

January 2017

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 3 Issue 1



OUT OF THE SALTSHAKER . . .

I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. (Revelation 3:8)
Not knowing when the dawn will come I open every door. (Emily Dickinson)

January comes from the Latin word for door, which seems appropriate for the month when we tend to look back on the year past and look forward to the year ahead. It was traditionally thought to be named after the Roman god Janus, whose statue has two heads—one facing backward and one facing forward.

An open door also faces forward and backward, but we generally think of it as symbolizing forward movement. An open door represents transition and also opportunity. When God opens a door He invites us to move into a new season, and much like the transition from December to January, we appreciate the season that is passing and look forward to the season that is coming.

Most of us don't like transition, but there is no opportunity without it. You cannot move where God wants you to move without leaving something behind. If you think of time as a corridor through which we pass, you know that no corridor in this world goes on forever--eventually you must come to a door.

This photo was titled
"Feeling Nostalgic".
Appropriately named!

God has placed an open door before our congregation. We don't know what's behind it, but we do know that God has opened it. And we know that He saw this coming back in 1989 when Bruce Becker left Paulding and moved to Philadelphia. That was another open door for our congregation. The Bruce Becker corridor was 9 years, and it was a very good time in the life of our congregation. The year 1978 was another open door, as Dr. Luchies moved to Holland, Michigan. The Dr. Luchies corridor was 13 years, and it was a very good time in the life of our congregation.

Only the Lord knows how long the next corridor will be, but we can be confident that it will be a very good time in the life of our congregation. "Very good", of course, doesn't mean lack of problems or challenges or transition pains. What it does mean is that the Holy Spirit has placed before us an open door, and as we walk through it we know that He walks with us every step of the way.

John 1:35-39 describes two of the first disciples meeting Jesus and deciding to follow him. Their first question is, **Rabbi, where are you staying?** Jesus does not tell them. His response contains no specifics. **"Come," he replied, "and you will see."** He places before them an open door, but he does not tell them exactly where it leads--he simply invites them to walk through. So it is with us. Are we ready to walk through this open door the Lord has placed before us? Shalom!

Shalom (peace)!

Pastor Dave



January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2	3 Circle 7:00	4 Prayer for the Church at 8:00 1st Wed. Meal and Service No Choir	5 Prayer, IGNITE! Paulding County Senior Center 7:00 pm	6	7
8	9 Session meets with Steve Brown 7:00	10 Women's Board Meeting	11 Prayer at 8:00 am No choir	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	19	20	21
22	23 IGNITE II 7:00 at the school	24	25 Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	26	27	28
29 Annual Meeting, lunch following Dave's final Sunday here	30	31				

January Birthdays:
 2nd - Matthew Meriwether
 2nd - Dianna Karlstadt
 4th - Darwin Cline
 10th - Mary Van Atta
 11th - A. J. Wolford

11th - Kenny Robinson
 16th - Larry Fishbaugh
 20th - Cody Clark
 20th - Kristen (Koenig) Gerber
 21st - Jessica Verfaillie
 22nd - Harry Weibe

23rd - Betty St. John
 24th - Scott St. John
 28th - Bryce Verfaillie

Session Highlights

At the Dec. 27th Session meeting, elders:

*approved the 2017 budget, which will also be voted on by the congregation at the end of January.

*The Annual Congregational meeting was set for Sunday, Jan. 29th after worship. There will also be a meal that noon, and a chance for everyone to wish Pastor Dave well as he steps away from our church and enters his new chaplaincy career.

*learned the pulpit supply for February will include Pastor Dwayne Richardson on Feb. 5 and 19, and Dave McMaster on Feb. 12 and 26th. Also, Susan Kayser will be filling the piano/organ bench for Sue Crossland on Sun., Jan. 8 and 15.

*heard of much progress from the Property committee....new LED lighting; successful demolition of the 321 N Cherry St house and garage and the cottage garage well under budget; installation of the new alley door; and a snow removal contract with Classic Land Design for the 2016-17 season. Thanks, guys!

*learned that the Pastor Nominating committee is meeting every 2 weeks, and is working on completing the Church Information Form. The goal is to have the form completed for Session approval at their January meeting and then posted on the EPC website about Feb. 1st to advertise our pastoral vacancy. It was stressed that we need to have our website in topnotch condition, as that will be the first place possible applicants will explore.

*were reminded of the upcoming Session meeting with Steve Brown from the Presbytery's Ministerial committee on Mon., Jan. 9th. It was suggested that the co-chairs of the PNC be invited to attend as well.

*welcomed the news that a mission we supported last year will be in Paulding on Wed., Feb. 1st to share about their work at the Teule orphanage in Kenya after the 1st Wednesday supper. The Mission and Worship committees will sponsor this meal.

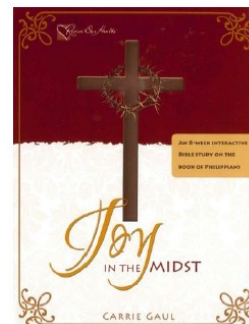
*approved Pastor Dave's part-time schedule through January 16th.

*learned that the Vision Team has 'hit the pause button' until May as we enter this period of transition.

*heard that the angel tree for the Drug Court blessed 14 children in 5 families, and also greatly blessed Judge Tiffany Beckman, who was very touched by this outreach. Thanks to the Nices for organizing this project, and for all the congregational support it received.

Joy in the Midst:

a Bible Study on the letter to the
Philippians by Carrie Gaul



The goal of this inspiring study is to TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT JESUS through the Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Philippi and to lose yourself in the JOY OF JESUS AND THE KINGDOM. "Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10

Because of the number of ladies registered we have decided to offer this 8-week study on two separate days to accommodate women who could attend only one day of the week or another. Every Tuesday beginning February 7, 2017 and every Thursday beginning February 9, 2017. Each group will meet at 1:30 pm. Tuesday's class will gather in the Fellowship Hall. The classes continue until Tuesday, March 28 and Thursday March 30, 2017.

If you are interested there is still time to register, since January 10, 2017 is the final day to call or e-mail before books are ordered. The cost of the book is \$10.00 and prepayment is preferred. Make check out to Becky Fishbaugh and mail to 10950 Rd 95, Paulding OH 45879 to secure your place. You may register by phone by calling 419-399-4891 or by e-mailing fishk@windstream.net. This exciting opportunity is being offered through the Presbyterian Women's Annual Retreat which was held in October 2016.

*learned that the basketball 5th Quarter at school on Dec. 9th welcomed 130+ youth, and that an additional church has joined the support group, making 6 churches in collaboration. There is one more event scheduled on Fri., Feb. 3rd.

*heard that church youth visited the Toledo Zoo lights. The Presby kids and their friends totaled nine and had a great time.

*approved use of the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday afternoons starting Feb. 7 and the Cottage on Thursday afternoons starting Feb. 9 for a women's Bible study of Philippians. The group will use the study book 'Joy in the Midst' written by Carrie Gaul, who was the Women's Retreat speaker last October. Books are \$10 and need to be requested from Becky Fishbaugh before Jan. 11.

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session

More of our Beautiful Babies!



Paul and Connie Pepke, toddler Anne Marie and Grandma Kim Mileto.

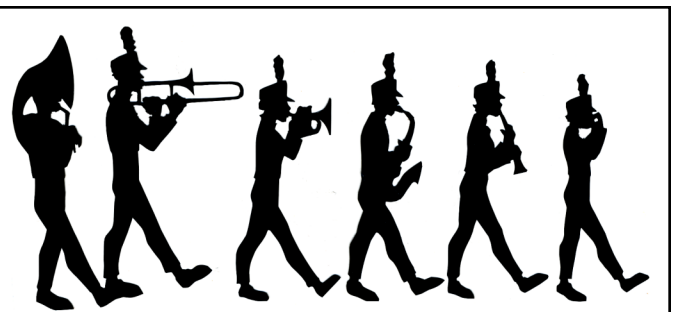


Connor Alan Strahley, grandson of Cara Lou and son of Scott and Jill Strahley.

Granddaughter Leah Futey on the right. 11-12 girls at USATF youth cross country nationals. 11th out of 389. Luke did great too! Competing in 13-14 boys, he finished 62nd in a field of 446.



Two of Stan and Barb Searing's grandchildren



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

"Thank you for making my trip to Disney with the band possible. This is a great opportunity to create a lasting memory of my high school years. I appreciate your help. Thank you."



Mission presentation: The 1st Wednesday meal on Wed., February 1st will feature a mission presentation about Teule school/orphanage in Kenya! The meal will be at 5:30, as usual; there will be a photo show and presentation following in the Fellowship Hall from 6:15 - 7:00.

Our mission committee donated funds to support several projects to be tackled at the Teule (tay-ooo-lay) school/orphanage in Kenya, including farm improvements, fencing, bicycle repairs, swing set relocation, and purchasing a new milking cow. Barb Searing's brother, Bill Ackerman, and his friends, Bill and Jayne Denwood, paid their own travel expenses to visit Teule this past August. Bill and Jayne are members of Teule's USA board of directors, and Barb's brother, Bill, used his professional photographic skills to update Teule's outreach materials.

Bill A and Bill and Jayne D will be coming from suburban Chicago to Paulding to share with us in word and pictures some the work that was done. They are excited for the opportunity to explain what they did on this mission trip, and so very thankful for our financial support.

Plan now to come to this meal on Wednesday, Feb. 1st and hear what some of our mission dollars did in the world.

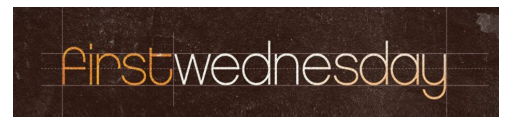
Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues to diligently work on the Church Information Form which is approximately 10 pages all about us! The form includes a study of our strengths, weaknesses, goals, statistics, history, leadership expectations, and building and financial information. We thank so many of you who have helped by contributing your thoughts on these various subjects

as well as the many prayers for this work. What a masterpiece this will be describing our church!

The committee has set goals for completion by the January session meeting with plans to submit to be posted by the EPC on February 1, 2016. At this time we will hopefully begin receiving resumes for our pastor position.

We ask for your continued support and prayers.



January 4, 2017

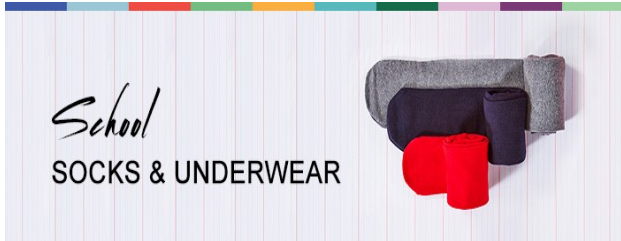
1st Wednesday meal and worship on the 2nd. Supper at 5:30, Worship at 6:15

Hosted by Larry, Becky and Brent Fishbaugh.

(Signup sheet available in the sanctuary if you want to assist or organize a meal for the upcoming season).



Submitted by Susan Crossland



Again we are asking for donations of hats, scarves and mittens as well as underwear, socks and long pants for students at the local schools. We changes our focus some years ago when on of the schools asked for dry clothing to help keeps kids warm after falling in puddles or spilling food trays. Thank you, again, for your help. These will be delivered once schools open in January.

The tree format has changed this year, but the need is still there. Just put your items in the cute little sleigh by the small tree in the hall.



The 5th Quarter party at the school on December 9th had over 130 kids participate. We are also blessed that one more church has joined the volunteer group, bringing total churches participating to 6.

The next 5th Quarter party will be Friday February 3rd. We owe a huge thank you to the Outreach Committee for the work they do for the students at Paulding High School.

CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY

Bless others within our community this month by donating...

FRESH FRUIT: apples, oranges, tangerines, pears

CANNED FRUIT of any kind is always needed as well

HYGEINE ITEMS: for men, women, teens and children: Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, mouth wash, skin creams and lotions, body washes and toilet paper.

CLEANING SUPPLIES: dish soap, laundry soap, bath-room cleaners, floor cleans (Spic and Span)

Youth Outing

On Wednesday December 21, several of the youth of our church plus their friends, made a trip to the Toledo Zoo to see the Christmas lights. The 9 young ladies, plus chaperones, had a wonderful time. They, of course, enjoyed some pizza also! Our youth include Lauren Hill, Anna and Erin Karlstadt, Sidney Reineck and Kristen Razo, plus four of their friends.





**Uniting in Prayer:
with Anticipation for the
Spiritual Future of
Paulding County**

**Tuesday January 23, 2017
7:00 PM
Paulding High School Auditoria
405 Water Street
Paulding OH 45879**

**You are invited to pray with others for the
upcoming evangelistic revival on Thursday
January 5th at 7:00 at Paulding County
Senior Center.**

Financial Tidbits:

We were thanked by Presbytery for paying 100% of our member asking to EPC and Presbytery. This year the per member asking is \$23.00 + \$13.00 = \$36.00 per member. The blue envelope in your box of giving envelopes is specifically for that offering. If you don't use envelopes, as many don't any more, you may write a check and put per member giving in the memo line.

Carol Razo, Treasurer

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ANNUAL MEETING



The 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday January 29th following worship. This will have reports for 2016 activities from all the committees within the church, including the budget from the Finance Committee.

Lunch will follow. More information on the lunch will be available from the Board of the Women's Group following their meeting on January 10th.

This will also give us each some time to visit with Pastor Dave and family as this will be his last Sunday with us.



Stan Searing and Dave Edens, son of a late member Dorothy Edens, during a recent visit by Searings to Huntsville AL.



Christmas trees at a celebration in Huntsville AL

This letter, plus more information, came today. I just felt that someone might want to know about it for themselves or someone they know and love. Therefore, it is here for you to read. The original is in the office. I will gladly make anyone a copy.

Sue Paulus



EPCWO

WORLD OUTREACH

Hello Dedicated Church Worker,

We are praying that next summer we might have 24 college students, young adults and/or older adults who would go out for 6—12 weeks for short term mission trips to locations where there have been so few missionaries.

So here is the thing, could you give this to someone in your church who will help us find out who that person may be! Maybe one or two of you college students, or maybe a young adult or an older adult. Can you find a way to promote it through small groups or post on a bulletin board? Could you even share a web-link on your website and in your Sunday program?

If you have anyone in mind, please connect them to me! I'm Shawn Stewart and I promise we will walk faithfully with them before, during and after this, along with the EPC World Outreach mobilization team.

Thanks for not letting this hit that recycling box too quickly or just sitting it in an inbox.

We are serving with you and are so glad to be in missions with you.

In our Abba Father,

Shawn Stewart



Drug Court Angel Tree

Our church's involvement with the Paulding County Drug Court program began after the Vision Team reached out to community leaders about the needs in our area. Judge Tiffany Beckman had just started this program and was thrilled with our willingness to help. We supply rewards like gum, shampoo, and beef jerky which the participants can choose from a basket if they are 100 percent compliant with the program for that time period. Drug Court meets twice monthly.

The Angel Tree blessed 14 children in 5 families, and also greatly blessed Judge Tiffany Beckman, who was very touched by this outreach. Thanks to the Nices for organizing this project, and for all the congregational support it received.

Our church helped them provide Christmas gifts for their children FROM THEM.



Thank you so much for your willingness to help these people in need!

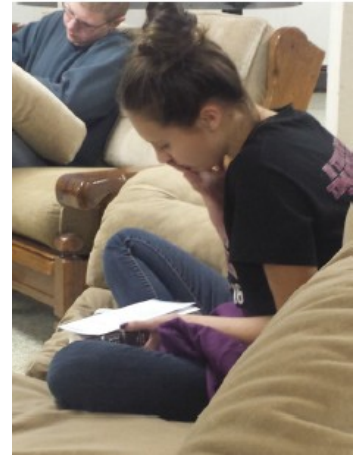
Some favorite photos from 2016



Bud Koenig and Rick Craft “working” in the kitchen



Dave Nice fixing pancakes for a Lenten Supper



Erin Karlstadt writing a letter to a Compassion Child



Miriam and Lucy Brown at Grandpa Dave’s birthday celebration



Aunt Sue Crossland with nephew Nick Alexander.



Grandpa Stan Searing and Abigail working on the computer during their Christmas visit.

Warm Hearts/Warm Homes

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

Contributions will be rolled into one check by the church, and forwarded to the Paulding Co. office of Northwest Ohio Community Action which will administer the funds to Paulding families for utilities, rent or emergency services.

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.



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

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



First Presbyterian Church

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www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com (new website)

firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

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

