same job 😊 are Bud Koenig and Rick Craft, as Cindy Koenig, Barb Searing and Jane Nice work on preparation.



The **65th** annual **National Day of Prayer** is just around the corner, offering us many opportunities to answer the call to pray for our nation. Watch

for our sign-up sheet for the all day prayer vigil on Thursday May 5th. There will also be opportunities to participate in the National Day of Prayer observance on the courthouse lawn.



Paulding OH 45879
Corner of Caroline & Cherry,
First Presbyterian Church

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

First Presbyterian Church

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firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

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

