



# Steeple Notes

First Presbyterian Church of Huron

Pastor Joel Stevenor

August 2016



## Kids Art Café



Another great year for Kids Art Café. It was a full house (with a wait list). We are grateful to our helpers for all their hard work and dedication to draw children closer to the heart of Christ.



We are very proud of our Kids Worship Team: Anabelle and Danny Ryu, Matthew, Dan and Sam Toldy.

A big thank you to the Kids Art Café team: Pastor Joel, Agnes Toldy, Kim Ryu, Jann Glann, Cynthia Brown, Leslie Griffin, Tira Serano, Renee Grime, Janet Mueller, Sarah Blakeman, Cindy Kaman, Connie Litz, Ellen Drumm, Lesa Guerrera, Kristin Allen, Lisa Polack, Chris Hakeman and her wonderful people from Christ Community Meal.

August already, the doorstep to Autumn. I was working in my yard recently and noticed the change in nature as the summer nears its end, the song of the late summer locust, the slowing of growth of flowers and grass, although lack of rain has hastened the process, but the weeds flourish. The heat and lack of rain has no effect on them. In fact, it seems to encourage their growth.

I was thinking about how life is so very similar. When the heat of stress attacks us, the weeds of impatience and anger grow quickly. The only way I know to combat these weeds is finding a place of peace, where we can rejuvenate, where we can separate out what is important and what is really just nonsense. And that place is different for everyone. Many jokingly refer to as "my happy place." For me, I like to think of it as my place of God Light.

I am sure it is no surprise that my dogs are my God Light--they remind me about what unconditional love really is. Even if they have been in trouble, their first reaction is to jump in my lap. Why can't we do the same with our Creator? Why can't we jump into the lap or arms of God? It seems simple, but we certainly don't do it very well. Maybe it is because unlike our pets, our love for God is conditional. Give me what I want, or why don't you punish those people, or I don't like....., I need more.... You fill in the blank.

We could learn a great lesson from the love of a pet. They don't ask for anything but relationships (and of course an occasional treat.) Their first reaction in stress is to move closer to us. Would that we could do the same with God. What would that do to change us and consequently the world?

Blessings, Joel

OUR THANKS to those who helped park cars during Riverfest and the Red, White, & Boom festival - Patti Smith, Chris Hakeman, Ed Olsteen, Ron Ruble, Marc Martter, Cynthia Brown, Rick Matthews, John Bickell, and Bob & Marcie Muntz. We raised \$1,940 for the church general fund.



We put a much needed coat of fresh paint on Fellowship Hall! The work was done by Linkenbach Painting in mid-July. Cost was about \$2,500. Stop by and take a look.



## Presby Mouse —

Hi! It has been awhile since I have written something. I am Presby Mouse. My family has lived at this church for many generations.

This has been a busy summer. New landscaping has been planted. Walls have been painted. Floors have been waxed. (I learned the hard way that fresh floor wax can really slow a mouse down.)

Kids Art Café was an exciting time. The church was full of busy volunteers and happy children. I was fascinated watching the kids complete their art projects. Who knew you could paint boat sails by blowing bubbles! Anges is so creative. And let me just say, the lunch was yummy every day. Annabelle, Danny, Matthew, Dan, and Sam did a great job as leaders.

The summer services have been a blessing. After hearing Pastor Joel's story about the exploding tomato plant, I just can't help laughing every time I pass by one. Joel is one funny guy. He is also one busy pastor. I must say I am having trouble keeping up with him. He loves to do home and hospital visits. (Just give him a call.) One day when I saw that Joel was heading out, I jumped in his pocket and was rewarded with a visit with Bob Lippus.

Get ready from some excitement. Pastor Joel and Bob Muntz have been doing some talkin'. And do they have some fun events planned for us this fall. More on that next month.



## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

PDA joins in grieving with the three communities affected by public violence this July. PDA has reached out to the affected presbyteries to offer assistance and support as they respond to those affected and to the community as a whole. Deployment of National Response Team members skilled in trauma response and emotional and spiritual pastoral care have been made available. Initial community grants have also been offered to each prestery to support their congregations' response in these events, and are in process at this moment.

## Labyrinth Training

By Sister Breta Gorman

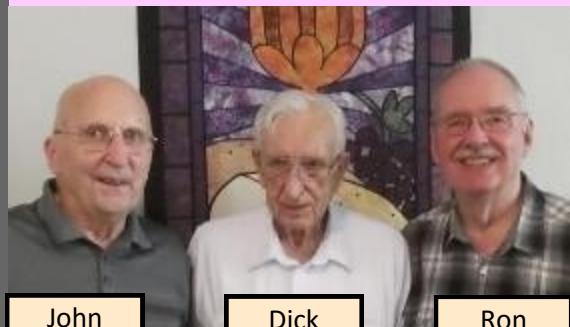
From Our Lady of the Pines, Fremont

Walking the Labyrinth quiets the mind, opens the heart and grounds the body ... Some find answers to questions long asked, some find healing, creativity, a sense of wholeness ... What will you find on your labyrinth journey? Come to the Labyrinth Training on August 10th at 6:30 pm To register call 419-433-5639. Huron's Labyrinth is located behind the Lutheran Church on 930 Main Street.

## Fun Facts

Can you match the Fun Fact with the person. All three men had very interesting childhoods. Do you know who played sandlot baseball with a Hall of Famer's son? Whose childhood was spent working on a Pulitzer Prize winner's farm? Which guy designed the covered bridge for Cedar Point's Cadillac Car attraction?

*Answers on page 4.*



John Phillips

Dick Connerth

Ron Ruble

On July 7, 2016, fighting broke out in Juba between forces loyal to the vice-president and president. In the following 4 days, more than 300 people were killed and 36,000 were displaced. Leisa sheltered in place in Juba until evacuated on July 13th to Kenya. She is thankful for the prayers and solidarity of spirit that binds us together. Events are unfolding daily. You can keep informed at BBC News.

## A letter from Leisa Wagstaff



### serving in South Sudan

Let us pray together that the same peace found in these few areas grows stronger and spreads until every South Sudanese's testimony is, "Once upon a time we lived in a land of discord, fear and lack of basic needs on a daily basis and wondered why there was war; now I live in peace and prosper from it." In the meantime, no matter how many reports I read, news broadcasts I hear or sufferings I witness, I cannot answer why the war continues. Like them, I too am tired of the interruption of lives—from a person's birth to his/her death—and long and pray for peace and recommit myself to doing my part. ~Leisa

Dear Partners in Mission,

*I was born in war.  
I grew in war.  
I got snatches of simple schooling in war.  
I slept in mango groves to hide from war.  
I wore leaves as clothes in war because there was nothing else.  
I married in war and bore children in war.  
From birth till now,  
I'm still in war.  
I probably will die in war.*

One of my dear sister friends gave this testimony during a recent leadership development training. However, the account wasn't uniquely hers, for anyone under or over her age of 47 could lay claim to it. Maybe some of their accounts differ slightly in that they can include being a child soldier or war slave, or perhaps they can say that they witnessed the murder of every member of their family or saw their entire village burned to ashes. Nonetheless, she and so many others state that this inhumanity to humanity is something they can never wish upon another or forget, and they all long for the day when peace reigns in their homeland.

My sister friend is a fortunate one who has not forgotten how far she has come or what has been laid upon her heart. Her father wanted two things for his eight children, all girls: to have a deep abiding faith in Christ and to be educated so as to be able to care for themselves. Today she has become a leader as a caring pastor whose heart is for the strengthening of communities and the vibrancy of the church.

I am glad to have met this lady and to be encouraged, enlightened and challenged by her commitment, understanding of and love for people, experience, hospitality and gentle disposition. Sometimes when I am feeling as if I am not making progress in my work because I cannot check anything off of an ever-increasing "To Do" list, she reminds me that often hurting and struggling people do not necessarily want or need another to do anything, but just to be with them in spirit through prayer and understanding.

When listening to the residents as they engage in dialogue on what they want their communities and schools to look like and what they must be about, I hear them move closer and closer to feelings of empowerment and say very simple but profound truths about themselves, education and the Church. Among them: "Our tribe is the Church, not an ethnic group. ... You may see us as weak, but it is due to our lack of education. ... Our young girls only wait for marriage because there are no other options. ... Education cannot wait, WE must get started! ... Quality education is not just dependent upon a good building, but upon what happens inside the hearts, minds and souls of those inside of it. ... This is what we are capable of and are bringing to the effort. ... No one has to do for us, only partnership with us. If sand is needed, we know where the best sand is and will dig it and the men will carry it on their backs and the women on their heads; we don't mind the labor. ... We must change our future and the futures of those to follow."

I invite your prayers, correspondence and financial support of this ministry for another year. Thank you for your partnership as you join the people of South Sudan in their longing for and preparation for peace. ~Leisa Wagstaff



The Boys & Girls Club in Sandusky provides a much needed service to the children of Erie County. They had no way to transport the kids. So our church donated \$10,000 to help them make the purchase. Other donors were Cedar Point, The Randolph J & Estelle M Dorn Foundation, Grace Episcopal Church - Sandusky, and Mathews Ford.



We welcome some new friends to our church. The Kim family will be with us for one year before returning to Busan, South Korea. Jung Han Kim is an orthopedic surgeon who will be working with a teaching doctor at the Cleveland Clinic. His wife, Yeo Reum Kim, is Kimberly Ryu's sister. She is a biologist who enjoys playing jazz piano. Their two children are Eugenie Kim, 10, and Ji Woo Kim, 8.

Eugenie is an award winning pianist. Ji Woo likes to make robots. Don't worry he enjoys music too. He plays piano and violin. While in the US, they are living in Westlake. They are in need of some furniture. If you have any extra furniture, please contact Kimberly Ryu.

## Shared Dinner

It's time to start the the 10th season of our Shared Dinners! We normally start with a kick-off picnic in late August or early September (date not yet set). Then, have fall, winter, & spring group dinners in individual homes. The groups are usually about 8 church members or friends of our church. One person or couple serves as host and will contact the members of their group to arrange for the dinner. Together they decide when they will meet and what each diner will bring to the meal. The dinner groups change for each dinner. It's a great way to get to know members of our church. If you are interested in joining us or learning more, please call Bob Muntz (419-366-8280) or email him at [bobmuntz@aol.com](mailto:bobmuntz@aol.com).



Our quilters are busy at work on a beautiful white with blue cross-stitch, king sized quilt. This quilt top was donated by a friend and will be sold for the number of quilting hours (\$1 per hour). It will be finished this fall. The money raised from the sale of this quilt will be donated to Church World Service Blanket Fund. Contact a quilter if you are interested in buying the quilt.

## Fun Facts Answers

Dick Connerth had two fun facts: 1) he played sandlot baseball with Yankees Murderers Row Earle Combs' son; and 2) he spent a week in Venezuela with no clothes. His words. The airline lost his luggage. (He did have the clothes he wore on the plane.) Ron Ruble spent part of his youth in the county's children home. His father was away serving our country in WWII. His mother had to work to support the family. After the war, his father returned to being a herdsman. A job change brought them to Louis Bromfield's (Pulitzer Prize winner) Malabar Farm (which is now a state park). During college, John Phillips worked a summer for a civil engineering company where he did survey work for Cedar Point (laying out the track for their railroad) and designed the covered bridge used in the Cadillac Car ride.



# Seven Hundred and Fifty-five Words

By George L Bell, Pastor Emeritus

There are different kinds of "charges"? Tesla and cell phones are charged so they can function for a while. A Tesla car needs several charges to make a long trip. The "Solar Impulse" flying around the world is continually charged by the sun. A charge to a congregation should focus on the need for justice, freedom and creativity, and empower it to serve with love and generosity.

In a world torn by injustice and division, we focus on the welfare of all people. In a world poisoned by frozen concepts of God, we focus on how God loves change. When poverty or prejudice cripple minds and souls, we focus on equal opportunity. For those ravaged by war and terrorism, we offer welcome, hope and compassion. For those who have never felt love, we invite them to our table. This charge is meant for your reflection as you respond to a challenging mission.

This congregation has been my "beloved family" since I became your pastor in 1955. Radical changes were made in those thirty-seven years; new concepts, new techniques, and new programs. My memoirs are full of fascinating stories about how the Session served and led this church. Those days lead me to bring you ten charges.

**First charge:** *Don't turn back* - Genesis 19: 26: Lot's wife turned and became stone. So will you! Luke 9:6: Put your hand to the plow and look ahead. Your assignment is to design new tomorrows! Be **drawn** by new possibilities that lie ahead!

**Second Charge:** *Outdo others in giving* - John 6:9: A boy with five barley loaves and two fish... Started a huge picnic in an open field, twelve baskets left over! This charge? Take your "five loaves" next year prepare 10,000 meals for hungry people so you can experience a miracle of the "impossible!"

**Third Charge:** *Talk about issues that everyone else is afraid to talk about* - Galatians 3:28: There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female. For you are all one! Be informed by others! Grow by your differences! Make discussion an art in which you excel!

**Fourth Charge:** *Make being "born again" your style* - John 3: 3: Except you be born again you can not see the kingdom of God. Make this a congregation that loves new beginnings. Be recharged often like Tesla, or be continually charged like a solar airplane.

**Fifth Charge:** *Trust each other and trust yourself* - John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches." A vine requires trust and cooperation. Our world needs more people who are concerned about "the rest of us." Be a team that encourages and supports each other! That is the code of every mountain climbing expedition! Challenge people in this community who can not trust! Don't bully! Don't destroy anyone!

**Sixth Charge:** *Expect the unexpected* - James 4: 13: " You do not know what tomorrow will bring." John 11: Unexpected events surprise people! Expect God to continually surprise you When you meet needs others do not notice. Be prompt to meet opportunities.

**Seventh Charge:** *Let failures and problems be your teacher* - 2 Corinthians. 12: 9: "When I am weak, then I am strong." Learn while on the job and keep growing in capacity and efficiency like the developers of new technologies.

**Eighth Charge:** *Check your freedom level* - You may not be as free as you think you are! Notice what disgusts you; How many things disgust you; How often you are "disgusted!" Disgust empowers negativity and destruction that will keep you from reaching your potential.

**Ninth Charge:** *Use words that everyone on the street will understand* - John 8: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Matthew 5: He said, "You are the light of the world." When you talk about what God is doing in the world use words ordinary people understand like Jesus did! Not theological language!

**Tenth Charge:** *Outdo each other in making things beautiful* - Ecclesiastes 3:11 God has made everything beautiful in its time. Be creative and artistic, in what you do in this church, in your home, in your workplace, in this community, in the world, in your personal life!

To Summarize; Be a **WISE** congregation: **W**-welcoming, **I**-inclusive, **S**-supportive, **E**-engaged. Remember! The Bible is radical and revolutionary! Be stewards of God's creation. Include all people without exception. Make your goal to nurture and empower each other. Serve the world. Deal with problems justly and with compassion. Listen to God who is still speaking!

# August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- Aug 4 Handbell Choir practice at 6:30 pm  
 Aug 6 Car Wash 9am - noon (rain date Aug 13th)  
 Aug 10 Christ's Meal at 5 pm  
 Aug 10 F&M Committee Meeting at 7:30 pm  
 Aug 11 Handbell Choir practice at 6:30 pm  
 Aug 11 N&M Committee Meeting at 7:30 pm  
 Aug 17 Session Meeting at 7 pm  
 Aug 22 Steeple Notes Deadline  
 Aug 24 Christ's Meal at 5 pm  
 Aug 28 Kayaking at 1 pm  
 Aug 30 Little Wonders Open House

Hot Dog Monday  
is every Monday at Noon



Worship Committee's August  
meeting has been moved to  
September.



Join us for a fun afternoon of kayaking  
on Aug 28 at 1 pm. Erie MetroParks will  
be providing kayaks, life preservers, and  
paddles. If you are interested, please  
contact Chuck Kaman (419-433-6421 or  
chuckkaman419@gmail.com).

★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

- 11 Roberta Leimbach  
 12 Maggie Symmonds  
 13 Richard Haase  
 14 Kevin McGraw  
 16 Vern Schisler  
 17 Margaret Fauser  
 19 Sharon Roose  
 20 Tom Mueller  
 22 John Blakeman  
 24 Janis Brewer  
 30 Hugh Hanes  
 31 Jeannine Asher  
 31 Will Koenig

This will be Margaret's  
93rd birthday. She  
misses all of us.

Margaret Fauser  
 2362 Parsonage Rd  
 Unit 11 B  
 Charleston, SC 29414  
  
 (843) 212-3834

	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist	Flowers
Aug 7	John & Rita Phillips	Rachel Pratt & Sarah Blakeman	Steve Koenig	Connerth Family for Mary Jane
Aug 14	Scott & Sheri Ransom	Bob & Marcie Muntz	Agnes Toldy	McGraw Family for Kevin
Aug 21	Chuck & Cindy Kaman	Dr Tom & Tricia Williamson	Casey Wittmer	Patti Smith for Betsy and parents
Aug 28	Tammy Boos & Dan Robertson	Wilson & Ann Pullano	John Blakeman	Available Contact Pat Koch

**Communion Servers for Aug 7:** Casey Wittmer, Barb Haase, Rich Haase, and Rachel Pratt

Terry Burke will do the set-up for Communion