

# The Cornerstone News

## First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 2 Issue 7



**I am making all things new.** (Jesus— Revelation 21:5)

**Every church should be in transformation all the time.**  
(Ken Priddy, workshop leader at the EPC General Assembly)

I am sitting in a very cool coffee shop called *ReNu*, which happens to be inside Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville, MI, in the western suburbs of Detroit. Barb Searing and I have been here most of the week for the 36th annual General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).

We've had an excellent adventure, and seemingly everywhere we turn we see the theme for this gathering, followed by the words of Jesus in Revelation 21:5— **RENEWED... I am making everything new.** Jesus' words describe an ongoing renewal. He's not talking about a renewal event (though those can be helpful) but a day to day process of becoming more and more like Christ. This is what Paul means in Philippians 2:12 - 13 when he writes, **continue to work out your salvation ... for it is God who works in you .**

*Renewal* is another way of saying *transformation*, and transformation is a big part of the EPC way of thinking. It's one of the four "strategic initiatives" found in the vision statement. The familiar phrase, *The only constant is change* reflects the fact that ongoing transformation is embedded in the very

### Out of the Saltshaker...

nature of things—nothing ever completely stays the same.

This is also a basic component of the kingdom of God, seen in such Scripture passages as Philippians 1:6 ( **God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns .**) and 1 John 3:2 ( **we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known .**)

God's love for us is unchanging, no matter how much we may or may not change, but there is no question that the Lord wants us to change and to be renewed continually. We resist this, and we would usually rather not change. Complacency is a very attractive trap, and transformation can sound risky and scary, but it is what God has intended for his people and his Church.

One of the excellent preachers we heard this week, Davi Gomes from Brazil, said, *Your identity is not defined by who you were, or even who you are, but by what you will become .* Jesus came and died so that we could become like him, day by day. He now sits at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us and making all things new.

Shalom. *Pastor Dave*



# July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
					Vision Team surveys due	
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Communion Brian and Beth Schwartz here		Mix ice cream 6:00	Carol Razo using kitchen to prep food for fundraiser 9-1 Freeze ice cream at 6:00	Prayer in the fellowship hall 6:00 Prayer for the community at the Senior Center 7:00		
					Ice cream tent for John Paulding	
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
				Vision Team meeting 7:00 Prayer at 6:00 Prayer and Worship 7:00		
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
Pastor swap through the Ministerial Association		Session 7:00	Ladies Do Lunch	Prayer in the fellowship hall 6:00  Prayer and Worship 7:00		
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
				Prayer in the fellowship hall 6:00 Prayer and worship at the home of Dwight and Lori Stoller, 7:00		
<b>31</b>						

## Session Highlights

At the June Session meeting on June 14th, elders:

\*met at Ed Cline's home! It was great to be a full body this month.

\*learned that the Vision Team surveys collected mountains of thoughtful opinions and comments, which the team is beginning to prayerfully digest and organize. The Vision Team is committed to sharing the collected information with the congregation in a transparent fashion, which will take a bit of time. They have approached Bud Koenig to help with the sorting of the information into an easier-to-share form, and meet again on June 27th. A time of prayer for our church is also scheduled for Thurs., June 30 at 6 pm.

\*voted to do some flooring work in the cottage. The carpet in the living room, dining room and hall will be replaced with fresh carpet and pad; and the kitchen floor will be topped with new vinyl. Don and Perry's will provide labor, including moving and resetting furniture, and materials at a maximum cost of \$3100, which comes partly from the 'cottage fund' and partly from the remaining carry-over dollars from the 2014-15 budget. The floor, and even the joists under the floor, in the back bathroom/laundry area have sustained some serious water damage. That area is closed for now, and possible resolutions will be addressed toward the end of 2016.

\*heard that bids are still being solicited for the proposed new garage.

\*rejoiced with the mission committee for the many anonymous donations that are made to our various missionaries. We will welcome people from two programs we support with our mission budget soon: Kim Wilson, the director of God's Share Program (and also Phyllis Crossland's niece, and Sue and Don Crossland's cousin!) to share with us in worship on June 26; and Brian and Beth Schwartz from Wycliffe on July 3rd.

\*agreed to support Community VBS at the Nazarene Church with a donation of \$100. Our adults and children are encouraged to participate during the early part of August.

\*voted to support our youth and their friends who want to attend Camp Rejoice at Kirkmont by funding their registrations at 100%, which will cost \$3000. We are blessed to have the Weaver Camp Fund to supply \$2400 of this goal, and are requesting support from a scholarship fund that the camp maintains as well. Elders agreed to ask the congregation to consider donating to the Weaver Camp fund. The church also funded one scholarship for a youth to attend Youth For Christ (YFC) Junior High camp

\*put 'ice cream' on the calendar.....mixing on Tues., July 5 and freezing on Wed., July 6. The tent will be open Friday evening July 8th (the night of the parade) and Saturday, July 9.

\*heard that the church will again host 5th Quarter parties for teens in our parking lot after home football games. The Congregational Life/Outreach committee is lining up partnerships with other area churches to support this project, which has grown greatly over 3 years. Dates are Fridays Sept. 2 & 9; and Oct. 7, 14 and 28 (off site). We are skipping the home game Friday, Sept. 16, which is Fall Festival weekend

### Thank you!

A special "thank you" to Pastor Dave for his compassion, trips, prayers and visits. Thank you to the session and personnel committee for coming to our home for their meetings so that Ed could stay involved.

We thank each of you for your thoughts, concerns and prayers for us while going through this time. Thank you for all of your get well cards and special messages. A "sweet" thank you for the sweets. Thank you so much for the D and F delivery service. Thank you for all of the cards helping us celebrate our 63 years of marriage.

For those of you that sent the special Gideon cards, thank you so much. You may never know how many souls (people) will get to know our Lord Jesus Christ just through one Bible being donated in someone's name. There are so many people in this great world that God gave to us that do not know His son and what he has already done for us. Jesus loved and died for us. Let us live for Him. Ed and Arlene Cline

**Photographs Tell the Story of Teule:** Bill Ackerman, Barb Searing's brother, is stepping out of his comfort zone and going on a mission trip to Kenya in August. The Teule Orphanage is going to take advantage of his God given gift; he will update photos, videos and such for the orphanage's outreach material. Big Sis Barb is proud of the new thing he is doing (God makes all things new, where have we heard this recently?) and is asking for prayer and possibly financial assistance in this adventure. The team pays their own air fare and personal expenses, so donations would support the projects that they are working on during their trip. Below is an account for more information:

[gofundme.com/teulekenya](http://gofundme.com/teulekenya)







**Advent:** (from the dictionary)

- 1)The first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays
- 2)The arrival of a *notable person, thing, or event*
- 3)The coming or the second coming of Christ

How exciting is it to think about Christmas in July? A very few people have their shopping done by September, which is great for some, but not the norm. Most of us wait much later in the year to begin planning for the holiday. But this year a group from the church is planning to put together an Advent Devotional Booklet. Our booklet will need a minimum of 24 daily devotions, with the Sundays being the Hope, Love, Peace and Joy format. Therefore we are looking for people willing to participate, at least 24 of you. We are also looking for some people willing to illustrate the Advent theme with drawing, paintings or photos to be included.

The idea is to use these as “giveaways” at the Historical Society during their Christmas Tree weekend, at the Women’s Ecumenical Dinner and program, in the food bags that we give out from the church over the holidays. This can be a huge outreach, ministering to many.

As we get ready to start, probably in August, there will be written guidelines so that each page follows, at least in theory, the same format. Put your thinking caps on, if we don’t hear from you, you **will** hear from the committee.

## Advent Devotional

This is being spearheaded by Cindy Koenig and Sue Paulus and the excitement is building.



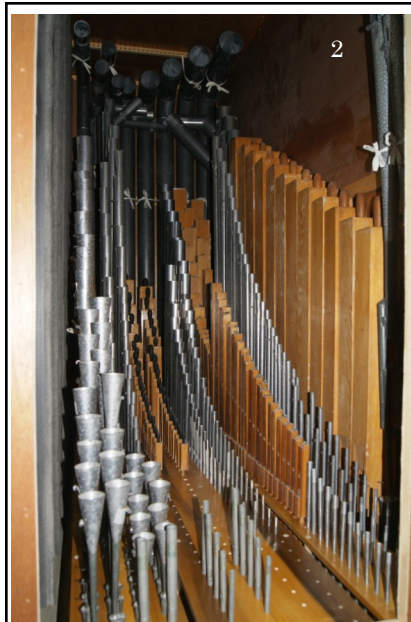
### Ladies Do Lunch

Thursday July 21

Leave the church parking lot at noon for a trip to the Fort Wayne Botanical Gardens, where we will have lunch in their *Empyrean Café*

All ladies of the church are invited to join us.

The fee to tour the Gardens is \$5.00, lunch will be ordered off the menu



8' Geigen Principal and 8' Salicional. These pipes had to be "mitered" to fit into the available space. Mitering involves cutting the pipes at a 22 1/2 degree angle and soldering the pieces back together to "bend" the pipe.

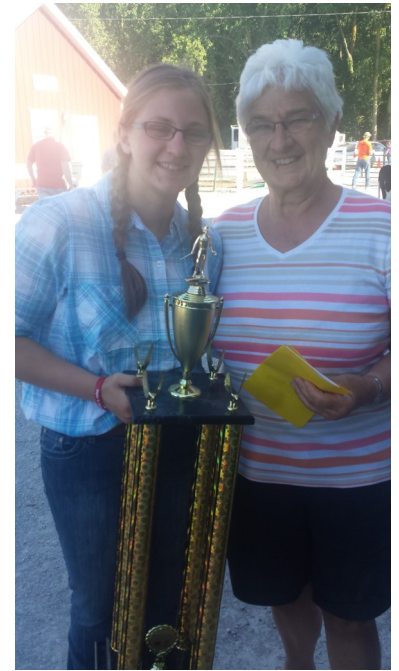
### New Swell Box for the Organ

These pictures of the new swell division were sent from the workroom of Lima Pipe Organ Co. The first photo shows the new expression box and shutters. The second photo shows the pipes, including the new open bass pipes for the





An open show at the fair; pictured are Lauren Hill, Joe Reineck and Megan Reineck.



Outstanding Livestock Award winner Megan Reineck with her proud grandma, MaryEllen McDougal



Above: Taking care of the live stock, getting them ready to show, keeping them cool and clean and fed.

To the right: an example of how the youth kept their own strength up during the stress of fair week.



Bob Noneman pictured with the plaque he was awarded for his contribution in man hours and hard work to the 2016 fair.



## Our Family at the 2016 County Fair





Dave Nice, our chef extraordinaire



Anna and Erin Karlstadt



## A Great Day!

Ben & Judy Lowell with Sue Paulus



Poem written for dedication of the Fellowship Hall in 1994

### The Building

It gleams like a jewel, golden against the brown earth; solid as rock, stronger than wind or winter storm.

A monument of brick and glass, anchored to the soil, immovable against the current of the swiftly spinning planet.

And yet the clay underneath will rise to swallow every bit of construction: wood and concrete, steel and stone. Ground into dust beneath the face of land which sees generations wax and wane like the cold silent moon.

But we will remember God's breath inside that lovely, hollow shell: a brief glimpse of eternal and indestructible love.

For we are the living pieces of God's temple; we are the building that is has yet to be done and will never be old.

Written by David Meriwether, 1994



**THANK YOU!!** Pastor Dave would like to give HUGE thanks to all who were involved in his anniversary / birthday celebration. Thanks to the committee for a great day, thanks to the congregation for the love gift, thanks to all who sent cards and gifts and who attended the party. It was a fabulous day and a tremendous blessing! Love to you all!





Barb Searing's presentation of love gifts to Pastor Dave.



Our Mystery Guest speaker, Allie Meriwether Brown.



Chris Henson, Patty, Rob Henson, Dave



Some of the worker bees: Barb Searing, Dick and Sue Paulus, Rhonda Smalley, Jane Nice and Sue Crossland



Clete working finger to the bone in the kitchen



Pictures of the praise band worshipping at the service with and for Pastor Dave: Harry Wiebe, Erin Karlstadt, Sue Crossland, Sue Paulus, Terry Buehler, Rhonda Smalley and Pastor Dave.

The true quests of honor, Miriam and Lucy Brown, granddaughters





## PULPIT EXCHANGE JULY 17

The Paulding Ministerial Association decided to shake things up on July 17 with a "pulpit swap". The pastors put their names in a hat

and drew from it. Pastor Dave drew the House of Love and pastor Vinny Kroterfield from the Family Worship Center (on W. Perry St.) drew our church. Since the House of Love doesn't meet until 3 pm, Pastor Dave will lead the praise singing and worship at our church before Vinny preaches. The pastors will all be preaching from Philippians 2:1-11.



## CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY

Your donations this year are evidence that our church family has a "gift for giving". Once again thank you for your generosity.

The needs in July are: Beverages of all kinds ( individual and family sizes) Beverages are a big need in hot weather  
Toilet Paper  
Shampoo & Conditioners  
Tooth Paste  
Tooth Brushes  
Body Washes  
Deodorant  
Dry Skin Lotions  
Dish Soap

There is also a shelf at the pantry for donations of dog food and cat food for those patrons who own pets.



## *Northwesterners Barbershop Chorus*

First Presbyterian was the first stop of three churches in Paulding on Sunday June 26th. What a blessing to hear the powerful voices of the men ringing out the praises of the Lord. Thank you, Northwesterners.



*Happy July 4th!*

## Updated address:

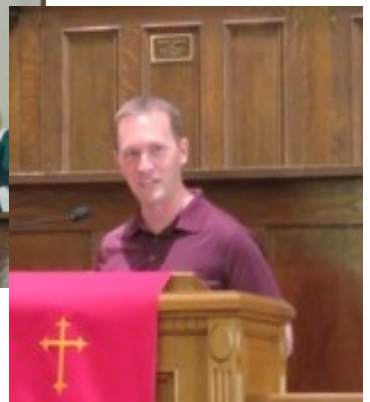
Bruce and Mary Becker  
927 Clyde Lane  
Philadelphia PA 19128



## It is Official!

It's official, Harry Wiebe has retired after 38 years as Village Administrator.. The cake does not lie! His last day is June 30th. Congratulations, Harry. Enjoy life to God's fullest.





**Todd Searing:** Todd brought us the message on May 15th. We played a rousing game of family feud, although he did have to feed us some of the answers. We also welcomed him into the choir (hmm, Don looks confused doesn't he?) on that Sunday. It is always great to have one of our own return. Recently, Todd was in Paulding and brought a large box of CD's for us to pick out our favorites, or put in the library, or donate what is left to the Bargain Bin. The CDs are currently in the fellowship hall for you to go through.

## God's Share Program



. Pictured at the left: Kim giving her presentation during the worship service on Sunday June 26th. From right to left: Kim Wilson, director of God's Share Program, Phyllis Crossland, Kim's aunt, and Kristie, Kim's friend and second in command at the Thrift Shop



Organist Sue Crossland with her nephew Nick Alexander giving him his first organ lesson. Can Sue hold out until her replacement is ready?

**Our next organist?**

## Vision Team Update

The survey results are in! The many, many comments were reviewed in more detail, with the help of Bud Koenig, at the Vision Team meeting on Monday, June 27th.

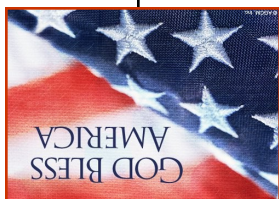
Thank you soooo much for all the very heartfelt, thoughtful input that was shared in the surveys. The love and concern for our church is very apparent.

The Team is working on a presentation to the congregation. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 14th.

## PRAYER GATHERING FOR OUR CONGREGATION

One of the presenters at one of the business sessions at General Assembly shared this quote before he gave his report: "You're working too hard and praying too little." Our vision team has been working hard to process and respond to the things people shared in their surveys. A couple of folks mentioned the need for prayer, and so to that end we'll be gathering **every Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 in the fellowship hall for prayer** . We already have a prayer meeting on Thursdays in the Cottage (from 7:00 to 8:30), but this prayer meeting is different. It will be a more directed time, with a variety of categories and practices for prayer. Stop in on Thursdays when you can and be an intentional part of what God is doing in our midst.

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



*Summer Worship*  
Praise Music: 9:15  
Worship Service 9:30

## First Presbyterian Church

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[www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com) (new website)

[firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://firstpresbyterianpaulding.com)

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

