

The Fullness of Salvation



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Tommy Foley
& Zane Blasdel

Over the last few days I have been reading through the second and third chapters of Revelation which contain the letters to the seven churches. I have been specifically reading them and asking the Holy Spirit to convict me of anything that God may want to purge from my life through the Lenten Season. Last night at the Ash Wednesday service I read from both Isaiah 58 and Matthew 6. There is a commonality that exists in all of these passages; they speak of people who are religious, people who are seeking and worshipping God, people who in many ways are doing good things. Some of them are even commended for their work and faithfulness to God. And yet in each of these passages, they are each being called to deepen their faith, deepen their commitment, and deepen their desire for God. They are being called to pursue holiness and to love

and serve out of a pure heart for God alone. They are being called to cast aside selfish motives, hollow religiosity, and their innate desire to pursue sin and idolatry. In essence they are being called to continue the process of becoming more like Christ Himself. You and me, we are being called into this same process of transformation and the Lenten Season is an invitation to deepen our experience of the fullness of salvation.

I intentionally use the phrase and title "The Fullness of Salvation". In order for us to understand the deepening of which I speak in the previous paragraph it is helpful to reframe our understanding of "salvation". J. Richard Middleton in his book *A New Heaven and a New Earth* makes a great and helpful distinction between

continued on p. 12

Pioneer Clubs

We are now into our spring semester of Pioneer Clubs, but it is not too late to join in on the fun. Our current unit #4 is on Family, with Bible stories and activities around that theme, in addition to the usual pledges, music and games. To earn their Family Helper awards, PC kids have practiced sorting clothes for laundry, folding clothes, dusting and tidying a table top. The milk jug activity, considered a home improvement project, was to create a place to store plastic grocery bags. Each student attached the week's memory verse to a milk jug and decorated the rest of the surface with stickers, adding raffia to the handle. Join us Thursday nights at 6:00pm. Last gathering is April 2.



CCO AshlandXD



Kyle Wahl, Barouk Almaw, Jake Blasdel, Maggie Laginya

What is Next?

**Spring Break
Backpacking and Rock
Climbing Trip, Pisgah
National Forest, NC**
February 27-March 7

Please pray for safety and that each student will encounter God. The trip will consist of backpacking for four days and Rock Climbing for two.

Participants:
Ben M., Ben V., Ben B.,
AJ S., Jake E., Lisa K.,
Maggie L., Kayla B.

Instructors:
Jake Blasdel,
Matt Carpenter,
Nic Schwartz

“This Changes Everything” Jubilee 2015

February 20-22, we took 3 students to CCO Jubilee, Barouk, Maggie and Kyle. We also had with us my wife Bethany, Pastor Mike and Mandy, Lana Potter and Becky Sheeks. CCO’s purpose is to partner with churches, organizations and schools in order to develop young people to live out their faith in every area of life. Nothing sees this vision fleshed out more clearer than at Jubilee. We spend the weekend attending four main gatherings where we learn about the Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration biblical narrative and then have four workshops with an array of choices of how to live out your faith in the many facets of life.

Here are some quotes from two of the students:

“What Jubilee meant to me was learning how to truly live out being a Christian not only everyday, but also in my field of study. I will approach school differently by just being me and not try to hide myself from people just because they may not agree with my faith.” -Kyle

“Jubilee 2015 opened my eyes to new things. College should be thought of as a “Calling.” It is a chance to develop your mind, discover your gifts, and discern God’s call on my life. I now have a whole new perception. My experience at Jubilee changed everything.” -Maggie

Kyle Wahl and Jake Blasdel



CCO Ashland XD
*“transforming college students
to TRANSFORM THE WORLD.”*

Birthdays



MARCH

3/1 Terrence Webb
 3/6 Doug Click
 3/8 Tim Mast
 3/10 Cindy Click
 3/12 Matt Madden
 3/14 Meredith Beer
 3/15 William Downs
 Braylen Jarvis
 3/21 Karen Ford
 3/22 Lindsey Saffle
 Jordann Saffle
 3/24 Susan Keil
 3/26 Carl Armstrong
 3/27 Connie Nordstrom
 David Steury
 3/30 Danielle Conley
 3/31 Beverly Bixler

APRIL

2nd Carolyn Shenberger
 5th Carolyn Freer
 6th Vinny Foley
 Dex Sedwick
 7th Jamie Kash
 9th Judy Frame
 10th Sally Smetana
 11th JoAnn Ford Watson
 14th Linda McKibben
 15th Erin Skafec
 19th Jake Blasdel
 20th Brent Sponsler
 21st Anne Beer
 22nd Calder Leveck
 23rd Betty Plank
 25th Ronald Baum
 Bill Manos

MAY

1st Matthew Latham
 4th Jakin Parker
 8th William Beck
 Dee Eiserling
 Corinne Sedwick
 9th Lela Funk
 Jack Irvine
 11th Judith Webb
 12th Jean Hudkins
 Preston Sponsler
 13th John Saccomen
 Julia Schoonover
 18th Catherine Hiner
 20th Dick Bonesteel
 Judy Mengel
 25th Ellen Saccomen
 26th Matt McClain
 28th Angelica Morales
 Allison Skafec
 29th John Mast



Lily Order Form



In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

____ I/We will take my lily after April 5 Easter service.

____ Please deliver my lily to: _____

____ Please deliver my lily to a shut-in or person in need.

Please return this order form by Sunday, March 22 with your donation to either the church office or place it in the offering plate. Checks should be made payable to the First Presbyterian Church Deacons and please put "Lily" on the memo line. Thank you for your donation.

Financial Reports

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)

Consolidated - January 2015

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	Current Year
ASSETS	
CASH ACCOUNTS	
Sutton Bank Checking Acct	\$67,338.83
Janney Montgomery Scott	133,051.94
PayPal	2,007.80
Subtotal Cash Accounts	202,398.57
TOTAL ASSETS	\$202,398.57
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
200th Campaign Fund	\$22,159.93
CCO - College Ministry	595.00
Music Ministry Donations	
Mem. Fund/ Whitted/ Music	337.08
Memorial & Special Gifts	
Nancy Donley Estate	30,427.38
Rex & Jean Robbins Mem.	3,500.00
Subtotal Memorial & Special Gifts	33,927.38
Year End Liabilities	50.00
Youth Ministry	
ACCF - Johnson	1,619.09
Subtotal Current Liabilities	58,688.48
WITHHELD PAYROLL TAXES	
F.I.C.A.	543.59
Medicare	127.11
Federal Income Tax	443.22
State Income Tax	165.41
City Income Tax	131.49
Employer's Share FICA	543.59
Employer's Share Medicare	127.11
Subtotal Withheld Payroll Taxes	2,081.52
TOTAL LIABILITIES	60,770.00
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance	\$141,628.57
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	141,628.57
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$202,398.57

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FINANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2015**

<u>Contributions/Receipts</u>	<u>JAN. 2014</u>	<u>BUDGET 2015</u>	<u>JAN. 2015</u>
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pledges	\$33,837.00	\$14,166.67	\$29,376.26 *
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$2,837.25	\$5,416.67	\$8,750.50
Loose Offering	\$423.00	\$500.00	\$460.86
Prior Year Pledges	\$1,247.00	\$416.67	\$5,000.00
Church Use Donations	\$75.00	\$83.33	\$0.00
Whiting Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ACCF - Program	\$1,409.25	\$3,250.00	\$0.00
ACCF - Building	\$1,376.25	\$1,625.00	\$0.00
Stunz Mission Fund	\$589.00	\$625.00	\$0.00
Interest/Investment Income	\$9.72	\$7.08	(\$542.85)
Miscellaneous Income	\$28.63	\$375.00	\$60.49
Total Receipts	\$41,832.10	\$26,465.42	\$43,105.26
<u>Expenses</u>			
Personnel	\$15,301.78	\$17,239.33	\$17,077.10
Health Insurance	\$1,075.25	\$1,186.17	\$1,186.21
Property	\$5,621.31	\$1,860.41	\$1,920.23
Property Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities	\$2,728.28	\$1,856.67	\$2,491.88
Finance	\$95.20	\$29.16	\$42.00
Per capita assessment	\$5,124.77	\$0.00	\$0.00
Session Expenses	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$565.00
Worship/Music	\$0.00	\$139.18	\$0.00
Office	\$771.96	\$941.67	\$398.90
Discipleship	\$479.32	\$185.42	\$128.24
Pioneer Club	\$0.00	\$83.33	\$10.69
Stephen Ministry	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Mid Week Gathering	\$0.00	\$83.33	\$0.00
Formational Prayer/Training		\$83.33	\$0.00
College-Aged Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission /Giving /Support		\$791.67	\$0.00
DEACONS			
Invite	\$0.00	\$83.33	\$0.00
Connect	\$0.00	\$458.34	\$240.00
Send	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Deacons - Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$83.33	(\$443.75)
Total Expenses	\$31,447.87	\$25,754.67	\$23,616.50
EXCESS INCOME / EXPENSES	\$10,384.23	\$710.75	\$19,488.76

* Includes Prepaid pledges of \$22,433.76

200 *for* 200

Campaign Update

Last year, in honor of the 200th anniversary celebration of our church, we ran a campaign intended to provide funds for the following needs of the church:

- 1) Replacement of the heating system
- 2) Update and upgrade lighting in the sanctuary
- 3) Update audio and video in the sanctuary

The amount that has been pledged toward the 200 for 200 campaign is \$209,477.22. As of February 23rd, \$176,266.22 of this pledged amount has been collected, leaving an outstanding pledge balance of \$33,211.00. Payments totaling \$148,456.14 have been made to date, which leaves a current on hand amount available of \$27,810.08 for the next phase.

To date, the replacement of the boiler system has been completed, as well as the visual component of the audio/visual system and the 1st phase of the lighting project.

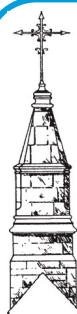
The second phase of the lighting project involves refurbishing the pendants for an approximate cost of \$28,700 plus the electrical costs associated with this. In order to start this next phase, we would like to have approximately \$40,000 available. Since we currently have almost \$28,000 in funds available, we plan to move forward when we have collected an additional amount of about \$12,000.

We are able to make these much needed and exciting improvements due to your past and continued support. Thank you for commitment to the life and ministry of our church.

Peggy Yoder, Treasurer



Wishing a very special Happy Anniversary to Harvey and Jean Hudkins who celebrate 65 years together on March 3rd.



Property Ministry Team

1. The heating system with new boilers is starting to show the savings we expected. The boilers have never been an issue but the control system interface has been pesky and sometimes not communicating. The last visit from Honeywell has it back on track. Many thanks to Bill Downs for staying in the loop.

2. The recent visit from Presbytery revealed many projects to be worked on in the coming year as funds are available. Some spruce up and fix up minor and major projects are up for consideration.

3. The next phase of the Capital Funds is nearly ready to fund. The center lights are to be refurbished. Requests for final cost estimates from our contractors are in the works. Our expectation is to have it completed in the next few months.

4. If you have a concern or notice a problem that needs some extra attention share it with a member of Property Commission or drop off a note in the office. It is an honor to maintain and care for our building.

If you have a talent to share, volunteer your expertise. There is a lot to do.

Bill Dravenstott



Are you a Stephen minister that has been inactive and now feel a rekindled fire to serve our Lord in this way? If so just call me and we can talk about how we can reenter you into the ministry.

Meetings now changed to last Tuesdays of the month at 10:45am.

Blessings, Tia Sponsler, 419-606-7155



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 29:

10:00am Worship with palm processional and Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 2:

7:00pm Worship with Communion, candlelight, and the choir.

Good Friday, April 3:

12:00-3:00pm Community Worship Service at Trinity Lutheran Church

7:00pm Service of Lament, more TBA

Resurrection Sunday, April 5:

9:00am Breakfast

No Sunday School

10:00am Worship with Communion

The Lenten Brown Bag study will continue to meet Thursdays from noon to 1:15 in the Knox room on the second floor. We will be studying 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Bring your lunch and your Bible.

Join us for food, fellowship, and a Bible study as a part of your Lenten season.



ACCESS
Our next week
to host is
March 29-April 5
at Peace
Lutheran Church



Thank You Note

Following one of the last snowfalls, two young men came to the door and said they had just shoveled out my driveway and that Pastor Mike had sent them. I am sorry that I did not get their names, but I was truly appreciative and want to thank Pastor Mike and Jake Blasdel for remembering me.

Betty Plank

Presbyterian Mother's Study

March 2015 - Monday, March 23rd -

PMS meeting @ Applebee's @ 5:30 pm -
Continue planning for All Daughter Banquet

April 2015 - Monday, April 6th - Shop for the
All Daughter Banquet - decorations, prizes,
etc. We will plan to leave around 5 pm.

Sunday, April 26th - All Daughter Banquet -
5 pm in Fellowship Hall - Carnival Theme

June 2015 - Monday, June 15th - Meet at the
Yoder Cabin @ 7 pm. Plan dates and events
for the upcoming year.



**STEP RIGHT UP
TO THE CARNIVAL!
MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS
COME ONE, COME ALL!
APRIL 26th in
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

All Daughter Banquet

Featuring:

Fun Food

Balloon Artist

Carnival Games

Sunday, April 26th, 2014, 5:00pm
Save the Date!

March

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Hunger Sunday	2 5:00pm Baby Steps 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	3 9:00am Staff 8:00pm AA	4 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 2:00pm Euchre 6:00pm Pioneer Club	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Spring Forward 8:45am Foundations of Faith SS Communion	9 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	10 1:00pm Bridge 6:30pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 8:00pm AA	11 9:30am Bible Study 1:00pm Ministry Chair Meeting	12 10:30am Worship Ministry 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 6:00pm Pioneer Club	13	14
15 8:45am Foundations of Faith SS	16 5:00pm Baby Steps 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	17 9:00am Staff 8:00pm AA	18 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 6:00pm Pioneer Club	20 6:30pm Movie Night	21
22 8:45am Foundations of Faith SS	23 Monthly Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm PMS @Applebee's 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	24 7:00pm Leadership Essentials 8:00pm AA	25 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 6:00pm Pioneer Club	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Communion Loud Sunday Offering 8:45am Foundations of Faith SS Host ACCESS	30 Host ACCESS 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	31 Host ACCESS 9:00am Staff 10:45am Stephen Ministry 8:00pm AA				

April

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Host ACCESS 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	2 Host ACCESS 2:00pm Euchre 6:00pm Pioneer Club 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 Host ACCESS 7:00pm Service of Lament	4 Host ACCESS
5 Easter Host ACCESS Hunger Sunday 9:00am Breakfast No Sunday School	6 5:00pm Baby Steps 5:00pm PMS Shopping 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	7 8:00pm AA	8 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	9	10	11
12 8:45am Foundations of Faith SS	13 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	14 1:00pm Bridge 6:30pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 8:00pm AA	15 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	16	17 6:30pm Movie Night	18
19 8:45am Foundations of Faith SS	20 Monthly Newsletter Deadline 5:00pm Baby Steps 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	21 9:00am Staff 8:00pm AA	22 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	23	24	25
26 8:45am Foundations of Faith SS 5:00pm All Daughter Banquet	27 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	28 10:45am Stephen Ministry 7:00pm Leadership Essentials 8:00pm AA	29 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	30		

May

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Hunger Sunday Communion 8:45am Foundations of Faith SS	4 5:00pm Baby Steps 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	5 8:00pm AA	6 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	7 National Day of Prayer 6:30am Prayer Breakfast @AU Convo	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11 Quarterly Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	12 1:00pm Bridge 6:30pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 8:00pm AA	13 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	14	15 6:30pm Movie Night	16
17 Celebration Sunday	18 5:00pm Baby Steps 5:30pm Meal & Community (not at church)	19 8:00pm AA	20 9:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	21	22	23
24 Pentecost	25 Office Closed— Memorial Day	26 10:45am Stephen Ministry 7:00pm Leadership Essentials 8:00pm AA	27 9:30am Bible Study	28	29	30
31 Loud Sunday Offering Communion						

Passport to Entertainment and Enrichment

Lucado, Max. *Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2014.

If you sometimes have trouble praying and if Max Lucado is one of your favorite inspirational authors, then you will want to read one of his most recent books, *Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer*.

Max Lucado's style has not changed over the years, yet it is still as fresh as when he began writing. He has a unique ability to say much in relatively few words and to combine the biblical with the contemporary. He has a delightful sense of humor but does not repeat humorous examples to illustrate his points. These characteristics are present in *Before Amen* as in his previous works.

Many readers will find Lucado's first paragraph comforting. It ends with these two sentences: "When I pray, I think of a thousand things I need to do. I forget the one thing I set out to do: pray." For himself and for others who can echo his statements, he has created what, because of its brevity, he calls the Pocket Prayer: "Father, you are good. I need help. Heal me and forgive me. They need help. Thank You. In Jesus' name, Amen." In the subsequent eight chapters he discusses each sentence or phrase.

In the chapter, "I Need Help," the author relates the account of the wedding feast in Cana when Jesus turned the water into wine. He wonders, "How many disasters would be averted if we'd go first, in faith, to Jesus?" Two chapters later, in "They Need Help" he says that we are most like Jesus when we are praying for others, including our hurting world and people we don't love. These two references give a glimpse of how Lucado explains the Pocket Prayer. *Before Amen* concludes with an excellent, extensive study guide prepared by his daughter, Jena Lucado Bishop.

NOTE: As I've mentioned before, CSLA give me permission to use a book review I've submitted for the organization's newsletter if I acknowledge that fact. Usually, I try to expand the review also, so that it is not exactly the same. I have done that with this review.

Monica Tenney is the editor of the book review section in the CSLA's quarterly newsletter. In the eleven years that I have worked with her, I have had contact with her through notes and two or three phone calls. She lives in Columbus, near Riverside Hospital. When I was there for surgery in January, she came to see me. She is a delightful person and it was so enjoyable getting to meet her.

- Beverly Bixler



Worship Ministry Team

With the new reorganization plan for FPC, the Worship Ministry Team has taken on the oversight of those areas of our church life having to do with what occurs during Sunday morning worship. Among them are the procurement of ushers, greeters, and worship leaders. We will also be in charge of ordering the lilies for Easter and the poinsettias for Christmas. In addition our team will organize the Hanging of the Greens, the Easter breakfast, and the weekly coffee hour. The flower chart, and things involving the children in worship such as Busy Bags, acolytes, and the return of a children's sermon will also be our responsibility.

Palm Sunday will be observed on March 29th with palms and palm crosses. The Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00pm on April 2nd with candlelight, Communion, and the choir.

Upcoming items of interest are the Easter lilies. There is an order forms in this newsletter, and forms also will appear in the bulletin for those who wish to contribute. At about the same time a chart will be placed in the narthex to sign up for items for the Easter breakfast.

We would welcome anyone who would like to help us plan worship for our congregation. If you are interested our next meeting is on March 12th at 10:30am in Pastor Mike's office.

Carol Keil

The Fullness of Salvation

continued from p.1

“salvation” as we often understand it and “the fullness of salvation” as presented in Scripture. Scripture speaks of salvation as both deliverance and restoration. He uses the story of the Exodus as a paradigm for understanding this; salvation for Israel was not just God delivering them from the bondage of Egypt. Salvation was that God delivered Israel out of bondage to Egypt and was led them to the Promised Land where they might flourish; “without this flourishing the exodus would be incomplete.” (p. 86) Throughout Scripture we see this same understanding of salvation – God both delivers people and restores them.

I fear we too often think of salvation strictly in the single sense of deliverance. We come to understand our sinfulness and need of a savior, come to Christ in a spirit of confession and repentance, ask Christ to forgive us, and receive deliverance from our sins. Often culminating with our baptism (whether infant, child, or adult), we should rightly see this as a vital step in the process of salvation. Yet it is the beginning, or entry point, of what then becomes a lifetime of “working out our salvation” (Phil. 2:12) as the Holy Spirit works in, among, and through us to restore us to all we were created and called to be. Understood this way, salvation will truly only be completed at the culmination of all things when Christ returns and establishes God’s Kingdom on Earth. Scripture teaches that each of us in Christ (and all of creation!) will be fully and physically restored (for those who have physically died – resurrected!!) to all God originally created us to be. As Revelation 21:5 boldly proclaims, “See, I am making all things new;” the fullness of salvation!

This is God’s mission in the world – to bring about the deliverance and restoration of all creation; to make right that which has gone wrong. In the person of Jesus Christ salvation is offered to you and me, and to the world! This includes the invitation, privilege, and calling to participate with God in the salvation of all things – the “working out of salvation” in our own lives and the restoration of Shalom in all of creation. Over the next several months, and perhaps throughout

2015, the Sunday sermons will continue to unpack the understanding of “The Fullness of Salvation” and the implications this has for our daily lives and our calling to be the church. May this Lenten Season provide for each of you a beautiful opportunity to continue the working out of God’s salvation in your life.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Mike

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Formational Prayer Seminar June 10-13, 2015

Dr. Terry Wardle leads seminars in formational prayer two times a year at the Ashland Theological Seminary. Formational Prayer is a ministry of the Holy Spirit, moving through a Christian caregiver, bringing the Healing Presence of Jesus Christ into the place of pain and brokenness within a wounded person.

Program Objectives:

- Equip caregivers for good self-care
- Provide tools for addressing dysfunctional behaviors
- Develop sound techniques for emotional healing
- Teach steps for dealing with deep wounds
- Present information on spirituality and world view as each relates to helping the broken
- Demonstrate pathways that help people dismantle destructive, false beliefs

For any church member interested in this seminary, FPC will pay the deposit. One should decide to attend by May 1.



Please contact Pastor Mike for more information.

Ashland Bookcase Project

It's time for Ashland's annual Ashland Bookcase Project! The Ashland Rotary Club is partnering with the community to help fight illiteracy. Master carpenters at Trinity Lutheran Church and Career Center students will donate their time and talent to build 55 bookcases for "at risk" children in the Head Start program in Ashland and Sullivan. Our goal is to fill those bookcases with gently used books or new books that you might donate, geared to ages 2-6. The children who are identified by the Head Start teachers receive a personalized oak bookcase and a nice starter set of books.



Please help us fill the white box located in the office and the narthex. We hope the books will open new doors for these children and enable them to dream and enjoy reading experiences they might not otherwise have! The boxes will be here from March 23rd until April 20th. Thank you!

PLEASE HELP US FILL OUR BOX!

Loud Sunday Benefits Young Life Camp



Our next Loud Sunday offering will be collected on March 29. Proceeds will help send youth to Young Life camp this summer. To get a jump on this offering, we invite you to pick up a Young Life jar in the narthex, take it home, and fill it with your loose change. Please bring it back on March 29. See Lauren McClain with any questions.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS 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 - Works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters
- Presbyterian Hunger Program - Takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access for entire communities to sufficient and healthy food
- Self-Development of People - Partners with people and communities, leveraging development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice

History: 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 as an hour-long radio appeal in 1949 has 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.

FPC will be collecting this offering now through Palm Sunday, March 29. Look for further information in bulletin inserts and the special OGHS envelopes in the pews.

New Address:



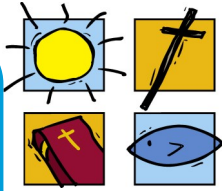
Judy Frame
Belmont Tower Apt 524
2000 Center Street
Ashland, OH 44805
526-203-8828



The Lord is so great and we have filled all of the regularly scheduled nursery volunteers. We are still in need of "substitute" volunteers. Call Tia Sponsler or catch her at church if this is a way you feel you could serve.

I feel honored to be given this position in the nursery, especially at this church. Thank you to everyone who has been so loving and welcoming to me. I am very excited to have started this journey here and I cannot wait to grow more within not only the church but God as well!

Breanna Maffett, Nursery Attendant



Children's Ministry

I asked the children: What is your favorite part of Sunday mornings in the atrium?

Alysa: Everything because it's all incredible

Zane: The silent game because we get to pray and do prayer for someone sick or something

Vincent: Works- all of them. I like how we can draw pictures of Jesus and stuff. I like the silent game too.

Preston: Craft works - I like to make things for God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Thomas: Everything because it's fun

Stetson: Snack work because I like to eat it

Katrin: the prayer table because it has the Bible on it and you can relax on the bean bags

Jakin: the bean bags because you get to read scriptures and relax

If you feel your heart yearning to be part of all this just contact me and we together can prayerfully discern how you can join these wonderful children in their spiritual journey.

Moment for Young Disciples

We are planning to revive the Moment for Young Disciples that used to occur during worship. This is a time when the children can come up to the steps in the front of the sanctuary to hear a brief message designed for them. We are looking for adult volunteers to take turns leading this 2-3 minute message. If this is something you feel passionate about contact me.

Blessings,
Tia Sponsler, Director of Children's Ministry
419-606-7155

SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom 6+1=	blossom 2x2=	rejoice 4x2=
burst 3+3=	wilderness 2+1=	joy 5+5=
crocus 3+2=	desert 1x0=	parched 0+1=
glad 2x1=	shout 10-1=	

"The _____ and the _____ land will be _____; the _____ will rejoice and _____. Like the _____, it will _____ into _____; it will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers:
"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and shout for joy. It will burst into bloom, it will burst into blossom. Like the crocus, it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."

McClain in DC

A few times each year, I get the opportunity to get out of the area and pursue my education by taking week long intensive seminary courses. It takes the first day or two before I am able to step away from the constant pull of ministry enough to settle down, and only then am I freed up to dive head first into my studies. I am currently enrolled in Reformed Theological Seminary where I am pursuing a Masters of Biblical Studies. I love everything about high school kids, but right up there next to them is my love for learning and teaching.

These classes have become mini vacations for me in the midst of our busy schedules. While locking yourself in a hotel room to bury your nose in theology books doesn't sound like a vacation to most, to me, it is heaven. Give me a big cup of tea and I could go all night.

This past January, I called my professor to see if I could bring a friend to sit in on the class with me, and when he agreed, my DC adventure with Quinn was born. Quinn is a senior at Ashland High School, and he is hands down one of my favorite people to be around. He gets me better than most, so it isn't just fun it's easy.

However, at some point during our first class, the professor began to address Quinn as if he were my son?! At first, we figured it was just a slip up, but he carried it into our second sitting. It was during this third break that I walked out to the water cooler to over hear the professor chatting with Quinn about "father-son" stuff! As soon as he left, I pulled Quinn aside to ask what happened. "Matt, he started in and I didn't have the heart to tell him. We're in too deep at this point. We might as well go with it." From that point forward Quinn became my son, and boy did we have fun playing that up.

Quinn keeps me grounded. He and Lauren both keep me from floating off into the academic world. Like she always says, "you gotta put the cookies on the lower shelf." Haha. Thanks for letting this be part of my job.

Matt McClain



Quinn Watson
& Matt McClain

Foundations of Our Faith New Member Study

Matt McClain will be leading a new Bible study focused on the foundations of our faith. More specifically, this class discusses the vision of this church and how one can grow into that mission. This class is required of our future new members, but is open to all. This class will begin on Sunday, March 8, at 8:45am, and meet in room 101 in the lower level.



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Installation of Pastor Mike as Moderator of Presbytery

December 2, 2014



From Left: Tom Roepke, Rev. Dr. Deborah Rundlett, Lana Potter,
Pastor Mike Parker, Jolynn Lopeman, Herm Helser