

February 2018

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 4 Issue 2



Thoughts from Ian...

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like everyone was judging you? I have recently. Well, they technically weren't judging me, they were judging my chili. On January 12th, my wife and I participated in the Chili Cook-off in Paulding on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church. It was a lot of fun. It was great to see so many from First Presbyterian at the event and it was encouraging to see the community come together in that way. Still, Alissa and I felt silly for feeling so nervous over such a fun event. In a way, it felt like they were judging us! This experience got me thinking about our feelings of being judged.

For some people, coming to church can be a similar experience. They are worried about their clothes. They are worried about what people have heard about them. They wonder how many people have read their name in the Paulding Progress. Coming to church can be a stressful experience if you feel like everyone is judging you.

Worshipping God among people that have known you for years can be difficult. Add to this difficulty the realization that you are standing before God who knows everything! People may know some of my dirt, but God knows it all. How is it that that we can stand *together* and *before* God without this fear of judgment? It requires humility and grace.

Part of the answer lies in humility. I know I have sinned. I know that given the circumstances, I am capable of any sin. This is not just true for me but for all of us. We know we all have sinned. In our fallen nature, we were

all dead in our sin and enemies of God (Romans 5:8-10). Romans 3:19 says that because we are all guilty of sin, every mouth is silenced before God. At Paulding FPC, we know that as sinners saved by grace, we are all equal at the foot of the cross. We all must trust God every day and continue to seek him the best we can. This humility allows us to stand *together* in worship without judging each other.

The other part of the answer lies in God's grace. We can stand together *before* God without fear of judgment because our salvation does not depend on our works but on God's mercy (Rom 9:16). Our sin has been put on Jesus and his righteous standing before God is put on us (2 Cor. 5: 21). This is the grace that allows us to stand together *before* God without feeling judged. This does not mean we should continue to sin- by no means (Romans 6:1-2)! But it does mean we should invite others into worship before God with us without judging each other because we are all in the same boat.

The Chili Cook-Off was a ton of fun. And Paulding First Presbyterian Church tied for first place. Hurray! But we don't have to wait for the tickets to be counted to see if we win God's prize of salvation. We are all sinners in need of a Savior. We are not more deserving of God's grace than anyone else. Also, we don't need to feel judged when we stand together in God's presence. God knows your sins and he has judged your sins in Jesus and had given you his righteousness through faith.

**THE GOSPEL -
THE ONLY STORY
WHERE THE HERO
DIES FOR THE
VILLAIN.**

February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Ladies Bible study on Colossians 7:00 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement Prayer for the community at the Senior Center 7:00	2	3
4 Communion McDougle birthday celebration in the fellowship hall all afternoon	5	6	7 Choir Practice 7:00	8 Ladies Bible study on Colossians 7:00 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	9	10
11	12	13 Carol Razo using fellowship hall for Prom Decorating planning meeting 6:00 pm Women's Board 7:00	14 Presbyterians: Lenten Lunch noon Supper: 5:30, Women's Board Ash Wednesday Service 6:15 Choir Practice 7:00	15 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	16	17
18	19	20 Session 7:00	21 Divine Mercy: Lenten Lunch noon Supper by Session 5:30, Service at 6:15 No choir practice	22 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	23	24
25	26	27	28 1st Christian: Lenten Lunch noon Supper by Sunday School, 5:30, Service at 6:15 No choir practice			

February Birthdays

Feb. 1- Sydney Reineck
Feb. 2 - Mattea St. John Baker
Feb. 10 - Dan Karlstadt
Feb. 11- Charles Strahley

Feb. 12- Susan Paulus

Feb. 14- Phyllis Lutz
Feb. 15- Marty Crossland
Feb. 15- Maely Crossland Alexander
Feb. 15 - Jim Smith Jr.

Feb. 15 - Arlene Cline

Feb. 18 - Wanda Gross

Anniversaries:

Feb. 16 - Ken and Judy Robinson

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, or is listed incorrectly, please get the correct information to the office ASAP. Thanks!

Session Highlights January

At the January 16th Session meeting, elders.....

-welcomed Darwin Cline and Bud Koenig as a new elders (although Bud was absent), and had Pastor Ian begin the meeting with a meaningful devotional.

-cheered that Pastor Ian did NOT have to re-take his psych exam and completed his 3-part paper exam just this afternoon (1/16), and that the test will be mailed off to the EPC office in Orlando in the morning (1/17). This is the moment we have all been waiting for! Ian will be examined and approved for ordination at the Presbytery meeting on Feb. 16-17 at First Presbyterian Church, 114 E Fourth St., Greenville, OH. (Watch for separate information in the newsletter about those who wish to attend and support Ian and Alissa and Samuel that day.)

-took care of organizational business for 2018. Carol Razo and Barb Searing were both willing to continue as treasurer and clerk respectively. Elders serving on various committees are:

<u>Nominating</u> : Dave & Matt	<u>Worship</u> : Rhonda	<u>Personnel</u> : Dave and Bud	<u>Finance</u> : Matt
<u>Missions</u> : Darwin	<u>Property</u> : Bud	<u>Christian Ed</u> : Rhonda	
<u>Congregational Life/Outreach</u> : Barb		<u>Head deacon</u> for 2018 is Brent Fishbaugh	

-heard a helpful presentation by treasurer Carol Razo about the various church funds and reports she handles and how to access them.

-voted to switch church and cottage internet service to Metalink to get Fergusons 'hooked up' and to improve coverage in the sanctuary, office and fellowship hall.

-learned that a new washing machine has been installed in the cottage. There are still drainage issues in the main cottage bathroom that weren't apparent until someone was living there and using the tub and stool regularly. Schlatters is working on it.

-discussed snow removal around the church. We are 'high priority' on Sundays, and also give a calendar of church activities to our provider, Randy Bostelman, so he is aware of other needs during the week. The property committee will share with Mr. Bostelman the concerns about children walking to school on our public walks so that he is aware. Pastor Ian was given the OK, if the timing makes it necessary, to clear enough of a path for people to come to the church and meet with him during office hours.

-learned that Pastor Ian and the Personnel committee plan to meet once a month, beginning in March. The purchase of a new church laptop that can support current versions of software was approved for Pastor Ian, for a cost between \$450-550.

-were reminded of sound system training coming up. Sue P and Sue C will meet with Sal Sajuan first to outline the challenges they are having; Sal will meet with those willing to volunteer on Mondays 1/22 and 1/29. Anyone interested is encouraged to sign up.

-learned that the Jan. 12th 5th Quarter was cancelled, due to school being closed for snow. It was not re-scheduled; the Congregational Life/Outreach committee will look toward football season now!

-renewed our agreement with NA for another year. They hold meetings in the Youth Lounge on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm. Dave and Jane Nice are committed to devoting their time to this, and the group is most thankful to have a stable, steady place to meet in town.

-approved use of the Fellowship Hall by the Reineck/McDougall families for Mary Ellen's birthday on Sunday, Feb. 4 (afternoon); and for an after-prom meeting with Carol Razo on Tuesday, Feb. 13 (evening)

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session



They keep the wheels turning!

SHE DID IT AGAIN!!

submitted by Susan Crossland

She did it again! Our newsletter editor, Sue Paulus, has been published several times recently. She has one article and two poems in "RUBY" magazine/web site. This is an on-line Christian magazine which promotes female camaraderie, supports sisterhood, and inspires women to make a difference in the world. The article titled 'The Dress' was published in "RUBY" as it was earlier in "Living Today" magazine. Some of you may remember the writing of 'His Birth', which was read to us last Christmas. Another poem was titled 'The Top of the Mountain', which I hope to see published soon in this newsletter as many may not have read it. This very profound writing speaks of the Lord leading us by the hand from the valley to the top of the mountain

Sue also was published in Christian Devotion Ministries on "Thoughts of Christmas". Based on John 15:9, Christmas turns us to thoughts of home and being in His love at home. This was the Dec. 22, 2017 devotion.

Congratulations Sue! We are so proud of you and look forward to many more writings. It is no wonder that we have a great newsletter!!



The Top of the Mountain

By Susan Paulus

When I'm standing on top of Your mountain
the joy leads to worship and praise.
My heart overflows with the love that is Yours
and my spirit rejoices in You.

But when I stand in the valley
where the Son doesn't reach;
when sorrow and pain beat me down-
then tears over come,
pain racks my soul,
then, Lord, You seem too far away.

But taking my hand,
never letting me stray,
and with stride that is perfect and strong,
we begin our long journey,
one step at a time,
back up to the top of the mountain.

Taken from the January issue of Ruby Magazine
as requested in Sue Crossland's article.

Ways to Serve in February
and March

volunteer
do good, feel good

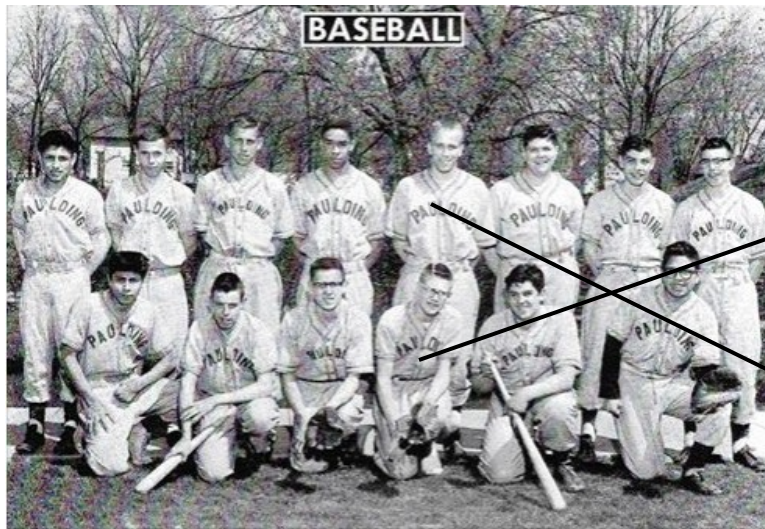
Volunteer in the nursery:
Call Dianna Karlstadt 419-670-2948 We have
babies every week now, and adults are needed.

The church always needs help during Lent.
With meals every Wednesday, we need food,
clean up, greeters. We also need friendly,
talkative people to just come and eat, then at-
tend the worship service.

Enjoy reading? The Lenten evening services
will require readers, not in front of everyone;
either at the back or in the annex. Volunteer to
help with those services.

Suggest a favorite hymn, call Sue Paulus 419-
399-5533 or Sue Crossland 419-399-5943 or put
a note in the collection plate.

Like to sing but just been shy? Walk into the
sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7:00. Worship the
Lord in music, work a little and have a great
time.



Do you recognize any of these young men? Kneeling: Ray Martinez, Bucky Sierer, Tom Coy, Jay Gillett (Sue Paulus's brother) John Peeper (a resident at the Gardens), Joe Sanchez Standing: Martin Martinez, Bill Mack, Bernard Scott, Mickey Connor, Jerry DeLong (long time member of First Presbyterian), Don Foltz, Ron Foltz, Steve Penn. Photo taken 1959-1960

1959-1960 Paulding High School Baseball Team

Schedule for Lent

(all meals mentioned are in the Presbyterian Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday February 14

Lunch and meditation by First Presbyterian Church at noon

Supper by Presbyterian Women 5:30
Ash Wednesday Service 6:15

Wednesday February 21

Lunch by Divine Mercy with meditation given by Pastor Dwayne Richardson at noon

Supper by our Session 5:30
Service at 6:15

Wednesday February 28

Lunch and mediation by the First Christian Church at noon

Supper by Adult Sunday School classes 5:30
Service at 6:15

Wednesday March 7

Lunch and meditation by the Nazarene Church at noon

Supper by the Deacons at 5:30
Service at 6:15

Wednesday March 14

Lunch and meditation by the Methodist Church at noon

Supper by the Choir at 5:30
Service at 6:15

Wednesday March 21

Lunch and meditation by St. Paul Lutheran at noon

Supper at 5:30, service at 6:15

Thursday March 29

Maundy Thursday Service in our Fellowship Hall at

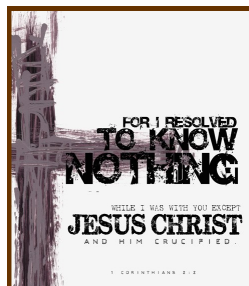
Friday March 30

Good Friday Service at noon at the Methodist Church, Pastor Merlyn Winters delivering message

Sunday April 1

Easter Sunrise service at the First Christian Church at 7:00 am, Pastor Del Bonar delivering the message

Our own Easter celebration and worship at 10:15 here in our sanctuary.



Next Presbytery meeting

The next meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest will be Feb. 16-17, 2018 in Greenville, Ohio. The meeting begins at 1:00 Friday and continues Saturday morning until noon. This should be the meeting at which Ian Ferguson is examined on the floor of Presbytery as part of the process of coming to serve our congregation, and it would be wonderful to have a nice contingent from Paulding there to support him. You are encouraged to look ahead and save the date if you are interested in being there.



Sunday School Lunch

Stan Searing is making his point to both Samuel and Alissa Ferguson at a recent Sunday School lunch following worship.

Un-decorating the Church

Samuel is helping to take the items off of the Angel Tree in the hallway. Good job, Samuel.



First Place in Communication Contest

The Paulding FFA Communication Team competed at the district contest in early January and placed 1st. The team is made up of Sydney Reineck, Shannon Hale, Kalyn Strahley and Jen Stahl. They now qualify for the State Contest on February 10th. Great job girls!



And the trophy goes to:

Ian and Alissa Ferguson, representing First Presbyterian Church, tied with Paulding Putnam Rural Electric for number of votes in the Chamber of Commerce chili cook off. Renee Boss is presenting the trophy to Sarah Emans, Paulding Putnam, and Alissa and Ian Ferguson. The trophy was given to the church as Sarah said she would be sure that a second one was ordered for Paulding Putnam. Great job on the chili, Fergusons.

Electronic Giving Program

Submitted by Carol Razo, Treasurer

Our electronic giving program is gaining momentum! There has been a great deal of interest in recent months. You, too, can make your life simpler by joining the folks who have already signed up. There are lots of reasons to participate. Here are just a few:

- It's an easy way to begin tithing.
- You decide how often and how much.
- It's more cost efficient. No need for envelopes and less processing time for the church.
- No need to worry about making up for a Sunday you are absent.
- Less hassle and less expense for those who have trouble getting out of their homes. No fiddling with postage or addressing an envelope.
- One less thing to worry about for those who participate in the service (choir, organist, pianist, special music, usher, scripture reader, speaker, etc.)
- No more missing the choir anthem while rushing to write your check at the last minute.
- No problem if you accidentally leave your purse or wallet at home.
- You can start with a small amount to see how it works. The dollar amount can be increased, decreased, or cancelled at any time.
- Giving amounts continue to be confidential.



For more information, contact Sue Paulus in the church secretary office.

No First Wednesday Meal

No First Wednesday meal in February due to Lent beginning on February 14th. See schedule for Lenten lunches, dinners and services.

This beautiful spot, Evans Island, in the Gulf of Alaska was in a 7.9 magnitude earthquake recently, no damage done. Praise God, even the tsunami didn't happen. Tiffany Razo, daughter of Carol and Art Razo is living and working on Evans Island in Prince William Sound. Photo by Tiffany Razo, Prince William Sound



Noteworthy items from December include:

Carol Razo, Treasurer

- Pastor Ian received his first official paycheck on December 30.
- \$1,800 was donated anonymously for the Women's Retreat. A Women's Retreat Fund was created for this donation to ensure it can only be used for the donated purpose.
- The Mission Committee agreed on the following allocations for 2017:
 - * \$625 to Youth for Christ
 - * \$625 to House of Love Ministries
 - * \$625 to Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center
 - * \$625 to Project Mercy
 - * \$625 to God's Share Program
 - * \$625 to The City School
 - * \$500 to Compassion International for our Compassion child
- The remaining \$69.52 from the Seekers Sunday school class was used to purchase angel tree items for the children of adults in the drug court program. The Seekers Fund is now depleted.
- The Garage Replacement Fund balance ended the year at a negative \$2,712.19.
- In early 2018 a draw will be made from the Nicelley investment to pay for the fellowship hall plumbing project and cover the negative balance in the Garage Replacement Fund.
- We paid Hartzog Lumber \$1,459.77 for repairs in the men's restroom.



Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

The same things are needed each month, but during this cold weather it seems that skin care items for all ages is important.

Brent is delivering donations to the pantry for Becky until she is able to take this responsibility back.

Thank you for generosity to this need in caring for our local residents.



First Wednesday Meal:

This month's supper attracted a younger crowd. On left; Linda Reineck holds her great niece, Deana, as she visits with Alissa and Samuel Ferguson. The babies are getting acquainted, a friendship forming. On right; Samuel gets his supper from Mom, but not the tasty German fare.





Continue in prayer for Andrew



Thank You for the Donation

This beautiful glider rocker was donated to our church for use in the nursery by a member of the Narcotics Anonymous group that meets in our youth lounge. It has been cleaned and is ready for use.

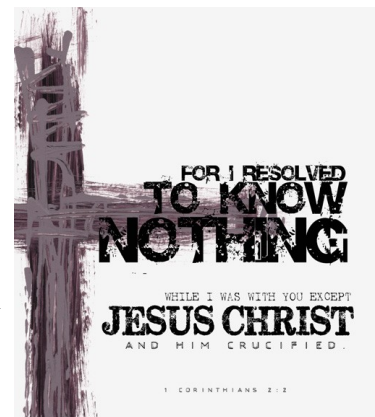


Crosslands before Choir Warm up

Aunt Sue Crossland holds Carter Crossland before choir warm up. He is grasping the intricacy of reading (is that music, Aunt Sue?) Carter is the son of Jace Crossland, grandson of Don and Ruby Crossland.

Ash Wednesday is February 14th:

This kicks off our Season of Lent. The evening services will include some readings by members of the congregation. See Pastor Ian if you think you might be interested in helping in this way.



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

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

Fall and Winter Schedule



First Presbyterian Church

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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.**

