

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 5 Issue 2



Thoughts from Ian...

2 Corinthians 5:20 "So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!'"

Have you ever felt like you are being watched? Maybe it was while you were out shopping or while you were eating at Past Time café. Maybe it was while you were finishing your donut at Susie's Bakery and you felt your spouse's eyes on you to see if you were going share. I have felt this feeling often (and I share!).

This last year, I have felt another set of eyes on me. Those are the eyes of our son, Samuel. His ever watchful gaze often amazes me. He catches little things that Alissa and I do around the house after observing it one or two times. If I wear a dust mask to sweep up in the basement, he needs to wear the mask when he journey's down into the basement. If mom bravely kills a spider on the ceiling, Samuel reenacts the battle for weeks after. As new parents, we have learned that there are little eyes always watching what we do.

This is true to a greater extent for all of us because the world is watching. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth that their city's eyes were

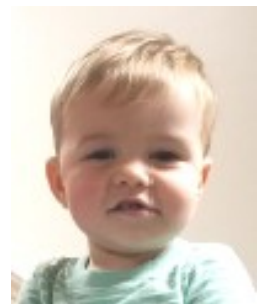
on them. Because of this, they were to be ambassadors for Jesus. Again in 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, Christians are reminded to lead a quiet life, working hard, so that they may win the respect of others. The world is watching.

William J. Toms said "Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some person ever reads." How much truer is this for Christians today? We are more connected than we have ever been. The internet and social media have made it so much of our lives are on display for others to see at an extent that would have floored the Apostle Paul. The call to Christians remains the same. The eyes of this community are on us and so we should live lives as God's ambassadors. Our behavior is no longer about ourselves but about Jesus. Our lives should not just reflect what we are comfortable with but what God's kingdom values. We don't need to obsess about telling the world how good we are and what we have done. Even a

quiet life will win the respect of others because the world is watching.

Realizing that I am being watched has changed my behavior. This isn't a bad thing. I am more careful about what I watch on the television while Samuel is around. I make sure to leave a portion of my dessert aside for my wife. And I remember that our community is watching to see if our church loves them like Jesus does. When we understand that others are watching, we will remember that we may be the only Bible some people will ever read. Most Americans have read relatively little of the Bible but most Americans have known a Christian.

Maybe you don't often feel like someone is watching you. I am glad! My goal is not to make you paranoid. Instead, I hope that we remember our responsibility to be salt and light in the world. The world is watching and it may surprise you to learn how much influence you have in the lives of those around you.



February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4	5 Writers' Group 7-9 in fellowship hall	6 Choir 7:00	7 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	8 5th Quarter after Basketball game	9
Mission Trip to Guadalupe, Mexico Rancho 3M						
10 Dave McMaster preaching	11	12 Writers' Group 7-9 in fellowship hall	13 1st Wednesday meal 5:30 Service at 6:15 (Yes, it is Choir 7:00	14 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	15	16
17	18	19 Session 7:00 Writers' Group 7-9 in fellowship hall	20 Choir 7:00	21 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	22 5th Quarter after Basketball game	23
24 Gideon's Rally 7:00 am	25	26 Chamber of Com- merce 8-9 am Writers' Group 7-9 in fellowship hall	27	28 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30		

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. 15- Marty Crossland
Feb. 15- Maely Crossland
Alexander

Feb. 15 - Jim Smith Jr.
Feb. 15 - Arlene Cline

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

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

*welcomed returning ruling elders Ken Robinson and Larry Fishbaugh as they begin their terms.

*dealt with organizational matters for 2019: Clerk: Barb Searing Treasurer: Carol Razo
Committee assignments: Missions-Larry; Property-Bud; Congregational Life-Barb; Nominating-Ken & Matt; Christian Ed-Rhonda; Finance-Matt & Larry; Worship-Rhonda; Personnel-Bud. These are the liaisons to Session for your ideas, concerns or compliments.

*created a Meal Fund by carving \$150 out of the Miscellaneous fund.

*learned that Pastor Ian plus Dave and Jane Nice will be going on the Mexico mission trip to Rancho 3M with the Hillsboro Presbyterian Church (Ian's dad's church). Pastor Ian will be back on Sunday, Feb. 10 but will not be preaching that day.

*moved the February '1st Wednesday' meal from Feb. 6 (the 1st Wed.) to Feb. 13 (the 2nd Wed.), as Pastor Ian will be in Mexico the first week.

*talked about commissioners to the next Presbytery meeting, Feb. 15-16 in South Charleston, OH. We may elect 3 who can vote at the meeting. If you are not a currently-serving elder but are interested in attending (as a voting commissioner or as a guest), please contact Pastor Ian before Feb. 1. We also learned that the long-time clerk of Midwest Presbytery, John Manon, has retired and has been replaced by two familiar Presbytery faces, Andy Warner and David Brown, who divided his duties.

*approved two dates for building use: Sun., Feb. 24, the Gideons will hold Rally Day before they go out to speak in Paulding County churches. They will use the kitchen, fellowship hall and sanctuary from 7 - 9 AM. Arlene Cline is the church contact. Tues., Feb. 26, the Chamber of Commerce will hold a 'Success in 60' event from 8 - 9 AM using the kitchen and fellowship hall. No charge for either group.

*put the 38th Annual Women's Retreat on the calendar for Sat., Oct. 26. Planning is in the very early stages.

*were reminded of 2 5th Quarter events at the school after basketball games on Feb. 8 & 22.

*gave their blessing to Carol Razo to explore grant monies that might be available for the needed repairs to our exterior brick.

*amended the November minutes to more precisely reflect the budget discussion that was held then.

*removed five people from the active membership rolls with their consent.

*heard that Ian and Alissa won the Chamber Chili Cookoff for the 2nd year running. They thank our hungry congregation for all their votes!

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session

Rise Up, O Men!

This play, part of the Church Basement Ladies series, is at the Niswonger is Sunday afternoon, March 24th.....still a ways off. Of the 20 tickets we bought, only five remain. Cost is \$25 per seat. If you are interested in attending, please get a hold of Barb Searing, the keeper of the tickets. 419-399-3204 home or 419-769-0327 if you want to text her. Make checks to the church, but give them to Barb, please.



If more people want to attend than we have tickets reserved, we may look into ordering more. Aren't sure if you have a ticket? The current list (as of Thursday 1/26) is PUNCHES-2, Cindy K-1, Barb-1, Kim Mileto-1, Nices-2, Betty St John-2, Darla-1, Rhonda-1, Sue P-1, Jill-1, Wiebes-2(?).

We plan to attend the play at 2 pm, and then eat together at the Van Wert Bob Evans, (where we will have space set aside for us, thanks to the PUNCHES'), afterwards.

If you have thought about writing, but not yet stepped out of your comfort zone, if you write but need a gentle push to continue to do more, if you just think writing sounds like fun, you might be interested in a new Writers' Group that is forming in Paulding. At the request of some wanting to hone their skills, this new group will begin meeting at the end of January. And it might be the place for you. Writers' groups can provide a safe place to share your stories while learning about the craft. Groups can be a great boost when you have spent just a little too long working on one piece (mental health for creative writers is an important issue, in fact a little sanity is important for each of us), plus they provide a valuable addition to our own group of friends.

[illegible]

Financial Tidbits from December

Other mentionable issues:

- The *Meal Ministry Fund* has a balance of .62 at December 31.
- Two new funds were created in December: *Mission Trip Fund* and *Bricks N Boiler Fund*.





Please note change of date!

Please note change of date!

Please note change of date!

Wednesday February 13th

We aren't sure yet who is doing the meal, but we are sure that one will be offered. It will be followed by an update on the mission trip with reports from those brave souls.

We are then invited by the Lord to spend some time with Him in worship, praise and prayer following our meal. There will be information shared about the mission trip to Rancho 3M.

This will be a service that you don't want to miss!

Please note change of date!

Please note change of date!

Please note change of date!

Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

If the federal government shut down continues, the food pantry may have an even greater demand than they normally see. Please donate with even more love and concern than usual. God bless you!



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 County 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 the Women's Fellowship since 2006.

Sunday School

We have finished our January mini-series in church history looking at the life of the reformer John Knox. In February, we will be starting a new Sunday School class on the Holy Spirit and how God empowers us for ministry. Everyone is welcome to join us Sunday at 9:00am.

Funeral Dinners

This ministry is highly appreciated by our church family, and is sort of like having car insurance or fire insurance. You hope you don't need to use it, but if you DO, it is wonderful to have everything in place.

The following ladies have agreed to serve on the 2019 funeral dinner committee: Sue Paulus will talk with the family about their wishes, Becky Craft and Darla Cline will set up the tables/room, Betty St. John will contact people for food donations and workers, Barb Searing will be the funeral coordinator in the kitchen on the day of the meal, and Rhonda Smalley will oversee the clean-up workers. Most of these ladies have been filling these roles for several years, and are much appreciated.

Barb is requesting a co-coordinator or 'apprentice' for the in-the-kitchen role to learn the ropes for 2020. If you'd be willing to work alongside Barb for some funeral meals this year and with an eye to joining the funeral dinner committee next year, please give Barb a call.



Another Beautiful Baby!

Landon Thomas Easley was born to Kassi and Jared on January 10. He weighed 7 lb. 10 oz, and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Ron and Vicki Kadesch. Another highlight: he was born on Grandpa Ron's birthday. What a blessing.



Winners for second year running!

Ian and Allisa won the Chamber of Commerce chili competition in January. Shown is Rene Boss presenting the trophy to Alissa Ferguson. Great job, Fergusons!

Per Member Asking

Each year, our church supports our presbytery (Presbytery of the Midwest) and our denomination (Evangelical Presbyterian Church) in the form of a per member asking. Our church provides for the total requested amount in our annual budget in support of our governing bodies. If members on the active membership list of our church are able/willing to pay their own per member asking, that amount is replaced into our own church's General Fund.

The amount of the per member asking for 2019 is \$36 per person. Of that amount, \$23 goes to the denomination, and \$13 goes to the presbytery. If you use giving envelopes, there is a blue envelope in your box for this purpose. If you don't use envelopes but are willing to pay your share, simply write Per Member Asking on the memo line of your check. Thank you.



Mission Trip

We are headed to Mexico! Dave Nice, Jane Nice, and Ian Ferguson will be heading to Rancho 3M orphanage in Guadalupe, Mexico, on February 4th-9th. Please pray for our safe travel and successful ministry as we minister to the kids and work on improving the facilities. We will be back for Sunday on February 10th (Dave McMaster will be preaching that Sunday) and we will give a presentation on our trip at the Wednesday meal on the 13th.



Climbing dangerously to undecorate is Jill Straley, safely on the floor are Rosalie Todd and Betty St. John.



Koen Robert Keener was born January 24, 2019, weighing 8 lb and 8 oz, 20 inches long. Koen is the son of Candi and Matt Keener, grandson of Bud and Cindy Koenig. Grandpa Bud is pictured holding the newborn. **Another Beautiful Baby!**

Crosses for Lent

The Women's Fellowship Board would like to borrow some of your home decor for the Lenten Lunch tables.

If you have a free-standing cross that could be used as a centerpiece and would let us use it for 6 weeks, please label it with your name in an obscure spot and bring it to church before March 6th. There is a table in the fellowship hall where they are being collected. They will be returned after Easter.

Community Lenten lunches begin March 6th for 6 weeks, and about 80 people fill the fellowship hall from noon - 1:00 pm to enjoy a meal and a brief devotional. All the lunches are in our fellowship hall, and the meals and meditations are provided by various churches in the Paulding Ministerial Association.

Lent is Just Around the Corner

While it is a little early to have all of our plans in place, it is not too early to begin letting people know where we are in the process and what is still needed. The Wednesday plans that are in place are as follows:

Wednesday March 5: Lunch Presbyterian Women
Speaker is Ian Ferguson
Evening meal is by the Women's Group

Wednesday March 13: Lunch Divine Mercy

Speaker Pastor Dwayne Richardson
Evening meal not yet determined

Wednesday March 20: First Christian Church

Speaker is Pastor Merlyn Winters
Evening meal not yet determined

Wednesday March 27: Lunch United Methodist

Speaker Pastor Del
Evening meal by the Deacons

Wednesday April 3: Lunch by St. Paul Lutheran

Speaker to be determined
Evening meal by the Choir

Wednesday April 10: Lunch Paulding Nazarene's

Speaker Pastor Jeremy Thompson
Evening meal not yet determined



Special Services

Maundy Thursday Service here

Good Friday Service here,
speaker Pastor Dwayne

Easter Sunrise: House of Love,
speaker Pastor Ian Ferguson

(Times for these services will be announced in March newsletter)



Our church is again organizing two 5th Quarter events during basketball season. The dates this year are Fridays February 8 and February 22. Pastor Ian has worked with the school to secure the dates, with Straley Insurance to arrange liability coverage required, and with Branch Christian Fellowship for the music. Barb has been coordinating with partner churches to secure adult help, pop, pizza money, etc.

Our **biggest need** from our church is VOLUNTEER ADULTS, especially men, who would be willing to spend 9 - 11 pm at the school. The main job of these adults are to be a presence in the auditoria and the middle school gym. There will be a number of adults from other congregations as well. In addition to these night-owl adults, requests include money toward pizza, some cookies, some ice and pop, and transportation of supplies from the church garage to the school and back.

Please take a look at the clipboard at the top of the stairs and see if you can fill a slot. The need for Feb. 8th is particularly great, as Pastor Ian and Dave and Jane Nice will be on the Mexico mission trip at that time.



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

Sunday School 9:00 am
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.

