



First Presbyterian Church

Courier

October 2023

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**211 Schmitt Drive
Waverly, OH 45690
740-947-2905**

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

October 1, 2023

MINISTERS FOR THE COMMUNITY: EVERY MEMBER

Pastor: Jane B. Johnson

Secretary: Bobbie Hall

Clerk of Session: Elaine Zingg

Choir Director: Edy Panjaitan

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Pianist: Edy Panjaitan

Treasurer: Michael Milam

MINISTERS FOR VISION AND MISSION: SESSION:

Class of 2023

Susan Thomas

Joyce Holben

Class of 2024

John Mikelson

Barbara Pettit

Elaine Zingg

Class of 2025

Pat Mikelson

Jewell McCliment

Barbara Taphorn

MINISTERS FOR MEMBER CARE: DEACONS

Tom Hlasten

Irene Clark

Barbara Patterson

COMMITTEES:

Discipleship and Worship: Pastor Jane

Evangelism & Mission: Pat Mikelson

Fellowship: Barbara Taphorn

Finance & Stewardship: Susan Thomas

Congregant Care: Joyce Holben

Nominating: Pat Mikelson

Personnel: Pat Mikelson

Presbytery: Barbara Pettit

Presbyterian Women: Pat Penrose

Property: Barbara Pettit

Technology/Communication: John Mikelson

MEMBERS SERVING IN OTHER PLACES:

- Allen Wollenberg, Pike County Outreach Council of Churches
- Mark, Jenny, Kella Rosa, and Aika Estela O'Hare
Papay-Costa Rica
- Jim McGill, *Sudan*

We are open for worship in the church at 10:15 am. Masks are optional, but recommended. Fellowship Hour follows after worship. We continue to have worship on line each Sunday morning at 10:15 am. You can tune in by your computer or telephone.

If you are using a computer to connect: Open your computer browser (Internet Explorer, Chrome or Safari) Enter <https://zoom.us> 542 773 5626 in the address bar. Follow screen instructions. Password: 6NgnrH

If you are using a phone to connect, dial 312-626-6799 and then enter ID:

542 773 5626#.

When prompted for a password enter 355142#.



BRIDGEHAVEN NEEDS OUR HELP

ALLEN WOLLENBERG

On August 20, 2023 I reported to our congregation that as the congregation's representative, I attended a meeting of the Pike Outreach Council. We were informed that Bridgehaven, Pike Outreach's homeless shelter will run out of funding by the end of this year. Not long ago the Food Closet, the other major program of Pike Outreach had to cut back by relying on volunteer help to operate. However special funding, not available to Bridgehaven and sources of food for distribution to the hungry, as well as more volunteer help seem to meet the needs of the program. Additional donations of food and money (some by our congregation) also are a great help.

Bridgehaven offers a very important ministry in our area and I feel strongly that we need to help supply the additional support that is needed. Bridgehaven, the ONLY homeless shelter in Pike County is a small shelter with 16 beds. It provides housing and services support to men, women and families during times of true crises. Examples of homeless situations in Pike County include: a person loses their

home and a job through injury or illness; a relationship ends and the woman and children have no place to go; a family that lived with relative who died now has no place to live.

Individuals or families can stay at Bridgehaven for 60 days while they follow a program to find employment and permanent housing. Bridgehaven's staff provide supportive services and coordinate closely with the other county support services.

Through our annual church budget Pike Outreach receives support, I think that Bridgehaven receives budgeted funds and was awarded the 2023 Matthew 25 \$1000 grant specifically to support children of families staying at the shelter. But more is needed and I believe we can do that. This is not just one church or a few church's job to provide adequate funding for this ministry. Because people of the whole county can be served by this ministry, as many churches, businesses, and organizations of the county should be contacted and join in providing the

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BRISTOL VILLAGE



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BRIDGEHAVEN NEEDS OUR HELP (continued)

funding for Bridgehaven. However, as one church in the area, I suggest that it was well within most of our means to give \$10 per month to this special fund for a couple of years. Twenty individuals or couples giving \$10 dollars a month would equal \$2400 a year. I believe we can do

that. You recall that Jesus as He traveled to many areas paid a lot of attention to those he came upon including those who were living under very difficult circumstances. As followers of Jesus Christ let's hear a call coming to us to do the same.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will meet on Wednesday, October 4, 1:30 PM at the church.

We will continue with our study of **Sacred Encounters** with *Lesson 2, The Exorcism in Gerasa* led by our study leader **Joyce Holben**. Remember to bring your *Pledge Offering* and your offering for the *Least Coin*.

The hostesses for the meeting are **Karen Henderson** and **Barbara Taphorn**.

Mark your calendar now to plan on attending the Fall Gathering of PW/PSV to be held on October 28, 2023, at Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, OH. We hope that many from our group will be able to attend.

We look forward to seeing you at our October meeting and remember, you can always bring someone new with you to join us.

CONGREGANTS' CARE COMMITTEE

We are encouraged as followers of God's promises to reach out to others with Christ's love. We need to remind ourselves daily as we ask God's forgiveness that we are Christ's merciful body – hands, eyes, and ears – in this earthly

kingdom. Let's use our prayer list in this newsletter to pray and act in Christ's name. Each of us can select a name or two and send a card, or make a call, and extend Love to another!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

TURKEY or CHICKEN GRAVY
packets or cans

canned
SWEET POTATOES OR YAMS

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

STOVETOP OR BOXED STUFFING

CANNED GREEN BEANS

CANNED CORN





MISSION CONNECTIONS

A program of Presbyterian World Mission • pcusa.org/missionconnections

Fall 2023



Watering the Earth, Restoring God's People

Jim McGill
*Mission co-worker
serving in Niger*

Dear friends and family,

I began following Sojourner magazine's monthly devotionals "Living the Word" online last year when former moderator of the PC(USA), Rev. Denise Anderson was a contributing author. The Sunday, July 16th lectionary reading included the following passage from Isaiah 55:

*Just as rain and snow descend from the skies
And don't go back until they've watered the earth,
Doing their work of making things grow and blossom,
Producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry,
So will the words that come out of my mouth not come
back empty-handed.
They'll do the work I sent them to do,
They'll complete the assignment I gave them.*
(The Message)

This passage caught my attention as our rains here in Niger have just started – and everywhere you look, you witness the work of the rains in making things grow and blossom. Everyone is busy sowing their gardens with the expectation that those seeds will provide the coming year's sustenance, such that the rains' assignment will be completed.

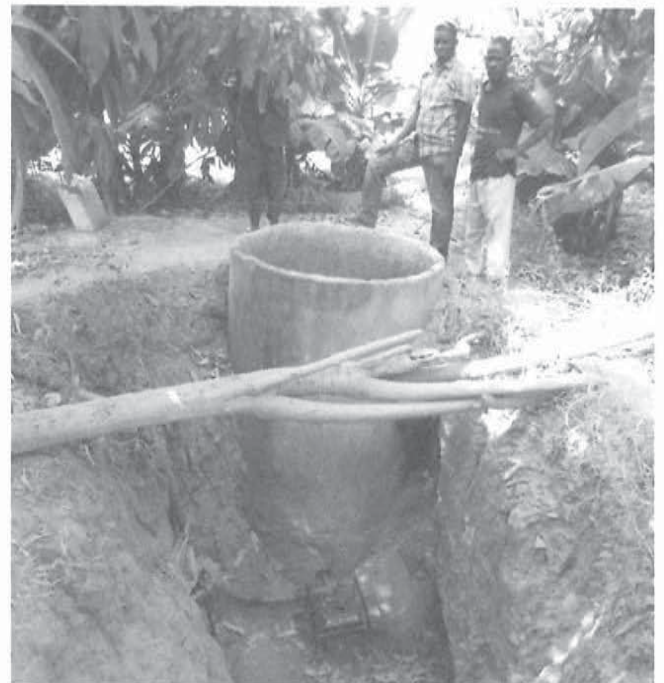
Isaiah then continues that just as the rain descends for our provision, so also the Word has been given with a purpose. The wholistic ministry of our partner church, the EERN, hears the call from the Word to invite the stranger in, to clothe those in need, to visit the prisoner. It believes the work they have been sent to do includes looking after the sick, feeding the hungry, and giving drink to the thirsty.

While everyone celebrates the rains and a return to the fields, several problems arise during this time. Surface waters from the rains mean more

mosquitos and more malaria. Surface water also creates pathways for water-borne disease transmissions, including typhoid. The rains also are indicative of a time of more hunger, as the harvest from the previous year becomes depleted before this year's crops are harvested. So, the beginning of the rains also signals a time when illnesses are more prevalent.

However, we know that great problems often allow for great opportunities. I would like to share two recent opportunities for health that are coming through the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger's (EERN) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme (WASH) that could help that Word bring hope to the people of Niger.

One opportunity that can help in feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty is through simple 'recharge' technologies that channel rainwater down to replenish aquifers. The people in Niger live in an ecosystem that is named the "Sahel," a transitional zone between the Sahara Desert to the north and the savannah lands south that receives between 200 to 600 mm (8 to 24 inches) annual rainfall. While this is an adequate amount of water to sustain life within the Sahel, much of that rain runs to seasonal rivers that carry



People digging down to get place their pumps deeper as the water table drops from over-extraction of water.

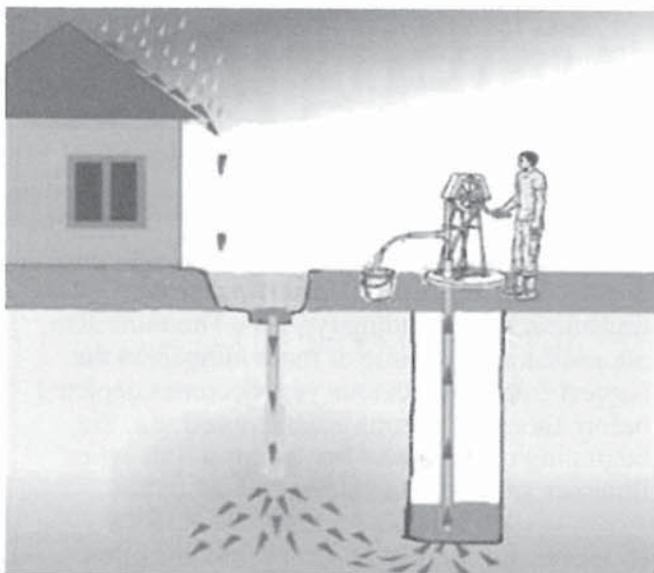


Diagram showing how simple household recharge wells can help reverse the trend of having the water table dropping from over-extraction of water.

water to the Atlantic or runs to pools where the water evaporates rather than “watering the earth” to be stored in an aquifer and extracted as needed. As it only rains from July to September within the Sahel, people are dependent upon extracting water from aquifers for domestic use and for growing crops. We have been observing areas near Maradi where people must dig deeper every year to access groundwater, indicating that more water is being extracted than being returned. EERN WASH is therefore implementing household recharge wells as part of family-managed water systems and is working with governmental and other organizations to implement sand dams and other recharge systems to ensure that extraction and input are balanced, and water will always be available.

Another opportunity is coming via increased international attention on typhoid, a disease endemic to Niger. Typhoid is spread through contaminated drinking water and food, poor

sanitation and hygiene that results from a lack of latrine use, and contaminated surface water. EERN is actively addressing all of these problems through interventions that are foundational to its WASH program. Galmi Mission Hospital, a 180-bed hospital about three hours west of Maradi, has always taken care of patients with typhoid, with too many children who do not survive the disease. Beginning this summer (2023), Galmi Hospital has been added to a University of Maryland research program that is funded by the Gates Foundation and others with the goal of improving typhoid vaccines.

Having heard positive stories resulting from the 1 evangelist/1 well program of EERN WASH, Galmi Hospital approached EERN WASH to ask if we might be able to provide safe water in villages where they are seeing typhoid. In April, Mr. Joel Labo of EERN WASH in Maradi and I were asked to visit with the pastor at Sabon Gida, where, in 2018, Galmi Hospital had drilled a well and installed a solar pump. The pump has disappeared, and the pastor now uses a bailer to draw water from the well – which certainly can be rectified within the scope of the program. But more importantly, it was evident that our WASH programs will certainly reduce incidences of typhoid, while, at the same time, improving livelihoods. The new international focus on an endemic problem of typhoid is opening new opportunities around Galmi that can help fund the WASH programs.

Back in the U.S., I was able to join the family in May for John and Joseph’s high school graduation. It was great to be back together with the family, and we will look forward to the next visit after Thanksgiving.

Thanks, as always, for all of your support, and we continue to pray for peace for each of you and for our world.

Jim

Thank you for reading our letter!

Please consider supporting Presbyterian Mission through our ministry. We are grateful for your prayers, personal communication and financial support.

Gifts may be sent to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

On the memo line, please write:

“In honor of Jim McGill’s ministry—E132192” (individual giving)
“In honor of Jim McGill’s ministry—D500115” (congregational giving)

Give online: pcusa.org/james-and-jodi-mcgill

For more ways to engage in Presbyterian Mission, please email mission.support@pcusa.org.

Thank you for your faithful support.

PRESBYTERY REPORT

HELD AT COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN AND VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 3:30 PM
It was good to be in the Presbytery meeting to see how the 85 churches in our Presbytery work together. I was on Zoom since I had a medical appointment earlier in the afternoon. It seems to me that there were half of the attendees on Zoom and half in person.

We were called to worship by prayer and reading of selections from Matthew 25. Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis, Co-moderator of the 225th General Assembly, reminded us of our application of love in Matthew 25 context. Amira Barham, International Peacemaker in Palestine, shared her testimony. She told of some of the tragedies that Palestinians have had since the 1948 war in Israel. She reminded us that our taxes go to support Israel government; we can send letters to congress members about our concern. When we vote, we should think about the foreign policy of those running for office. We should be speaking up for human rights and peace. It was good to see and hear her again since she had been to our church to share her message the previous Saturday. Two Ruling Elders were commissioned for service in the presbytery.

Transitional General Presbyter, Rev. Kathy Nice, updated us on her work. She has worshiped and/or preached in 28 of the 85 churches in our presbytery. She has attended 47 meetings in the churches.

Stated Clerk, Rev. Bill Gause, reported that the Book of Order is in print now with the changes made in the most recent General Assembly. One of the major changes is that there must be a minimum of 12-weeks emergency paid-leave.

The Synod report was given by Rev. Jonathon Carlisle. Forty-four awardees from nine Presbyteries for a total of \$40,500 won the Matthew 25 scholarships for Christian Leaders. 23 of the winners self-identified as Black, Korean, Asian, or African. Applications for Matthew 25 Grants for Congregations Working to Build Congregational Vitality, Dismantle Structural Racism, and/or Eradicate Systemic Poverty for up to \$5000 are due by 9-30-23. (Our Mission and Evangelism Committee is aware of the deadline.) There are several Zoom workshops available: Preaching Workshops, Child Sexual Abuse Protection Training, The Leader's Table, and Boundaries Training. Synod again offers a virtual worship service for use on the morning of Christmas Eve. For more information, visit www.synodofthecovenant.org.

Commission for Congregational Life: RE Yvonne Gustafson reported that the final report of the Marysville Administrative Commission was presented. Conflicts and issues were fully addressed as the commission “walked with” Marysville as the congregation tackled them. “It was

PRESBYTERY REPORT (continued)

hard work—well done!” Thanks to Jane Johnson for her work on the commission.

Commission for Church

Professionals: Rev. Joel Esala, brought the option to adopt the revised Fulltime Positions Policy for second reading and vote. Motion passed. The annual retreat will be held November 12-14 at Hocking Hills Conference Center.

Commission for Nurture and

Outreach: RE Stephen Hills announced the annual PIE Training workshop will be held on January 20, from 9-3, at Covenant Church in Columbus. Rev. Taylor Barner’s call to Jacob’s Porch, a campus ministry at Ohio State University-Columbus, was approved as a Validated Ministry. Taylor invited churches and/or members to visit him and consider being involved in the ministry. Fireside Chats will be held Sept. 28 and Oct. 26 from 3-5 at Rusty Bucket. Five Neighborhood Grants were awarded this year: weekend food for children, furniture/appliance bank, pollinator garden, after-school Bible School, and clothing and diapers. To the Matthew 25 Initiative, “Climate Change/Care of the Earth” is a newly added focus. Speakers on the topic of climate change are planned for pre-presbytery event in November and at the PIE Training session in January.

Commission for Presbytery

Operations: RE Jim Hines reported that St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church closed in June. A legacy agreement was

diligently worked on and presented for adoption. It was passed. This is a way to work with churches in transition. The agreement established an administrative commission to undertake administrative responsibilities set forth in the agreement, approval and procedures for sale, establishment of St. Andrew Fund, dispensing of residual assets, legacy activities, and other points. There was the First Reading of the 2024 Budget Proposal. Note that this is one budget proposal formed by Commission for Presbytery Operations. See next paragraph regarding budget. The report from Discernment and Design Commission had the first reading and details of its work. If the report and new model is approved from Discernment & Design administrative Commission at November Presbytery meeting, the budget included in that report will be the one for which we will vote. If it is not passed, the 2nd reading of the budget noted in previous paragraph will be the one for which we will vote. I am excited about the new model; it specifically separates the work of presbytery into outreach and congregation concerns. Some of the highlights are: establishing position of Associate Presbyter for Congregational Life and Transitions; creating a Commission on Ministry (most responsibilities of the current Commission on Congregational Life and Commission on Church Professionals); creating a Commission on Preparation for Ministry; reframing the current Commission on Nurture and Outreach as the Commission on Justice,
(continued on inside back cover)

OCTOBER

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	2	3	4 Disciple- ship Class 4 pm	5 W&D 1:30 pm	6	7
8 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am Pete Dunn speaks Fellowship Hour	9 COLUMBUS DAY Office Closed Fellowship 1 pm	10	11 M&E 2:30 pm Disciple- ship Class 4 pm	12 Finance 10 am Clergy Breakfast 9 am	13	14
15 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	16	17	18 Session 1:30 pm Disciple- ship Class 4 pm	19 Session Reports due Courier Articles due	20	21
22 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	23	24	25 Disciple- ship Class 4 pm	26 Prime Thyme Gardening 5:30 pm	27	28
29 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am Courier Published	30	31 HALLOWEEN				

**Remember in Prayer:**

Maurice Bailey
Gary Baker
Marilyn Beilstein
Dan Beilstein
Irene & Jim Clark
Jeanne Conrad
John Dawson
Monica Dawson
Jean Earnhardt
Glenn Franklin
Jerry Hall
George Hartwell
Bruce Henderson
Janet Marsh

Jewell McCliment
Marty Miller
Barbara Patterson
Tom Patterson
Pat Penrose
Babsy Pettit
Steve Rhoades
Jeff & Nancy Sapienza
Rosann Severding
Nancy Seward
Lew Stratton
Angie Strewsbury
David Stinnett
Melissa Stinnett
Sue Thomas

Allen Wollenberg
Judy Wollenberg
Ruth Wonnell
Elaine Zingg

Bristol Health Care:

George Hartwell - 105
Bill Johnson - 113
Janet Marsh - 24
Nancy Seward - 205
Judy Wollenberg - 312

Birthdays:

Ann Oyer - 5

PRESBYTERY REPORT (continued from page 7)

reflect better its mission; using Per Capita, Mission, Church Development and St. Andrew Legacy funds to make investments in our future.

During this presentation, I was reminded of Isaiah 43:18ff that we have heard several times this year in church—from THE MESSAGE: “*Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert,*

be present. I am about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it? There it is!”

Presbytery meeting was adjourned at 7 PM with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Babsy Pettit, Commissioner to Presbytery

GREETERS

October Emma Edgington
 Martha Whitehouse
 Barbara Taphorn

LITURGISTS

October Joyce Holbein
November Bruce Henderson

EST.



1842

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF WAVERLY

211 Schmitt Drive
Waverly, OH 45690

The Amen Corner

