

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 2 Issue 9



Out of the Saltshaker...

Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
(Matthew 7:24)

You are what you do, not what you say you'll do.

(Carl Jung)

Do you ever wish the Lord would speak to you more directly, more "obviously"--that He would occasionally throw a brick down on your head with a note tied to it?

Well, this morning it happened: I was hit over the head with a brick.

The brick was in the form of an e-book called, *The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*, by Michael Frost. It is a condensed version (43 pages) of his fairly short paperback book, *Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People* (108 pages). I only skimmed the e-book, but what I read had a profound impact on me like a ...well, you know.

This is what hit me: a very simple, doable, measurable model for living as a disciple of Jesus Christ. It's called BELLS: **B**less, **E**at, **L**isten, **L**earn, **S**ent. This, very briefly is how it looks (I've paraphrased briefly the author's descriptions):

Bless: bless 3 people each week (non-family)

Eat: eat with 3 people each week (non-family)

Listen: spend an hour a week listening for the Spirit's voice

Learn: read part of the Gospels each week

Sent: write down how you've shown Jesus during the week

These are not "magic bullets"--they are habits. They're easy to understand, but not easy to do consistently. Like any other habits (and like anything else worth doing) they require intentionality, discipline and the investment of time--three things most of us don't generally get to excited about. And yet, I am excited. I think BELLS could be a powerful tool for any church and I think the Holy Spirit could use it in our church to help us **put into practice** what Jesus talked about regarding the kingdom of God. I will be writing more about each of these habits in the next *Saltshaer*.

Living like Jesus can't be an occasional activity (like attending worship once a week). Discipleship must be a habit--something done over and over again until it becomes second nature: until it becomes not just what we say we believe, but who we are. Each of these five habits points to Jesus, and putting them into practice will help us become more like Jesus, so that we are greatly blessed and we are a great blessing. Shalom!

Pastor Dave



This is the week that we return to regular service times:

Sunday School 9:00

Praise and Worship 10:15

Service: 10:30

Sunday September 11

Sunday School Resumes

9:00 AM

Light refreshments

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Prayer in the fellowship hall 6:00 Prayer for IGNITE! at 7:00, Herb Monroe Community Park	2 5th Quarter Party	3
4 Communion	5	6	7 1st Wednesday Meal 5:30 and Worship 6:15 Choir 7:00	8 Prayer in the fellowship hall 6:00 Prayer for IGNITE! at 7:00, Herb Monroe Community Park	9 5th Quarter Party	10
11 Sunday School resumes	12	13 VT Meeting 7:00 pm	14 Choir 7:00, Praise Band practice following choir	15 Prayer in the fellowship hall 6:00 Prayer for IGNITE! at 7:00, Herb Monroe Community Park	16	17 Fall Festival: Chili, Praise Band
18	19	20 Session 7:00 pm	21 Choir 7:00	22 Prayer in the fellowship hall 6:00 Prayer for IGNITE! at 7:00, Herb Monroe	23	24
25	26	27	28 Choir 7:00	29 Prayer in the fellowship hall 6:00 Prayer for IGNITE! at 7:00, Herb Monroe Community Park	30	

September Birthdays:

3rd - Brendon Verfaillie
 5th - Jeff Fishbaugh
 8th - Sue Dotterer (Jim & Doris Smith daughter)
 10th - Doris Smith
 10th - David Nice
 10th - Ron VanAtta

11th - Bob Mayer

11th - Steve St. John
 14th - Phyllis Crossland
 19th - First Presbyterian Church
 22nd - Doug Smalley

September Anniversaries

2nd - Ron and Mary VanAtta
 19th - First Presbyterian Church
 20th - Reba and Eric Jones
 23rd - Larry and Becky Fishbaugh
 28th - Dan and Jill Straley

Session Highlights

Session highlights from August (Please note that 4 of these bullet points have separate, more extensive articles elsewhere in the newsletter): At the August 16th Session meeting, elders:

*heard that the real estate closing on the house at 321 N. Cherry St., the purchase of which was approved at the Aug. 7th special congregational meeting, will be held 9-2-16. (See separate article) The Finance committee is getting the funding in order now. The committee is waiting on all bids before awarding contract to demolish the house and its garage.

*were reminded that Property is anticipating an outdoor work day in August, in coordination with Sue and Phyllis Crossland. On the docket, basketball goal and bush removal, and work on street sign masonry.

*learned that the Nominating committee will soon be at work to fill the 2017 slate of officers, which will call for 2 elders and 2 deacons.

*were all assigned portions of the Vision Team Survey results lists. There were many great ideas put forth, which were divided among the various church committees. Each elder and committee will be meeting to prayerfully discuss and consider these ideas between now and October, and the congregation is being asked to come alongside to support and help. (See separate article).

*heard from Congregational Life/Outreach that 5th Quarter parties will be held again in our parking lot after home football games. (See separate article.) In response to VT survey suggestions, a brief Christian video clip is being added at the end of the night. This year, there will be five parties, with five partner churches.....how awesome is that?!

*were updated that the church will again have a chili booth at the Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival Sept. 16-17-18. (See separate article).

*met in executive session to discuss personnel matters. As suggested in the VT survey, the July minutes, and the minutes of the special congregational meeting, which were approved by Session at the August meeting, are now available on request through the church office.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Searing



September 7, 2016

We begin our 1st Wednesday meals and worship on the 7th.

Supper at 5:30

Worship at 6:15

Let's kick the fall season off with some time together as a family.

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

House at 321 N. Cherry Street

At the special congregational meeting held Sunday, August 7, after hearing presentations by the property and finance committees, and hearing also that Session supports this action, the purchase of the property at the northwest corner of 'our' block (321 N. Cherry) was unanimously approved.

The expenses related to this purchase, as recommended by the finance committee, are: \$35,000 purchase price; approximately \$10,000 for demolition; and a few hundred dollars for related expenses. The funds will come first from the liquid portion of the Nicelley Fund, which is held in cash in the checkbook ("Nicelley Income Fund"), with the remaining expense being covered by the sale of investments ("Nicelley Investment Fund"). At the time of the meeting, the Nicelley Funds were around \$208,000. After this activity, the balance will be near \$163,000.

As was reported in the announcement of the congregational meeting, when this house on the northwest corner of 'our' block went on the market this spring, Session gave the property committee authority to explore the possibility of purchase within certain limits. Any agreement reached was to include a contingency clause that a congregational vote was required.

The Session's thinking was that we should consider this purchase while the land is available, with the plan being to tear down the buildings, and to create green space and options for the future. In May, an offer was made and rejected with no counter-offer. In mid-July, the sellers reduced the price, and another offer was made by the property committee. That offer was accepted, contingent on congregational approval, which has now been given.

If you would like more information, you may speak with Dan Straley, the property chair, or to one of the elders listed on the back of your bulletin.



Marcia Brune, Judy Robinson, Sue Paulus and Becky Fishbaugh in 1996



Part 2 of 3

**Hand in Hand,
Heart to Heart:**
On the journey together...

35 Retreats in 37 years and Hundreds of Women



Judy Robinson, Barb Searing, Sue Paulus and Becky Fishbaugh in 2016

Through the past 35 years, we have had retreats led by one woman, we have had retreats where we had several of our own ladies speak, sharing their own stories and lessons learned. We've had the relatively famous and the unknown, but each of them shared their hearts, sharing the love of Christ.

We have Encountered Jesus, we've laughed and cried through a Season of Tears and Laughter, we have had Divine Appointments and Divine Assignments. Our hearts have been Knit Together in Love and Faith through Prayer as we learned to Savor the Fragrance of Christ. We have seen ourselves as women who are Treasures in Earthen Vessels.

sels. With our lives full of Broken Things, we have learned to handle the stress in our lives by recognizing that the Trouble With our World is Desserts...Spelled backwards!. We, as Women at the Well, met and talked with Jesus. Our own women have shared the message Now Choose Life and a few years later we spent the day comparing fairytale characters to our Faithful Father God. Hours have been spent in learning how to worship, how to deepen our walk with Him, how to be the women that He calls us to become. Our worship has been enhanced by a harpist, a worship dance group, a trumpeter, a potter, a dulcimer player,

stringed instruments, many soloists, and year after year our favorite praise and worship pianist.

We have been reminded to laugh and been encouraged to cry. Deep friendships have developed. Our lives have been put into perspective, as we gain the tools needed to put these same lives in order.

This, and more, continues this year as we meet the God of Jacob through Carrie Gaul. Come away and rest awhile. You will be blessed. Saturday October 29th, more next month

Submitted by Sue Paulus

Financial Tidbits:

We made the 3rd payment for organ repairs to Lima Pipe Organ in the amount of \$15,550.-- Due to computer problems, the following two payments were missed in June and doubled up in July to catch up. 1) Monthly mission transfer from General Fund to the Permanent Missions Fund in the amount of \$403.50, 2) Outdoor custodian payment to Cody Clark in the amount of \$280.-- We paid \$3,000 to Don and Perry's for a flooring project of which \$1,334.63 came from the Cottage Fund. The Cottage Fund is now depleted and all future maintenance at the Cottage will be paid from the property maintenance expense line item in the General Fund.

A donation in the amount of \$500 came in for the Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund (Hands of Love).

Carol Razo, Treasurer

\$



Chili at the Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival

Once again our church will be selling chili and water at the festival, September 16-18. A sign up sheet will be circulated soon for people to commit to working a shift. We might even have t-shirts this year!

Contact Dave or Jane Nice if you have any questions.

Our Praise Band

And again, our Praise Band will be a part of the Sunday worship line up shortly after noon on the 18th.

Time is not known at this point, but you will hear more soon.



Our Beautiful Babies Continue!

Sloan Amelia St. John was born to Ryan St. John and Laura Pyrple on July 30. She weighed 7 lb 10 oz, was 19 1/2 inches long.

On the left is Sloan on the day she was born, on the right she is held by great grandma Betty St. John who says "She's as cute as a button and getting cuter every day."



Best Poets of 2015

Our Safe Place

We believe that our safe place is within the walls of the church

We can roam within the walls with others who live as we live

Believe as we believe

Judge as we judge

We feel safe

We feel superior to those who don't join us

Jesus doesn't want us within the walls

He wants us to dare to be brave

To dare to step out

To take a risk and love people unlike us

To put our faith on the line

We believe our safe place is within the walls of the church

In reality those walls are our prison, keeping us from soaring as God would have us,

Loving as He would encourage us

Growing beyond what we can imagine

Living a life of true faith and trust

Do we dare step outside of the walls?

Written by Susan Paulus

Printed here at the request of Sue Crossland

She did it again! Sue Paulus has been published, this time in a book *Best Poets of 2015* by Eber and Wein Publishing in a collection of free style writing. Her poem, "Our Safe Place" is a powerful writing about stepping out of our comfort zone—the church—our safe place. Within these walls it's ok to share the love of God, but these walls may become prison walls if we don't step out. It is a wonderful and thought provoking writing which should cause us each to stop and reflect on how we live our lives.

Not only does she write poetry but writes regularly for *Living Today* magazine which is published monthly. Look for her articles there! Congrats Sue and keep up the good work!

The information on the Advent Booklet is in for the 3rd month as people are saying that they don't know about our plan to create the booklet. Please read and share with those that you think would be interested, then take pen in hand and start writing! Thanks



CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY

Please make these items a priority as you so generously give:

Toilet paper-the supply has been completely depleted

Cooking and baking items:

Cooking oil

Sugar

Flour

Baking powder

Baking soda

Salt and spices

Cake, muffin and cookie mixes



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.

We received our first submission this week. Wow!

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

Advent Devotional

Ladies Do Lunch, or Just Desserts

On Monday evening August 22, eleven women met in the fellowship hall to share delicious ice cream desserts and a lot of noisy conversation and laughter. Sue Paulus shared some information regarding the Advent Devotional Booklet (see page 4) and Becky Fishbaugh, pictured, shared the plans for the upcoming women's retreat.





5th Quarter Time is Here!

5th Quarter parties for teens in 7th - 12th grades will again be spearheaded by our church, courtesy of the Congregational Life/Outreach committee. All parties will be held in the Presbyterian parking lot, rain or shine. Should the weather not cooperate, the festivities will move inside. (That, thank the Lord, has only happened once!) The dates for 2016 are:

Friday, Sept. 2 (First Christians hosting)

Friday, Sept. 9 (Nazarenes hosting)

Friday, Oct. 7 (Presbyterians hosting)

Friday, Oct. 14 (Branch Christian Fellowship hosting)

Friday, Oct. 28 (Methodists hosting)

There is a home game on Friday, Sept. 16th. There will be NO 5th Quarter that night, as it is the same weekend as the Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival, and many of the youth and the churches will be involved with that major Paulding event.

We will need church volunteer 'hosts' to assist the other churches on 'their' nights. We will be looking for adult supervision, help to set up and clean up, provisions of prizes, pop, and food for "our" week, Oct. 7 closer to the time. We have great church partners again in First Christian (bringing the fire pits and straw bales for seating) and Branch Christian Fellowship (providing the music videos). Other partners this year are the Nazarene Church and the United Methodist Church. We are so blessed to have the community behind this project for our youth. Find '5th Quarter' on Facebook and 'like' it to keep up with what's new!

VISION TEAM SURVEY UPDATE

Thank you all for your thoughtful responses to the survey. We are pleased to say that, per VT survey suggestions, work has begun on synching the various communication lists for the church so that everyone is seeing the same information.

Those who received a survey in the mail in June also received a letter in the mail in July summarizing the results. Complete compilations of all comments are still available by asking a Vision Team person or secretary Sue Paulus.

SO, NOW WHAT? This month, all the ideas noted in the survey were categorized by the Vision Team and placed under one or more of the church committees. Each committee is now charged with scheduling a meeting to prayerfully consider the items on "their" list, make some decisions on priorities, and report back to Session in October. The committee meetings will be announced ahead of time in the bulletin.

It was noted in the surveys that, like in many areas of life, relatively few people do quite a bit of the work.

THAT'S WHERE WE ALL COME IN! The Vision Team is asking everyone who is able to attend some committee meeting between now and October. Interested in missions? How worship is put together? Did you submit an idea for a Congregational Life activity? Have ideas for Sunday School or youth?

NOW IS THE TIME to come and express yourself. You might want to actually join a committee. Great! Or, maybe you want to come to one meeting, express your interest and willingness to help, and see how it goes. That's OK too. Know that you can join a committee without being a member of the church. Please give it some thought in the next couple of weeks and decide where your interest lies.

While elders are not necessarily the

chair of a committee, there is an elder on each one who is responsible to report to Session each month.

Elder committee assignments:

Dave N: Property, Nominating, Personnel

Rhonda: Christian Education, Worship

Ed: Finance, Nominating, Personnel

Phyllis: Missions

Barb: Congregational Life/Outreach

Watch for a meeting and plan to come!





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

*Worship Times Change
September 11th
Sunday School 9:00
Praise Music: 10:15
Worship Service 10:30*

First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 366
Corner of Caroline and Cherry Street
Paulding OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-2438
Secretary's e-mail: fpcpaulding@gmail.com (new)
www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com (new website)

firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

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

