



COURIER

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May 2017

OUR MISSION

We, the First Presbyterian Church of Waverly, a congregation of dedicated believers in the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, strive to share this faith in worship and to express it through serving the community.

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Parson's Perspective

When I was growing up, every summer my family packed up the car and headed to Pennsylvania to visit relatives. I loved staying with my Grandma Ellie Starr; she was my old-fashioned grandma. To this day if I close my eyes I can almost see each room and smell the distinctive smells of her small house. She had a coal-gas cook stove on which she cooked and, in the colder months, heated half of her house. She baked all her own bread, used a wringer washer, and made lye soap. Her medicine cabinet was filled with old-fashioned remedies. Her basement had a dirt floor where all sorts of home-canned fruits and vegetables, most of them grown in my aunt's garden, were stored. In her living room were old photographs and pictures. Her personal Bible, well worn from use, was filled with notes containing birth dates and wedding dates, newspaper clippings, and of course, obituaries.

Her house was filled with more than her old-fashioned things. It was filled with life and love. There were always people going in and out – my aunts and uncles, and lots and lots of cousins. Despite this, she always had time for each of us. I remember sitting on the front porch swing with her on cool and dark evenings. Many times, others joined us as we sat and talked and swung.

When I think about my Grammy Starr, I always feel a longing to go back to her house, to have everything be the same as it was back then. There is a bit of sadness too; a feeling of something that is gone that will never be again. Of course, I miss *her* most of all, but I also think of the blessings that I have received, blessings upon blessings, because Grammy Starr was a part of my life. I think about all that I learned about life just being in her house, watching her and being the recipient of her grace and love.

When I offer my gratitude and thanksgiving to God for all the blessings I have received, it helps me not feel so sad that these times are over, or even anxious about today's challenges. The practice of offering thanksgiving to God helps us give the whole of our lives to God. When we practice thanksgiving, we open ourselves to feel God's presence in new ways.

Offering our gratitude to God on a regular basis is a powerful spiritual practice. One way to do that is to end the day naming or even writing down in a journal one or two things (no matter how small) that have happened during the day that are blessings. As you think about each blessing, take time to ponder what part you played in each of them, even if your part in it was to stop and notice. Then offer all of it up to God in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pastor Charlotte

This Month in the Church

Monday, May 1 - 7:00 p.m. "AA" Mtg.

Tuesday, May 2 - 3:45 p.m. Choir

Wednesday, May 4 - 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group

1:30 p.m. Circle Meetings: Esther Circle will meet at the home of Elaine Zingg and Karen Henderson will lead the study
Martha Mary Circle will meet at the Residents' Cottage in Bristol Village and Sandy Hlasten will lead the lesson and Kay Weir will be the hostess

Saturday, May 6 - 1:30 p.m. "Women of Faith Awards (First Presbyterian Church) See Special Article in this newsletter

Sunday, May 7 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class
Study of I Peter Chapter 1 (Lect'y-I Peter 2: 19-25) Bruce Henderson
10:45 a.m. - Worship (PW Birthday Offering)
Special envelopes in your offering boxes or on the desk in the lobby

Monday, May 8 - 7:00 p.m. "AA" Meeting

Tuesday, May 9 - 3:15 p.m. Member Care Meeting
3:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 10 - 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group
1:30 p.m. P.W.C.T. Mtg.

Thursday, May 11 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Committee Mtg.

10:00 a.m. Retirement Celebration Mtg.

Sunday, May 14 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
I Peter Chapter 2:1-12 (Lect'y—Peter 2:2-10)
Bruce Henderson

Monday, May 15 - 7:00 p.m. "AA" Mtg.

Tuesday, May 16 - 3:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 17 - 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group
3:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Thursday, May 18 - 10:00 a.m. Evangelism/ Mission Meeting
10:30 a.m. Communion at Bristol Health Care

Sunday, May 21 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class
A study on I Peter Chapter 3 (Lect'y-I Peter 3:13-22) Bruce Henderson, Leader
10:45 a.m. Worship

Monday, May 22 - 7:00 p.m. "AA" Mtg.

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group

Sunday, May 28 - 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class
Final Class on I Peter—Chapters 4 and 5
(Lect'y—I Peter 4:12-14 and 5:6-11) Bruce Henderson, Leader
10:45 a.m. Worship

Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day
Church Closed

Wednesday, May 31 - 11:30 a.m.
Prayer Group

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 6 - Nancy Seward
7 - David Bell
8 - Ralph Strickland
14 - Irene Noble
16 - Patty Strickland
31 - Andrew Hays



MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May 8 - Ginny and George Hartwell
11 - Juliet and Bob Getty
16 - Tammy and William Niebling
29 - Iva and Maurice Bailey

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2017</h1>						
	1 7:00 p.m. "AA" Mtg.	2 3:45 p.m. Choir	3 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. Circle Mtgs.	4	5	6 1:30 p.m. Women Faith Awards
7 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship PW Birthday Offering	8 7:00 p.m. "AA" Mtg.	9 3:45 p.m. Choir	10 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. P.W.C.T. Mtg.	11 9:30 a.m. Worship Mtg. 10:00 a.m. Retirement Cele. Mtg.	12	13
14 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:345 a.m. Worship	15 7:00 p.m. "AA" Mtg.	16 3:45 p.m. Choir	17 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group 3:00 p.m. Session Mtg.	18 10:00 a.m. Evangelism/ Mission Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Communion	19	20
21 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	22 7:00 p.m. "AA" Mtg.	23	24 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group	25	26	27
28 9:30 a.m. Adult Class 10:45 a.m. Worship	29 Memorial Day Church Closed	30 Pastor Hays on vacation May 30 -June 2	31 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group			

Presbyterian Women
May, 2017



May 6, 1:30 PM at the church

Come and honor Betty Sumey and Florence Vonderohe with your presence as they receive the Woman of Faith Award.

Refreshments will follow.

See more details in this newsletter.

"According to Other Abrahamic Faiths" is the 8th study for this year in our circles which will meet on **Wed., May 3 at 1:30**. This may seem strange for a Christian Bible Study, but as women of faith we should be informed about how these traditions view Jesus. It promises to be an interesting discussion..

Martha Mary Circle will meet at the Residents Cottage in Bristol Village. Sandy Hlasten will lead the lesson and Kay Weir will be the hostess.

Esther Circle will meet at the home of Elaine Zingg and Karen Henderson will lead the study. The Circle is responsible for the birthday party on May 11 at 2:00 PM at the Bristol Village Health Center.

Our nominating committee has been hard at work and at our Gathering on June 7 the following people will be nominated as members of the Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team for our church. If other names are presented for nomination they must have given previous consent. The slate will be presented for election at that time.

Many thanks to Irene Noble and Elinor Hodder for their work.

Co-Moderators: Sandy Hlasten and Kay Puckett

Secretary: Barbara Pettit

Treasurer: Audrey Tysen

Mission Interpretation: Evelyn Baker

Circle Leaders: Saundra Andrews and one other

Nominating Committee: Elinor Hodder and one other

"Go in love, for love alone endures." Evelyn Baker, Moderator

You are invited
to join in a special presentation of Woman of Faith awards to
Betty Sumey and Florence Vonderohe
by the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

On Saturday, May 6 at 1:30 PM there will be a special service to honor Betty and Florence. The PW Coordinating Team of the Presbytery will be here and will present them with their awards. All of the church is invited to share in this and to visit over some light refreshments following the service.

Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering - May 7

The Birthday Offering is a PW offering received in the spring of each year to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women. We will be dedicating the offering in worship on May 7. Contributions may be made before that at any time. The offering funds up to five projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support, such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns. Men and women may contribute to the offering. Some people give a coin or dollar amount reflective of their age.

You can learn more at <http://pma.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/birthday/>

Committee For the
Celebration of Rick's Retirement

Committee Members:

Gary Baker, Chair
Barbara Patterson, Secretary
Don Netzley
Ann Young
Kitty Neely
Sharon Weaver

The committee met for the first time on March 30, 2017 and got organized.

It was decided that the celebration for Rick's Hays' retirement will be held on September 23 at 5:00 p.m. It will be held in the church sanctuary and the dinner will be catered. Tickets will be sold for the dinner and details of the program will be worked on by the committee from this time forth. Help from all sources will be welcome. Information will be shared with the congregation as it becomes available.

OUR SESSION AT WORK
by Elaine Oser Zingg, Clerk of Court

Two major property issues were discussed at the April Session meeting. The first had to do with how to deal with the expanding cracks in our parking lot. The parking lot has served us well since our present church was dedicated October 7, 2001. The cracks can be treated with hot rubber base crack filler, which would tide us over for a while. But, the Session is considering a complete overhaul of the asphalt drive and parking lot, which will be expensive, but a good investment. Estimates were discussed, and the consensus was that the Session wanted further clarification of what will be done. Once this is obtained, we will hold a Special Session Meeting to vote on the issue and settle on the cost.

The other property issue was to replace the ash trees on the property that died and needed to be removed. This will involve purchasing ten eight foot trees at \$30 each plus labor. The person doing our landscape maintenance is recommending we use maple trees. The Session approved proceeding with this plan.

The committee planning for a celebration of Rick's retirement has chosen September 23rd at 5:00 p.m. at the church for the celebration and catered dinner. Now would be a good time to put that date on your calendar.

Scripture Texts for Sunday Worship, May 2017

These are the scheduled readings for each Sunday. The bold reading is the planned preaching text.	
May 7	Acts 2:14a, 42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25 ; John 10:1-10 Pastor Rick: "Voluntary or Involuntary Poverty" Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 14	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14 Pastor Rick: "The Roominess of GOd" Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 21	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22 ; John 14:15-21 Pastor Rick: "Are You a Clear Spiritual Bottle?" Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 28	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 ; John 17:1-11 Pastor Rick: "Are You Being Chased?" Seventh Sunday of Easter

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

April 28, 2017

Ministers for Community: Every Member

Pastor: Richard S. Hays

Stated Supply: Charlotte O'Neil

Secretary: Barbara Patterson

Clerk of Session: Elaine Zingg

Choir Director: Karen Henderson

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Treasurer: Robert Neely

Ministers for Vision and Mission: Session:

<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
Jim Clark	Elinor Hodder	Evelyn Baker
Dimitry Sergay	Audrey Tysen	Don Netzley
Elaine Zingg	Barbara Patterson	Bob Penrose

MINISTERS FOR MEMBER CARE: DEACONS

Bud Hobday Ann Oyer Anne Young

MINISTERS SERVING IN OTHER PLACES

Pike County Outreach Council of Churches

Mark, Jenny, Kella Rosa & Anika Estela Hare Papay, Haiti

Esther Wakeman, Payap University, Chiang Mai Thailand

At Bristol Health Care

444 Cherry St. Waverly, Ohio 45690

Virginia Hartwell - 102

Allen Heinmiller- 14 A

Earl Todt - 117

The Gardens

Gerry Barnes - 210

Jay Early -211

Lois Hardy - 202

Patty Todt - 212

At Home

Jackie Barnes, Mack and Jean Earnhardt, Oscar and Janet Marsh, Patricia Schiemann, Rosann Severding

In Other Places

Judith Harrell, Kitty McCollam

In Military Service

Sarah Kolb, Kacie Lee,

May Worship Assistants:

- May 7 - Otto Zingg
- 14 - Irene Clark
- 21 - Elaine Zingg
- 28 - Don Netzley

May Greeters:

- May 7 - Ruth Karner & Bill Johnson
- 14 - Elinor Hodder & Florence Vonderohe
- 21 - Irene & Glenn Noble
- 28 - Cay & Dick Roberts

May Counters:

- May 7 - Mike Milam and Bob Neely
- 14 - Jim Clark and Kay Weir
- 21 - Betsy Hall and Nancy Seward
- 28 - David Bell and Anne Young

May Ushers:

- May 7 - Robert Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell, Ralph Strickland
- 14 - Iva Bailey, Ann Oyer, Wanda Stratton
- 21 - Bud Hobday, Dimitry Sergay, Ivan Sumey
- 28 - *va Bailey, Ann Oyer, Wanda Stratton*

May Coffee Hour Hosts:

- May 7 - Elaine & Otto Zingg
- 14 - Cay and Dick Roberts
- 21 -
- 28 - Donut Sunday

May Flowers:

- May 7 -
- 14 - Tammy and William Niebling
- 21 -
- 28 -

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Address Service Requested

AMEN CORNER

Grace and Gratitude

by Joe Small, Presbyterian Foundation

"Grace" is more than a theological platitude, and "gratitude" is more than a casual "thank you." Both "grace" and "gratitude" are verbal entrances to a mansion of meaning that can be explored, but never owned. British philosopher Roger Scruton's 2010 Gifford Lectures, published as *The Face of God* (Bloomsbury, 2012) includes a perspective on grace and gratitude that may display a room previously unexplored.

There is surely a great difference, which we all understand, between seeing something as just there (there for the taking) and seeing it as a gift. Only what is owned can be given, and gifts therefore come wrapped in the perspective of the giver, who has claimed them as 'mine,' and also relinquishes that claim for another's sake. And the one who receives something as a gift receives it as a mark of the other's concern for him; gratitude is not just normal – it is the recognition that the thing has really been given, and is not the first step in a bar-

gain. Gifts involve conscious reflection on self and other, on rights and duties, on ownership and its transcendence. Hence they can only be offered I to I, and gifts are acts of acknowledgment between persons, in which each recognizes the freedom of the other.

Scruton's insight may help us to think more deeply about the gifts we receive from God and about our response. It may also help us to think more deeply about ourselves as givers of gifts to others. It may even help us to ponder God's love and the shape of our response of loving God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to ponder the shape of our loving neighbors as we love ourselves.

"The stewardship of all of life" is a common phrase, yet too often stewardship is reduced to an annual program, the annual program is reduced to the means to achieve an end, and the end is reduced to the church budget. "Gratitude for all of life" may be a way to broaden and deepen our understanding and our use of the gifts God has given us.