

## Giving Birth...

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Stetson, Preston,  
and Zane

As many of you know I am currently enrolled in a certificate program and am being trained as a spiritual director. That is only relevant to this article because this morning I was reading one of required texts, Holy Listening, and this particular chapter was speaking to how the role of the spiritual director is similar to the role of the midwife. The spiritual director, like a midwife, fulfills a role of presence and encouragement, sometimes coaching and other times silent, always helping the one giving labor to understand where they are in the process of giving birth as they remain empathic to the overwhelming feelings they are experiencing. The analogy can further play out, but I couldn't help but smile because this is the fourth time in the past week that this theme has come up – once in our

corporate staff meeting, once on our staff and leader retreat, once in a conversation with an individual staff member, and now in my reading early this morning.

This has inspired me in two ways; the first is to put together an advent series highlighting some of the birth stories in the Bible. More to come on that in a just a few short months! The second way this has inspired me is to begin to ponder a series of metaphorical questions that are forming in my mind. I invite you to ponder them with me, and to do so by asking and answering these questions in regards to your own spiritual life. I then invite you to answer them again in regards to the life and ministry of FPC Ashland. Should you respond to this invitation I would love to spend some time hearing from you and praying with

continued on p. 12

## Children's Mid-Summer Days



Mid-Summer Days was a camp that our kids participated in during the last week of July. The kids planned the entire camp all by themselves during Oasis last spring. Monday through Friday they arrive at my house at 9:00 in the morning and left at 3:30pm. Each day was full of crafts, snacks, swimming, games, worship, and quiet time with the Lord. Thursday night we had a camp out including s'mores, night

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## Ashland XD—CCO



Four students who served as Counselors at Camp in NY this summer.

Alyssa, Kouri, (Jake) Chris, and Tanner

CCO XD is the outdoor, experiential learning department of the CCO that has partnered with FPC and the Ashland University Office of Christian Ministry to develop and establish an XD (Experiential Designs) program. AshlandXD helps students integrate their faith with adventure.

*"Summer Camp 2016 at MAPLERIDGE Ranch was one for the record books, in so many ways! The highlight of our ministry this summer, was our Summer Staff Team. We have never had a more unified team focused on making much of Jesus, and a willingness to give everything to our campers. What a blessing to have 4 of our staff members be from Ashland U. The staff we have received from Ashland, via their connection with Jake Blasdel, have been awesome. Consistently for the past 3 years, they have been outgoing, passionate about the outdoors, and have made tremendous impact to our program. We are so blessed to have students from Ashland"*

*-Duane R Blasdel, Camp Director  
MAPLERIDGE Ranch*

Please be in prayer for the CCO XD Student Leaders and the establishment of a consistent bi-weekly meeting on Tuesdays.

Maggie  
Kyhl  
Tanner  
Kouri

Austin  
Chris  
Ben V.S.  
Barouk

Alyssa  
Jenny  
Lauren  
Ben M.

Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) calls college students to serve Jesus Christ with their entire lives.

Three CCO Distinctions:

1. We develop students to be passionate leaders who serve Jesus Christ in their studies, jobs, communities and families.
2. We serve together with the church, inviting students into the lives of local congregations.
3. We design each ministry to fit the needs of every campus we serve.

### **Ways FPC Can Be Involved This Fall:**

*"Local Church Mission Is True Kingdom Mission" -Scott McKnight*

- Ask the Lord how he might want you to be a presence in College Students lives
- Join the Shaping the Journey Class on Sunday mornings
- Prayer Walk around Campus with Jake
- Help Serve the Women's Soccer Team Breakfast on the Sunday's of home games
- Mentor/Coach Students through the Well or with CCO core leaders
- Join us for Friday Adventures, Saturday Breakfasts or Saturday Park and Hikes, or CCO XD Student Leader meetings.
- Adopt a Student.
- Attend the Women Soccer games and begin to know them more.
- Help in Adopting the Women's Soccer Team in a more formal way.
- Plan now on attending Jubilee with the Students February 17-19th

# Birthdays



## SEPTEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> Barbara Bradford  
Donna Mohn  
3<sup>rd</sup> Blake Beaire  
4<sup>th</sup> Brenda Luttrell  
7<sup>th</sup> Peggy Yoder  
10<sup>th</sup> Alexander Webb  
12<sup>th</sup> Connie Dravenstott  
13<sup>th</sup> Becky Sheeks  
14<sup>th</sup> Ken Eckenroth  
20<sup>th</sup> Ruth Detrow  
21<sup>st</sup> Emily Barnett  
25<sup>th</sup> Nancy Seifert  
28<sup>th</sup> Laura Callahan

## OCTOBER

3<sup>rd</sup> Jonathan Wetzel  
5<sup>th</sup> Jeremy Brinker  
Larry Hiner  
Katrinn Parker  
6<sup>th</sup> David Hartzfeld  
Mike Parker  
9<sup>th</sup> Walt Ramage  
Suzanne Steury  
11<sup>th</sup> Aiden Keener  
Kristal Paullin  
Fannie Switzer  
12<sup>th</sup> Diane Bachtel  
18<sup>th</sup> Mandy Parker  
19<sup>th</sup> Nicholas Barnett  
21<sup>st</sup> Kyson Brinker  
Sabrina Pepsny  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sandy Sexton  
25<sup>th</sup> Sallie Hooker  
Jasmine Webb  
28<sup>th</sup> Kevin Reidy  
Sydney Saffle  
29<sup>th</sup> Susan Shafer  
30<sup>th</sup> Mary Jean Stuart

## NOVEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> Ruth Armstrong  
Vickie Holdren  
Dale Wojciechowski  
3<sup>rd</sup> Al King  
5<sup>th</sup> Bethany Blasdel  
6<sup>th</sup> George Holmes  
10<sup>th</sup> Amy Smetana  
13<sup>th</sup> Alan Pepsny  
14<sup>th</sup> Stephen Stuart  
15<sup>th</sup> Rhita Burke-Serrano  
16<sup>th</sup> Dann Marble  
19<sup>th</sup> Matthew Barnett  
20<sup>th</sup> Vivian Stitzel  
22<sup>nd</sup> William Mast  
23<sup>rd</sup> Tom Foley  
27<sup>th</sup> Ronald Walker



Elsie Isla was born to Ben and Niki Sponsler on August 18. Proud grandparents are Brent and Jane Sponsler.

Grace Ann Schar was born on August 29 to Dave and Liz Schar. Proud grandparents are Steve and Peggy Yoder.



To the family and friends of Jane K. Eshelman, who died on August 19.

To David Hartzfeld whose brother, Wes, passed away last week.



Thank you church friends who mad my 94<sup>th</sup> birthday so memorable. The surprise luncheon at Mohican Lodge and the beautiful cards with the lovely sentiments made me fell truly blessed. It was a lovely day, good food, a delicious cake, and good friends. Thanks to Sandy, Wayne, and Jolynn. God bless you all.

Love and Hugs,  
Martie Casciani

Dear Mr. Helser,  
Gary and I would like to thank you for taking time out of your day to open your church, tour us around, and graciously show us your hospitality. We were so happy to get an update on the church and relax in the chapel. Sincerely, Jacquie Quine

*The Quines, who were married here, visited Ashland on a Saturday in June and Herman was kind enough to meet them at the church.*



# Financial Reports

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCE REPORT - JULY 2016

<u>Contributions/Receipts</u>	<u>JULY 2015</u>	<u>BUDGET 2016</u>	<u>JULY 2016</u>
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pledges	\$108,259.50	\$126,666.69	\$120,821.34 *
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$30,516.20	\$27,241.69	\$21,026.04
Loose Offering	\$2,563.17	\$3,500.00	\$1,921.98
Prior Year Pledges	\$5,525.00	\$500.00	\$625.80
Church Use Donations	\$150.00	\$583.31	\$350.00
Whiting Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ACCF - Program	\$2,953.50	\$6,500.00	\$3,152.00
ACCF - Building	\$2,884.50	\$3,500.00	\$3,078.50
ACCF - Mission	\$1,234.50	\$1,250.00	\$1,317.50
Interest/Investment Income	(\$754.80)	\$49.56	\$67.12
Miscellaneous Income	\$840.49	\$1,458.31	\$1,097.03
Total Receipts	<b>\$154,172.06</b>	<b>\$171,249.56</b>	<b>\$153,457.31</b>
<u>Expenses</u>			
Personnel	\$116,571.03	\$125,150.24	\$123,329.27
Health Insurance	\$8,303.47	\$8,467.06	\$8,467.13
Property	\$12,335.00	\$12,206.18	\$13,282.21
Property Insurance	\$4,435.00	\$5,050.00	\$5,080.00
Utilities	\$13,721.32	\$12,679.24	\$11,311.70
Finance	\$42.00	\$245.81	\$199.30
Per capita assessment	\$5,019.00	\$5,172.00	\$5,171.40
Session Expenses	\$970.00	\$875.00	\$325.25
Worship/Music	\$493.57	\$1,687.13	\$940.39
Office	\$5,010.19	\$7,379.19	\$5,053.22
Discipleship	\$1,878.94	\$1,458.31	\$1,282.97
Pioneer Club	\$209.39	\$0.00	
Stephen Ministry	\$0.00	\$291.69	\$96.89
Mid Week Gathering	\$0.00	\$583.31	\$329.87
Formational Prayer/Training	\$500.00	\$583.31	\$296.00
College-Aged Ministry			
Mission /Giving /Support	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Fellowship / Gatherings		\$583.31	\$567.83
ACCESS / Community Care		\$875.00	\$71.49
Pastor Discretionary Fund		\$583.31	\$798.29
Deacons - Invite	\$0.00		
Deacons - Connect	\$2,619.00		
Deacons - Send	\$531.86		
Deacons - Miscellaneous	\$213.88		
Total Expenses	<b>\$181,353.65</b>	<b>\$192,370.09</b>	<b>\$185,103.21</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME / EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$27,181.59)</b>	<b>(\$21,120.53)</b>	<b>(\$31,645.90)</b>

\* Includes prepaid pledges of \$27,846.14

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)

Consolidated - July 2016

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	Current Year
<b>ASSETS</b>	
CASH ACCOUNTS	
Sutton Bank Checking Acct	\$23,116.35
JanneyMontgomeryScott LLC	133,705.04
PayPal	407.50
Subtotal Cash Accounts	157,228.89
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$157,228.89</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
200th Campaign Fund	\$10,709.97
Property Purchase	27,510.00
Memorial & Special Gifts	
Nancy Donley Estate	9,343.34
Lorraine Wetzel Memorial	515.00
Organ maint. Liability a/c	1,000.00
Kitchen maint. Liab. a/c	708.18
Office Liability A/C	901.19
Office Furniture (Pastor)	459.74
StephenMin./HealingCare	2,155.41
Jesus/StainedGlassWindows	2,249.55
Youth/ Ch.Min.-Plank Mem.	1,080.00
Subtotal Memorial & Special Gifts	18,412.41
Special Mission Gifts	
Associated Charities	16.00
Youth Ministry	
ACCF - Johnson	1,798.09
Subtotal Current Liabilities	58,446.47
WITHHELD PAYROLL TAXES	
F.I.C.A.	524.89
Medicare	122.74
Federal Income Tax	559.15
State Income Tax	149.81
City Income Tax	127.06
Employer's Share FICA	524.89
Employer's Share Medicare	122.74
SoutheasternLSDschool tax	1.25
Subtotal Withheld Payroll Taxes	2,132.53
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>60,579.00</b>
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance	\$96,649.89
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>96,649.89</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$157,228.89</b>

## CROP WALK

Sunday, October 2, 2:00pm  
Christ United Methodist Church

Representatives from several Ashland area churches are excited to be participating again in the Church World Service CROP Walk to provide food, shelter and water for families around the world. \$160,255.63 has been raised by these Ashland churches in past years, with a goal of \$8,000 for this year.

How can you participate?

- Be a walker who will be seek sponsors
- Watch for a bulletin insert with more details about how this assistance has benefited those who need it.
- Check out the poster in the upstairs hall with specific destinations of past funds.
- Visit our FPC Team page at [www.crophungerwalk.org/ashlandoh/fpcashland](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/ashlandoh/fpcashland)
- Donate in one of three ways
  1. sponsor a walker
  2. put your donation in the offering plate designating it for Crop Walk,
  3. donate online

As always, 25% of the funds raised in Ashland will remain in the community for use by local organizations providing food assistance, like Emmanuel Methodist Saturday Breakfasts, Salvation Army Food Bank, St. Edward's Hunger Center, Helping Hand in Loudonville.

Following worship on **September 18**, meet with Lana Potter at the front of the sanctuary for walkers to pick up pledge envelopes and/or non-walkers to make a donation.

A good representation from First Presbyterian on October 2 would be wonderful!



**C**ommunities  
**R**esponding to  
**O**vercome  
**P**overty



## ACCESS

Our next week to host is

**September 25—October 2**

Please look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex this month. Our rolls have changed now that ACCESS has the use of two apartments instead of housing guests in church buildings. Please take a second to look at the list and see if you can to provide something.

## ACCESS Soup-er Saturday

Saturday, September 24,  
11:00am—3:00pm  
Grace Brethren Church  
Gymnasium



Soup-er Saturday is an all-day fundraiser for the ACCESS program.

All-You-Can-Eat Soup Luncheon  
Silent Auction  
Raffle for a Vizio 55" Ultra HD TV

Raffle tickets may be purchased at Hawkins, Irwin's and Adkin's 12th St. Market

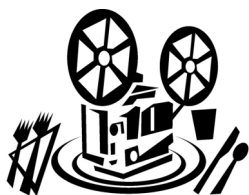
For more information, please call Cathy Thiemens at 419-685-1232.

## Ashland Pregnancy Center

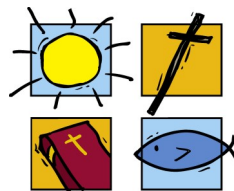
The Ashland Pregnancy Center is looking for help with the handmade baby burp clothes and care seat covers they give to new mothers in their care. They need people to sew the cloths and covers and will provide a pattern. They also can use fabric (can be scrap) and 1/8-inch ribbon donations. It takes 2.5 yards of material to make a car seat. Please call them for details, 419-281-1111

## Movie Night

If Vincent can be called a saint, why can't anybody? Good question.



Let's talk about it after watching a Bill Murray comedy Sept. 16 at the Yoder's home. Come at 6:30pm for the food. The film starts at 7:00pm. Bring something to share.



## Children's Ministry

The Atrium, our Montessori—style Sunday school for children, will resume September 11. The children will worship with the congregation for the first part of the service and then go up to the Atrium as a group before the sermon time. Please contact Tia Sponsler for more details.

## Oasis Resumes



Wednesday Nights,  
5:30-7:30pm  
Beginning September 14

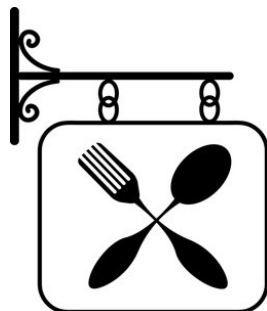
Please join us for a meal,  
fellowship, prayer  
and ministry.

## Adult Sunday School



The Adult Sunday School class will start back up on September 1th and will study James. They meet in the Knox room, the corner room next to the library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, from 8:45 – 9:30am.

## Lunch Bunch



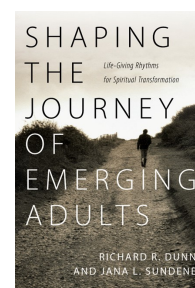
The Presby Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, September 27 at 11:30am at Jake's in Ashland. Reservations to Cora Walker by Sunday, September 25. Join us for fun, fellowship, and 1/2 priced burgers.

## Shaping the Journey Fall Sunday School Class

8:45 - 9:45am

Start Date: Sunday, Sept. 18

Life-Giving Rhythms  
for Spiritual Transformation



This class is for all those that desire to have more of a ministering and mentoring presence in other people's lives. As we learned last year in Oasis, we are a people of presence. Join us for this 12-week study as we look to apply in practice the life giving rhythms and presence that fosters spiritual transformation in those we are ministering to. The main textbook for reading will be *Shaping the Journey of Emerging Adults* by Richard R. Dunn.

Let Jake or office know by September 11 so we can order books in time for the class.



## PMS Family Potluck Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 25,  
4:00 pm,  
@Yoder's Cabin,  
1609 SR 511 South.  
Pease bring a  
covered dish.

# September

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 11:00am Worship in the Park @ Brookside West	5 Office Closed— Labor Day	6 9:00am Staff  8:00pm AA	7 10:00am Bible Study  7:30pm Choir	8	9	10 Presbytery Meeting @Cambridge FPC
11 Hunger Sunday  Communion	12 6:00pm Women's Fellowship Group 6:30pm Healing Care Group	13  6:30pm Deacons 8:00pm AA	14 Reports to Session Due 10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	15  10:30am Finance Ministry	16  6:30pm Movie Night @Yoders'	17
18	19  6:30pm Healing Care Group	20  9:00am Staff  8:00pm AA	21  10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	22	23  Church Office Closed	24 11:00am— 3:00pm ACCESS Soup-er Saturday @GBC
25 Host ACCESS  4:00pm PMS Family Potluck @Yoder Cabin	26 Host ACCESS Monthly Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Healing Care Group	27 Host ACCESS  1:45pm Trustees  8:00pm AA	28 Host ACCESS  10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	29 Host ACCESS	30 Host ACCESS	



# October

## First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Host ACCESS
<b>2</b> Host ACCESS Communion Hunger Sunday 2:00pm Crop Walk @ CUMC	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Women's Fellowship Group 6:30pm Heal- ing Care Group	<b>4</b> 9:00am Staff  8:00pm AA	<b>5</b> Reports to Session Due 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  6:30pm Healing Care Group	<b>11</b>  6:30pm Deacons 8:00pm AA	<b>12</b> 10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Communion  2:15pm Worship @ Kingston	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Healing Care Group 7:00pm PMS @ Cindy Clicks'	<b>18</b> 9:00am Staff  8:00pm AA	<b>19</b> 10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	<b>20</b>  Foster Potluck Fellowship Hall	<b>21</b>  Brasseur/ Spade Wedding Rehearsal	<b>22</b>  Brasseur/ Spade Wedding
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Monthly Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Heal- ing Care Group	<b>25</b>  8:00pm AA	<b>26</b> 10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Loud Sunday Offering to benefit Ash- land Christian Health Center	<b>31</b>  6:30pm Healing Care Group					

# November

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:00am Staff  8:00pm AA	<b>2</b> 10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Daylight Savings Ends  Communion Hunger Sunday	<b>7</b> 6:00pm Women's Fellowship Group 6:30pm Healing Care Group	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Deacons 8:00pm AA	<b>9</b> Reports to Session Due 10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  6:30pm Healing Care Group	<b>15</b> 9:00am Staff  8:00pm AA	<b>16</b> 10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Oasis 7:30pm Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am Session Meeting  4:45pm PMS to Holiday Hoopla
<b>20</b> Communion	<b>21</b> Quarterly Newsletter Deadline  6:30pm Healing Care Group	<b>22</b>  8:00pm AA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Office Closed—Thanksgiving	<b>25</b> Office Closed—Thanksgiving Observed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Advent I	<b>28</b>  6:30pm Healing Care Group	<b>29</b> 9:00am Staff  8:00pm AA	<b>30</b> 10:00am Bible Study  7:30pm Choir			

## Passport to Entertainment and Enrichment

Some of the novels with which CSLA has provided our library since the last issue of *The Herald* are the following:

1. *Lock, Stock, and Over a Barrel* by Melody Carlson.

The death of her elderly aunt affords Daphne Ballinger with the excuse she wants to leave her job in New York City after twelve years. She returns to the Midwest and is stunned to learn that she is the sole beneficiary of her aunt's estate. The will has some interesting strings attached. One is that she must marry within a year.

2. *Dating, Dining, and Desperation* by Melody Carlson.

Daphne Ballinger's search for a husband continues in the sequel to the novel described above. Her friends try to "help" her in the search, annoying her. She wishes they would forget about matchmaking. Daphne befriends a little girl who is living with her grandmother nearby. When the grandmother dies, her son, a marine and the girl's uncle, come home on leave. Daphne meets him and wonders whether he might be "Mr. Right."

3. *Land of Silence* by Tess Afshar.

Three of the four Gospels tell of the woman cured of a longstanding bleeding disorder by touching Jesus' garment. According to Jewish law, she had been considered unclean for a dozen years. So little information affords Tess Afshar much latitude in creating the woman's story. Beginning with the death of her young brother, other tragedies occur until her life becomes almost intolerable. Although she is skeptical of Jesus' increasing acclaim, having spent most of her money on doctors and treatments, she gives in and joins the crowd following the Master one day and we know the outcome.

4. *To Follow Her Heart* by Rebecca DeMarino.

Rebecca DeMarino's series about the settling of Long Island in the seventeenth century

Want to see our newest additions to our church library? See the "In Our Library" board on our Pinterest account. You can find us as First Presbyterian Church of Ashland. Chose to follow that board or any of our other boards for our latest updates. You can also connect directly to our Pinterest account via the button at the bottom of the home page of our website, [ashlandfpc.org](http://ashlandfpc.org)



concludes with *To Follow Her Heart*. Most of the author's characters are based on real people but Patience Terry, this novel's protagonist, is not. Patience is aptly named because it takes almost two years for Jeremy Horton to agree to marry her although the couple had assumed that they would wed. However, when they would talk about it, something would occur that Jeremy felt he should attend to. Tragedy strikes the Horton property in England and he leaves Patience again. She breaks off their relationship. Will she change her mind?

5. *A Daughter's Dream* by Shelley Shepard Gray.

Two themes support the action of *A Daughter's Dream*, another novel about Amish family life. One theme is finding one's special place in life and the second is the good that can result from tragedy. The Kisinger siblings have had to make many adjustments due to the death of their father. One of the girls, Rebecca, has dreamed of being a teacher and she begins to help at the Amish school. Soon, she realizes that isn't for her and she resumes her successful job at the family's lumber business in Charm, Ohio.

The tragic death of his brother and sister-in-law has caused changes in Jacob Yoder's life, too. He returns to Charm to help his parents farm and to care for his orphaned niece. He finds out that farming is not his specialty. Carpentry is and he secures a job at the lumber yard. Their situations and new hopes for the future form an attraction between Rebecca and Jacob.

- Beverly Bixler

## Giving Birth...

continued from p.1

you as God uses this exercise to draw you into a deeper experience of intimacy and expectation.

- Do I believe that God is birthing something new in me?
- What are the signs that I might be (or am not) “expecting”?
- As I nurture that which the Spirit is birthing in me, how might this form my prayers?
- What dreams and desires are forming in me for this “child”?
- What might the labor process look like?
- How will I deal with the pain, fear, doubts and confusion that I might feel?
- With whom will I share my joy, excitement, and anxiety?
- Has God given me a picture or vision of that which God is birthing in me?
- How am I called to be a faithful steward of this gift?
- Am I willing to trust God with the process, resting in the promise and presence of Christ?
- Am I willing to allow for the necessary changes to take place in myself in order to allow God to birth something new in me?

I look forward to a time when God nudges me to begin to share my answers to these questions on behalf of FPC Ashland. For now, I invite you into this exercise. And I would love to hear your responses, both for your own life and for the life of our congregation. I will say this – I am confident that God is birthing a new thing in and through this congregation. I pray that we will carry a spirit of expectation, openness, and obedience as we faithfully wait the revealing of all God plans to bring to life in us in the months to come.

Grace & Peace,  
*Pastor Mike*

*“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.”*

*Rom. 8:19*

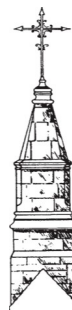
## Prayer Shawls



A team of FPC women were moved to create prayer shawls this year.

We now have prayer shawls to give to encourage someone and let them know that their church family is thinking of them and praying for them. They have already given one away. The shawl is a reminder of God’s loving presence while someone may be going through a challenging time.

If you would like to suggest someone who would benefit from a shawl and a note, or if you want to know more about this ministry, please contact the church office.



## Property Ministry

There is no additional information regarding the sale of the Middle School property. We are still waiting to see if an agreement will be reached between the schools and the county for the purchase of the property, thereby, preventing the property from going to a public auction. It seems the schools and the county are close to an agreement. In the event an agreement is reached, we are very hopeful that we will be able to work with the county to come up with a long-term arrangement to meet the future needs of our church.

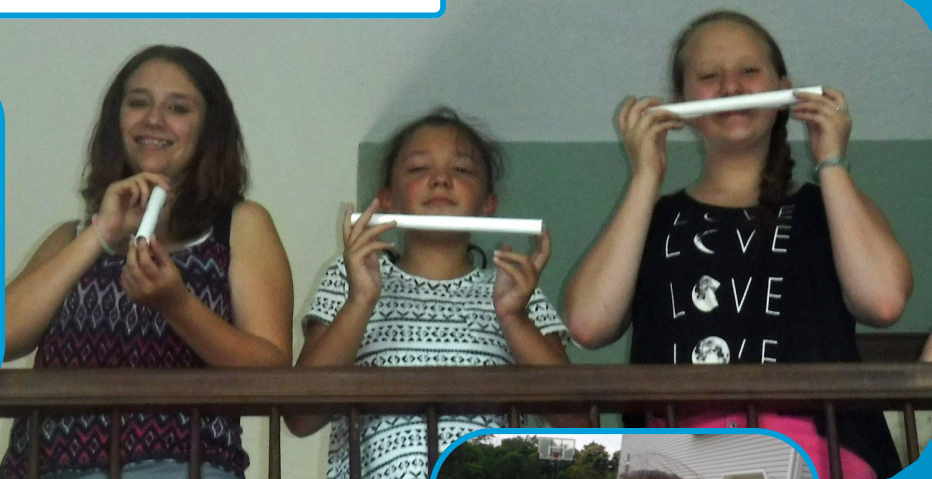
The Property Ministry has been waiting for this process to come to an end before proceeding with any large-scale projects or plans for our church building. Thank you for your continued patience.



The church office  
will be closed  
Friday, September 23



## Mid-Summer Days continued from p. 1



swimming, and lots of laughter. We finished our week on Friday with Family Day where the parents could come and experience the camp with their children.

As the person that this congregation has blessed with the opportunity to be the children's ministry director, I can not stress enough how full my heart was the whole week. Every child was so well behaved and I could really see the Creator meeting, growing, and loving each one of them. We offered the Holy Spirit to join us every morning and God truly blessed us in every moment with His presence.

Thank you Lord for Alysa, Sophie, Thomas, and Vincent. Thank you Lord for Katrin and Jakin. Thank you Lord for Zane and Stetson. Thank you Lord for Preston. Thank you Lord for fellowship, laughter, adventure, growth, safety, joy, and Your mighty love. Thank you Lord for Your sweet children.

Tia Sponsler,  
Director of Children's Ministry



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## Mid-Summer Days

July 25-29, 2016

