

COURIER

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March 2015

Parson's Perspective

Special Points

Of Interest

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WHY GO TO CHURCH?

The neighboring church signboard recently read, "This is the perfect church for people who are not perfect." That should be true about any congregation, although some congregations look for people who fit rather than the mis-fits who would often be the people that Jesus would associate with.

So why go to church if we are mis-fits? Matthew Westerholm offers these reasons.

1. Because Jesus is alive.

We go to church because Jesus is alive. You may not remember this, but Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday morning. As the news spread, all of his friends spent that whole day telling each other the story and talking about what it all meant. They named it "The Lord's Day." It was a thrilling way to spend the day, and so they decided to do it again the next week. And every week ever since for two thousand years.

So, think of Sunday like your birthday. The day you were born is so special to the people who love you that we celebrate it every single year. The day that Jesus rose from the dead is so special to the people who love him that we celebrate it every single week.

2. Because we want to remember and practice the gospel.

We go to church to remember and practice the gospel. Some words are easier to learn than others. It seems that no one needs to teach us words like "mine" and "no!" Other words are more difficult and take a lot of time to learn — words like "Thank you" and "I'm sorry." But those words are also important and we need to learn them.

Church is a place where we can practice these words in the most important ways. We can see our sin and what it means, we can feel regret in our hearts and say, "I'm sorry, God, for sinning against you." We can hear his words of forgiveness to us and say, "Thank you, Jesus, for saving me."

And just like we don't always feel sorry or thankful when we say these words, sometimes our broken hearts don't feel sorrow for our sin or thankfulness for our Savior. But we gather together to ask the Lord to mend those hearts and to help us feel the truth of what we are saying. And we see the words that used to be natural — "mine" and "no!" — become harder and harder to say.

Continued on page 3

This Month in the Church

Sunday, March 1 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Class
"Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy" Leader: Calvin Tysen

Sunday, March 4 - 1:30 p.m. Circle Meetings:
Esther Circle at Bristol Health Care. Irene Noble is hostess, Evelyn Baker is study leader

Martha Mary Circle at the home of Florence Vonderohe, 410 Robin Road, Elaine Zingg is study Leader

4:00 p.m. Session Meeting to Reorganize Only

5:00 p.m. Lenten Soup and Bread and Discussion

Friday, March 6 - 11:00 a.m. World Day of Prayer Service at First Presbyterian Church
Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women

Sunday, March 8 - Daylight Savings Time Ends—Set your clocks forward 1 hour

9:30 a.m. Adult Class "Sowing Tears Reaping Joy"

10:45 a.m. Installation of New Officers

Tuesday, March 10 - 3:15 p.m. Member Care Care Meeting at the church

Wednesday, March 11 - 5:00 p.m. Lenten Soup And Bread and Discussion

Sunday, March 15 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Class
"Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy"
Pastor Bob will be preaching

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

Monday, March 16 - 7:00 p.m. Regular Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 18 - 1:45 p.m. P.W.C.T. Meeting at the home of Audrey Tysen

Wednesday, March 18 continued...

5:00 p.m. Lenten Soup and Bread followed by Discussion

Thursday, March 19 - 10:30 a.m. Communion at Bristol Health Care

Sunday, March 22 - 9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. Adult Class "Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy"

Wednesday, March 25 - 5:00 p.m.
Lenten Soup and Bread followed by Discussion

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday
9:30 a.m. Adult Class "Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy" One Great Hour Sharing Offering
Special Envelopes are in your Offering Boxes or on the desk in the sanctuary (See Special Article Page 6

March Birthdays:

March 4 - Paula Hays
8 - Bob Penrose
9 - Earl Todt
14 - Marian Odell
15 - Kay Weir
20 - Mack Earnhardt
27 - Tammy Patterson Niebling
29 - George Hartwell

Happy Wedding Anniversary to:
Cay and Dick Roberts - March 29

PARSON'S PERSPECTIVE (from page 1)

3. Because we want to learn to love people different from us.

We go to church to love people who are different from us. Almost everybody only wants to spend time with people who they feel most comfortable around. People generally want to hang out with people who have their same amount of money, have the same skin color, are their same age, like the same food, and watch the same TV shows. Other kinds of people are strange to them.

But there is a big danger with that, because the world is filled with many people who are very different. If we only spend time with people like ourselves, we will be tricked into believing that we are better than those who are not like us.

"The most basic thing about us is that we are sinners who need a Savior." At its best, our church

helps us avoid that problem. It reminds us that, fundamentally, the most basic thing about us is not our money, our skin color, our age, or our favorite tastes. The most basic thing about us is that we are sinners who need a Savior. Because of that, our church is filled with people who are different from us, all of us learning that we are not better than others, but are all in need of the same grace.

We gather with strange people and remember that we are also strange, and recognize that the gospel reunites estranged people with their God.

So, as the snow melts away this Lent, let's see each other in church, remembering that the cross transforms our human strangeness into eternal glory. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Rick

Scripture Texts for Sunday Worship, March 2015

March 1	Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 17:1-7,15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25 ; Mark 8:31-31 Pastor Rick: "Blinded by Preconceptions"
March 8	Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 18:25 ; John 2:13-22 Pastor Rick: "O Foolish Cross"
March 15	Fourth Sunday in Lent Numbers 21:4-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21 Pastor Bob: "Profound Repentance" The Lord's Supper will be celebrated.
March 22	Fifth Sunday in Lent Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33 Pastor Rick: "The Seed Is Dead – Long Live the Seed"
March 29	Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm/Passion Sunday Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Mark 14:1-15:47 "The Passion of the Christ"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2015</h1>						
1 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 Worship and Annual Meetings	2	3	4 8 a.m. Sl-Tuggers 1:30 p.m. Circle Mtgs. 4 p.m. Session Mtg. (Reorganize) 5 p.m. Soup	5 Choir 3:45 p.m.	6 11 a.m. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Service First Presby. Ch.	7
8 9:30 a.m. Ad. Class 10:45 a.m. Worship Installation of new Officers Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10 3:15 p.m. Member Care Mtg.	11 8 a.m. Sleeve- Tuggers 5 p.m. Soup	12 Choir 3:45 p.m.	13	14
15 9:30 a.m. Ad. Class 10:45 a.m. Worship Communion Deacons' Off.	16 7 p.m. Session Mtg.	17	18 8 a.m. Sleeve- Tuggers 1:45 p.m. P.W.C.T. 5 p.m. Soup	19 10:30 a.m. Communion Bristol Health Care Choir 3:45 p.m.	20	21
22 9:30 a.m. Ad. Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	23	24	25 8 a.m. Sleeve. Tuggers 5 p.m. Soup	26 Choir 3:45 p.m.	27	28
29 Palm Sunday OGHS Offering 9:30 a.m. Ad. Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	30	31				

THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE CONTINUES THE SERIES OF

VERBALIZING OUR FAITH

When Irene asked me to write about my faith, my first impulse was to say no, I don't want to do that, but then it occurred to me, why not? It would be a good thing to recall how and who led me to the faith I now have.

I was raised in a Christian family and knew there was God and that He had a Son here on earth, but we never belonged to or attended a church. This all changed, when, after high school days, I started going with a girl, who was to become my wife. Vivian was from a Presbyterian family, strong in their faith, active in their church, and regular in their attendance.

Vivian led me on my faith journey (I like that analogy), for it is just that, many wrong turns, detours, road blocks, and poor directions, but over the years, associations with so many people of good faith, many sermons from dedicated men of God, and bible study (my GPS). I now know that journey's destination.

I am Bud Hobday, and my faith is in Jesus Christ.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people who are in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing, received in the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Started in 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. What started out as an hour-long radio appeal has evolved over the years, varying from eight to 29 participating communions, and as grown to be the most participated-in offering in the PC(USA). Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than 100 countries.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

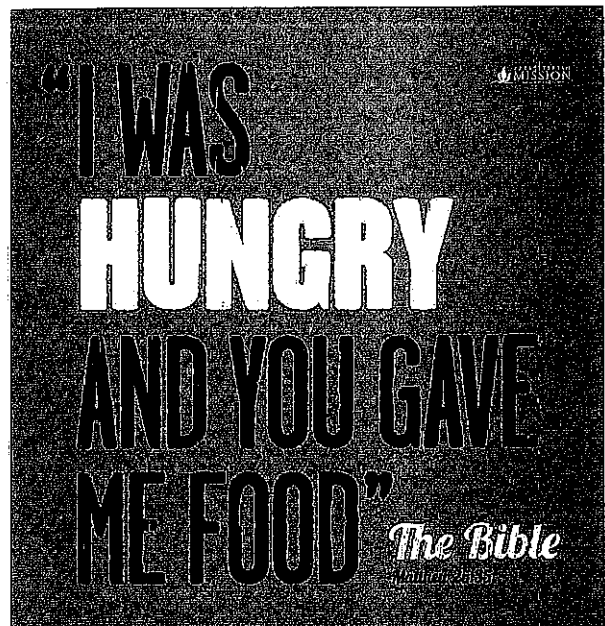
- Works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of a natural or human-caused disasters
- Receives 32% of funds raised

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access for entire communities to sufficient and healthy food
- Receives 36% of funds raised

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

- Partners with people and communities, leveraging development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice
- Receives 32% of funds raised



MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

JANUARY 28, 2015

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

Class of 2014

Karen Henderson

Paula Hays

Audrey Tysen

Kay Weir

Class of 2015

Betsy Hall

Ann Oyer

Dick Roberts

Kitty Neely

Class of 2016

David Bell

Robert Neely

Irene Noble

Glenn Noble

Ministers for Member Care: Deacons

Evelyn Baker

Kitty Neely

Anne Young

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 4569

Barratt Banta - 311B

Jeanne Barron-105

Maryanna Cassady-14

Anna Dodge-111

Ed Dodge-1

Virginia Hartwell-102

Ben Lane-118

The Gardens

Betty Jenkins-202

At Home

Virginia Dixon, Oscar and Janet Marsh, Marlene

Voorhes

Other Places

Kitty McCollam and Max Russell

In Other Places

Kitty McCollam, Max Russell,

March Worship Assistants:

March - 1 - Nancy Seward

8 - Irene Clark

15 - Maurice Bailey

22 - Martha Miller

29 - Pastor Getty

March Greeters:

March 1 - Kitty and Bob Neely

8 - Barbara and Jay Early

15 - David Bell and Dimitry Sergay

22 - Betsy Hall and Nancy Seward

29 - Ann Oyer and Ruth Wonnell

March Ushers:

March 1 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell

8 - Lois Hardy, Ann Oyer, Wanda

Stratton

15 - Bud Hobday, Dimitry Sergay

Ivan Sumey

22 - Ralph Strickland, Dimitry Sergay

29 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell

March Counters:

March 1 - Bob and Kitty Neely

8 - Jim Clark and Kay Weir

15— Betsy Hall and Nancy Seward

22 - David Bell and Anne Young

29 - Mike Milam and Bob Neely

For addresses, call the church at 947-2905, or e-

Address Service Requested

WAVERLY, OHIO 45690

211 SCHMITT DR.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Amen Corner

ABRAM'S PROMISE

Timothy Haut, 2012

He lay there, an old man
sprawled on the ground,
his body reluctant to move.
He could feel the cool earth
against his cheek,
could taste the dust on his lips.
He knew it should not be long
before what was left of him
would mingle with this same
dust and earth.
He wondered what Sarai
would think,
looking out from the kitchen window,
wondering if her man
would soon be home,

then see him lying prone, unmoving,
in the fields of Promise.

She would come to him,
borne by strength and terror
her skirts flapping in the air,
fling herself upon him,
lift him up,
pressing her mouth against his,
seeking life.

How could he tell her
of the words turning in him,
the dream of fruitfulness,
a hope that tasted more like stars
than dust?

He pulled her down upon himself,
and the two of them,
wrapped in each other's arms,
laughed into the darkness.