



COURIER

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January 2015

Parson's Perspective

Special Points Of Interest

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With the start of another calendar year, we are invited become closer to God and to allow God to work through us. One way of expressing this is to “give God a blank check and let God fill in the blanks.” That’s a necessity and challenge of the highest order.

- ◆ It forces us to recognize the idolatry of our comfort. We are comfortable where we are. The routine may be monotonous at times, but it’s safe . . . convenient . . . familiar . . . reassuring. If I agree to follow God but only within my comfort zone, though, my ease has become my idol.
- ◆ It requires us to evaluate how deeply our faith affects our daily living. Do we really believe our lives are not my own? If we have given our lives to Jesus, our yesterdays are forgiven, our todays rest in God’s hands, and our tomorrows are entirely God’s. The blank check about tomorrow should not alarm us today if we trust that God is holy, loving, and sovereign.
- ◆ It reminds us that the Christian life really is about faith. Living by faith means trusting God. We follow God obediently each day, not knowing what it – that is, the blank check – will bring, yet believing the fully each challenge is an opportunity to reflect God’s glory and wisdom.
- ◆ It reinforces the truth that God’s plan might be costly for us. God alone has the right to fill in the blank check. God may use us to conquer kingdoms . . . or to die wearing God’s name. We proclaim this reality, but seldom deeply consider the truth that death could fill the line on our blank checks. That thought is, to be honest, almost too heavy to ponder.
- ◆ It fractures any belief that we are Christ-like. Jesus, of course, knew what obedience to the Father would cost him. With “cross” written on the check, Jesus said, “not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42). Until we are willing to have the ultimate cost written on our blank checks so others might be saved, we do not yet fully reflect the heart of Christ.

The thought of giving God the blank check of our lives drives us to deep self-reflection. No matter how long each of us has been a Jesus follower, we still need Holy Spirit-led personal reflection in the light of God’s Word. We need people of God who challenge us to a level of holy discomfort. May the new year give you the spiritual resources to offer God your “blank check” life.

Pastor Rick

This Month in the Church

Thursday, January 1—New Year's Day
Church Closed

Friday, January 2 - 10:00 a.m. Visitation
For David Jenkins Bristol Activity Center-10:30
a.m. Memorial Service Pastor Robert Getty

Sunday, January 4 - 9:30 a.m.
Being Reformed "The Confession of Belhar"
Leader: Richard Hays

Wednesday, January 7 - 1:30 p.m.
Circle Meetings—**Esther Circle-**
at the home of Karen Henderson, 347 Wendy
Lane-Study Leader: Irene Noble
Martha Mary Circle at the home of Betty
Sumey, 343 Wendy Lane-Study Leader:
Florence Vonderohe

Saturday, January 10 — 9:30 a.m. -1:00
p.m. Partners in Education

Sunday, January 11 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Class
Being Reformed "The Confession of Belhar"
Leader: Richard Hays

Tuesday, January 13 - 3:15 p.m.
Deacons' Meeting

Thursday, January 15 - 10:30 a.m.
Communion at Bristol Health Care

2:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg.

Sunday, January 18 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Education Class Being Reformed-
"The Confession of Belhar"

10:45 a.m. Communion (Deacons'
Offering

Monday, January 19 - 7:00 p.m.
Session Meeting

Wednesday, January 21 - 1:45 p.m.
P.W.C.T. Meeting at the home of Audrey
Tysen, 357 Wendy Lane

Saturday, January 24 - 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Service for Ted Bates First Presbyterian
Church

Sunday, January 25 - 9:30 a.m.
Adult Class Being Reformed "The Confession of
Belhar" Leader: Richard Hays

Thank You-

Pastor Rick and Paula wish to thank everyone for
their kind wishes, cards, gifts and other tokens of
appreciation we have received during the Advent
and Christmas seasons. We wish you all a blessed
2015.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- January 2 - Glenn Noble
- 6 - Grace Lewis, Betty Jenkins and
Judith Harrell
- 11 - Tom Mellinger
- 12 - Ruth Wonnell
- 13 - Elinor Hodder
Linda Milam
- 14 - Bruce Henderson
- 15 - Allen Heinmiller
Eric Melin
- 16 - Alexandra Getty
- 22 - Anna Dodge

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO:

Barbara and Jay Early - January 31

IN MEMORY

David Jenkins - December 4, 2014
Memorial Service will be January 2, 2015 at 10:30
a.m. Bristol Village Activity Center-Visitation 10:00
A.m.

John Voorthes - December 12, 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2015</h1>						
				1 New Year's Day Church Closed	2 David Jenkins Memorial Service 10 a.m. Visitation 10:30 Service Bristol Act.	3
4 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 Worship	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 8:00 a.m. Sleeve-Tuggers 1:30 p.m. Circle Meetings 7 p.m. Choir	8 3:30 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg.	9	10 9:30-1:00 p.m. Partners in Education
11 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	12	13 Deacons Mtg. 3:15 p.m.	14 8:00 a.m. Sleeve-Tuggers 7 p.m. Choir	15 2:00 p.m. Stewardship Com. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Communion Bristol Health	16	17
18 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship Communion Deacons' Off.	19 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	20	21 8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers 1:30 p.m. P.W.C.T. 7 p.m. Choir	22	23 Annual Reports and February "Courier" articles due	24 11:00 a.m. Memorial for Ted Bates First Presbyterian Church
25 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	26	27	28 8 a.m. Sleeve Tuggers Choir 7 p.m.	29	30	31

Dear Friends of the Outreach Council,

Starting in January 2015, the Pike County Outreach Council food pantry will be the only full-time food pantry in Pike County because Community Action is closing its pantry at the end of 2014. Many households have needed to go to both pantries each week. The Outreach Council will therefore need to provide additional food items to keep families from hunger. There are also many households who only go to the Community Action pantry which means that the Outreach Council will have an even greater need for donated food items. The pantry space was recently reorganized to better serve clients. We are working on more storage space to store the additional food needed.

We anticipate being busier than ever. If you are able to volunteer in the pantry once a month, let me know. We could really use the help.

Meeting the increased food security needs of Pike County will be an added financial strain for the Outreach Council. We ask for your continued support in FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS!

Bless you for all that you do for our community.

Judy Dixon, Executive Director
Richard S. Hays, President, PCOC Board of Trustees

THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE CONTINUES THE SERIES OF

VERBALIZING OUR FAITH

It seems to me there are two answers to the question, "How did you become a Christian?" One can either point to a specific time when he or she realized what God had done in Christ to provide a redeeming sacrifice, or one, fully aware of what God has done, cannot pinpoint the time. I am of the former type.

My Christian parents were strict. No bike riding was allowed on Sundays, not even reading unless it was the Bible or of a religious nature. I often wondered if I could possibly be good enough to get to heaven one day. As I grew older I realized that *perfection* was God's goal for me, and I sure wasn't going to reach that goal.

After high school, I enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the occupation forces in Japan. One evening I attended a G.I. Gospel Hour at a Yokohama church and heard the speaker explain how trying to be good wasn't God's requirement but rather my response to His gift of salvation for believing in Jesus and accepting his sacrifice for my shortcomings.

My name is Glenn Noble and Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Winter Weather Advisory

It's always hard to tell what winter weather will do. People wonder, "Is there church?" Unless the safety authorities order a Level 2 or 3 snow emergency (which shuts down all but essential activities), we probably will have church.

People should consider their own safety first.

- *Is it too cold, too windy for me to be out?*
- *Am I too unsure about my breathing, walking, or driving?*
- *Am I putting my own safety and the safety of others at risk by going out?*

If you can answer "YES" to any of those questions, you probably should stay home. We'll miss you, but we will be relieved to know that you are safe and well, and will be ready to attend another service soon.

And remember, audio cassette tapes of weekly services and printed copies of sermons are part of the work of the Deacons' Ministry. Just call the church office, 947-2905, to receive either or both for a specific service or for every week.

Pastor Rick's sermons may be followed at www.pastorricksays.blogspot.com. Sermons also appear on the church website (www.firstpresbyterianwaverly.com) shortly after their presentation.

Sermons can also be emailed to you for a particular Sunday or on a regular schedule. Just email the church at bpattersonpresbychurch@yahoo.com with your request.

Scripture Texts for Sunday Worship, January 2015

January 4	Second Sunday after Christmas Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18 Pastor Rick: "Incarnated Disruption"
January 11	Baptism of the Lord Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7 ; Mark 1:4-11 Pastor Rick: "Our Brokenness is Mended"
January 18	1 Samuel 3:1-20 ; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51 Pastor Rick: "Flawed Servants Are Still Useful"
January 25	Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20 Pastor Rick: "Cosmic Career Change"

**REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WAVERLY 11/17/14**

*(Thanks to all who contributed their thoughts about our ways of celebrating this important sacrament: the Worship Committee took your comments seriously. Below is the **introduction** our report as submitted to the Session in November. In addition, there are a number of specific recommendations which members of the committee will be presenting at "Moments for Worship" in occasional services during the coming months. If anyone would like further information before – or after - those presentations, please talk with Barbara Patterson or Otto Zingg, who served as the sub-committee for the report.)*

Of all the church worship practices, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper expresses our oneness in Christ and our call to be part of a community of grace and of service. Yet throughout the centuries, there have been major conflicts re: the meaning of the ritual and the significance of the bread and wine. Roman Catholics, the Orthodox, Lutherans, and those of us in the Reformed tradition have different views of this ritual of unity and oneness with Christ and with each other. Our purpose here is not to discuss those differences, but just to note that there are ongoing disagreements in the larger church as to the specific meaning and practices for this sacrament.

For Presbyterians, the emphasis has been not on the nature of the elements but on the action of the ritual itself – the breaking of bread and sharing, the eating and drinking – in that these actions are a sign of the real presence and power of Christ in our lives. This sacrament is also an opportunity to renew our commitment to the faith community and our calling to serve.

There has been some discussion on the two primary methods we have used at FPC: going forward to receive the elements by intinction, or having them passed to us in our seats in trays and cups. It may be useful to separate the method from the means. Intinction and the common cup can be used in the seats; trays and small cups can be shared with people coming forward. Each has its own meaning and its own issues.

Two thoughts on the means of celebration: receiving the elements in our seats, whether by intinction or trays, places the emphasis on **God's grace**, which we receive as gift, unearned, undeserved, yet readily available to us. For Presbyterians, this is the most important meaning of the Sacrament. As we pass the elements to one another, the act of serving one another can be lifted up by a phrase: "the Body of Christ for you" or "the Bread of Life given for you" AND "the Blood of Christ shed for you" or "the Cup of Salvation." A simple "thanks be to God" or "Amen" could be an appropriate response. We recognize that having people feel comfortable with saying these phrases will take as much interpretation and practice as forming any new habit.

Coming forward to receive, whether by intinction or trays, places the emphasis on **our commitment**, i.e. our willingness to receive God's grace as well as our calling as ambassadors for Christ in the world. The phrases suggested above could be used by both the servers and the receivers to more fully express the meaning of this important ritual.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 19, 20142014

Ministers for Community: Every Member

Co-Pastors: Richard Hays and Robert Getty

Secretary Barbara Patterson

Clerk of Session: Audrey Tysen

Choir Director: Karen Henderson

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Treasurer: Robert Neely

Ministers for Vision and Mission: Session

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
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Karen Henderson	Juliet Getty	David Bell
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Paula Hays	Betsy Hall	Robert Neely
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Audrey Tysen	Ann Oyer	Irene Noble
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Kay Weir	Dick Roberts	Glenn Noble
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Ministers for Member Care: Deacons

Don Kerry	Kitty Neely	Evelyn Baker
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Ministers Serving In Other Places

Pike County Outreach Council of Churches

Pike County Welfare House

Mark, Jenny, Keila Rosa & Anika Estela Hare — Papay, Haiti

Dendamrongsaat Church — Chiangrai, Thailand

Ministers Serving from Home

At Bristol Health Care

444 Cherry St., Waverly OH 45690

Barratt Banta -311

Jeanne Barron-105

Maryanna Cassady-14

Anna Dodge-111

Ed Dodge-103

Tom Frank-308

Virginia Hartwell-102

Dorothy Headley-5-A

Agnes Nash-2

Ben Lane-118

The Gardens

Betty Jenkins-202

At Home

Virginia Dixon, Oscar Marsh, Marlene Voorhes

Other Places

Kitty McCollam and Max Russell

January Greeters:

January 4 - Linda and Mike Milam
11 - Patty and Earl Todt
18 - Lois Hardy and Betsy Hall
25 - Charles Van Person and
Kathy Will

January Worship Assistants:

January 4 - Gareth Baker
11 - Evelyn Baker
18 - Bruce Henderson
25 - Kay Weir

January Ushers:

January 4 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely,
David Bell
11 - Lois Hardy, Marian Odell,
Ann Oyer, Wanda Stratton
18 - Bud Hobday, Dimitry Sergay,
Ivan Sumey
28 - Ralph Strickland, Dimitry
Sergay

January Counters:

January 4 - Bob Neely and Mike Milam
11 - Kay Weir and Jim Clark
18 - Betsy Hall and Nancy Seward
25 - David Bell and Anne Young

**The 2015 Flower Chart has been posted
on the wall in the lobby.**

**The 2015 Coffee Hour Chart is on the
Kiosk.**

**Memorial Service for Ted Bates January
24, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. First Presbyterian
Church.**

**2015 Mission Year Books are for sale in
the Church Office at \$15.00 each.**

Address Service Requested

WAVERLY, OHIO 45690

211 SCHMITT DR.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Amen Corner

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the color of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today." After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

* * *

After having children, Adam and Eve started getting a lot of questions from their kids about why they no longer lived in Eden. Adam has a simple answer for this: "Your mother ate us out of house and home."

* * *

Where was Solomon's temple located? – On the side of his head. Duh!

* * *

Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee. Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: "It's right here—HEBREWS."

* * *

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later on in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mom, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."