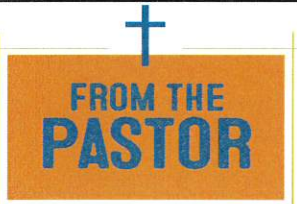


THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

September 2024



Volume 66 Number 8



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Despite my being out of school for a long time ... I still find myself thinking of the calendar in terms of school years. There's something about the fall and the beginning of the school year that seems to be more of a "new year" than the first of January.

I think part of the appeal comes from the built-in expectation for continued growth and new opportunities. The idea of going to school brings with it an expectation that you're going to learn something. Going back to school keeps that expectation alive and keeps building on it; not only are you going to school to learn more, but you're going back to build upon what you've already learned.

Just as we start our formal education in school as children, we might have also started training ourselves to grow spiritually as children. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Those of us who grew up in a Christian home or going to church as children likely remember the Bible stories and verses that we learned through lessons, activities, and songs, and it's remarkable how we often remember them.

This is how God's people began a lifelong journey of growing in their faith and knowledge of God and of God's Word and, in the church of the New Testament, of Jesus Christ. Paul recognized that habit and pattern in the life of his protegee, Timothy, in 2 Timothy 1:5:

"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice, and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

Timothy's faith began in his grandmother and was passed on to his mother and then to Timothy. Then Paul encouraged him to keep growing in 2 Timothy 3:14-17:

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

It seems that Paul's expectations for Timothy were for him to stay in God's Word not just for his own sake but for the sake of others. That's why he refers to "teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." Paul expects Timothy to continue what his mother and grandmother began, along with what Paul began, in Timothy's life: to know the Scriptures, to be wise, to have faith, to find salvation, and to pass on those things to others.

Certainly there's much for all of us to learn. Our efforts to grow in our faith and to learn don't need to ever stop. Whether we are students at school or not, we can be students of God's Word.

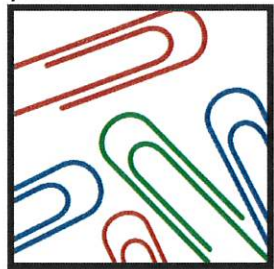
In Christ's Love,
Pastor Mo Dunn



Sept. 1 Bob & Deb Ritchey Rayna Ogle
 Sept. 8 Jim & Susan Siefker Kennedy Larimore
 Sept. 15 Cheyenne & Dian Ridley
 Beckett Sunderland
 Sept. 22 Jim & Sandy Schwartzengraber Beth Ogle
 Sept. 29 Dave & Pam Smith Madi Larimore
 Oct. 6 Donna Martin & Sue Grusenmeyer
 Norah Baker
 Oct. 13 Nathan & Fara Long Zoey Diller
 Oct. 20 George & Hope Diller Carson Sunderland
 Oct. 27 Rod & Nancy Watkins Wyatt Diller
 Nov. 3 Steve & Dina Tadena Genna Thomas
 Nov. 10 Willard & Betty Metzger Rayna Ogle
 Nov. 17 Janet Alger & Norma Jacoby
 Kennedy Larimore
 Nov. 24 Tim & Joyce Larimore Beckett Sunderland
 Dec. 1 Aaron & Lori Crider Jameson Thomas



The electric sign in front of the church needs to be replaced. The cost is over \$25,000. The trustees voted to start a fund to get the sign back in working condition. If you would like to contribute, mark your envelope Sign Fund. The fund continues to grow with the balance currently at \$1460. Thank you!

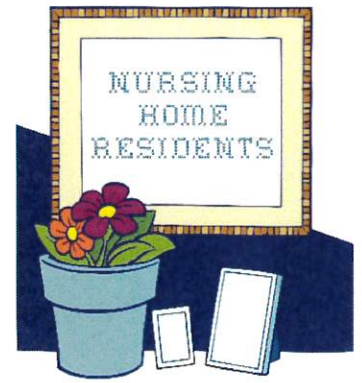


Office Hours

Beginning September Church office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 to 11:30am.

Joan Thomas, Dick Williams – The Meadows of Kalida, 755 Ottawa St., Kalida, OH 45853

Linda Alger – Wingate, 1070 Gloria Ave. Room 133, Lima, OH 45805



The extraordinary amid the ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!



Blessing of the Backpacks

We will be blessing the backpacks on Sunday, September 8 during the worship service.



Christian Stewardship

The Stewardship project for the month of September is Meals 'Til Monday. Your donation will be used to provide students in the elementary school who need a meal during the weekend prior to returning to school on Monday. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

The gift of work

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

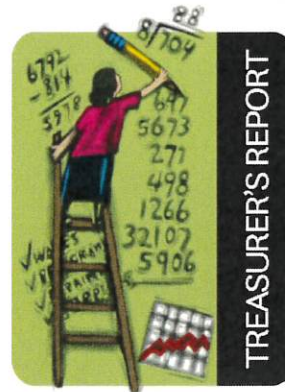
“This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God’s way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness.”

“Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure.

It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures.”



Sunday school will begin Sept 8.



Cash Flow
7/1/2024 through
8/18/2024

INFLOWS

- Uncategorized 306.80
- Interest Inc 0.76
- Investment Payment 6,886.52
- Sunday Offering 7,216.92
- Tithely Offering 489.20

TOTAL INFLOWS 14,900.20

OUTFLOWS

Bills & Utilities

- AEP 1,495.33
- Church Repairs Misc 566.52
- Custodial Exp 18.99
- Library Memorial 0.00
- Miscellaneous 106.84
- Monthly Copier Costs 145.72
- Monthly Offering Donations 365.00
- Mowing 680.00
- Outreach Cards 0.00
- Payroll 9,017.16
- Phone & Internet- Spectrum 139.98
- Pulpit Fill 150.00
- Sewer 693.00
- VISA Payment 133.54
- Water 64.00 Website 247.02
- Welcome Visitors 89.24
- TOTAL Bills & Utilities 13,912.34
- Fees & Charges 84.63

Tax

- Tax Fed 751.94
- State 44.03
- TOTAL Tax 795.97
- Transfer to Memorial Fund 100.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS 14,892.94

OVERALL TOTAL 7.26



AUGUST 2024

Members present: Matt Nusbaum, Bob Ritchey, Jim Siefker, Deb Thomas, Bob Roethlisberger, Travis Watkins.

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Matt Nusbaum. Pastor Dunn was absent due to a health issue. Matt offered a brief meditation.

The financial report was given by Dina Tadena. It was acknowledged that the monthly financial report being placed in the Assistant Pastor is appreciated and that it is good for everyone to be kept current on the financial operations of the church. A motion was made and passed to pay the current expenses. Completed Pastoral Review sheets were turned into Bob Ritchey by each member.

OLD BUSINESS

After looking into the installation of a security box to house key to church, Matt reported that it is available for the cost of \$18.00. It was agreed upon that the purchase will be made and installation will occur asap. This will enable anyone requiring entry to church to be able to text and receive the code to open box housing key. It will only access North entry door. The code will also be automatically given to each committee chairperson.

Matt reported that repairs to men's restroom have been completed. Deb reported that plans to make improvements to men's restroom are still being considered. She reported that a cost estimate will be available at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim reported that entry cameras on North doors are no longer working. Matt will report this to Kiel Diller.

Deb reported that fluorescent ceiling lights in handicap entryway are not working properly. Jim agreed to purchase new bulbs in an attempt to diagnose problem as well as looking into installation of LED bulbs as replacements if possible.

A request was made by music committee chair, Marty Thomas, for monies to be taken from church budget for tuning of two piano's, as well as the purchase of new sheet music, Cantata Books and

supplies for improvements to Choir Room. A motion was made by Bob Ritchie, seconded by Bob Roethlisberger and approved. A motion to adjourn was made and approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Thomas, Secretary



A new Sermon Series beginning on September 15th entitled, "Confirming Your Calling and Election". September 15 Faith – Moses-

Hebrews 11:23-29

September 22 Virtue- Stephen-Acts 6:8-15

September 29 Knowledge-Solomon- 1 Kings 3:1-15

October 6 Self-Control-Esau-Genesis 25:27-34

October 13 Steadfastness-Naomi-Ruth 1:16-22

October 20 Godliness-Noah-Genesis 6:11-22

October 27 Mutual Affection-Jonathan & David-

1 Samuel 18:1-5

November 3 Love-The Good Samaritan-

Luke 10:25-37

Second fiddle

A fan once asked conductor Leonard Bernstein what instrument is hardest to play. "Second fiddle," he quickly replied. "I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm ... now that's a problem. And yet if no one plays second, we have no harmony."

The church certainly needs both leaders and followers. And everyone should be flexible and ready to pivot quickly.

It's also important to have other arrows in our quiver — something biblical figures often demonstrated, according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. Although Amos was a high-profile prophet, he probably intended to return to being a shepherd and tending sycamore trees. Nehemiah, the emperor's cupbearer, had a second chapter helping to restore Jerusalem's walls and greatness. The apostles also had multiple roles, with careers in fishing and tax collecting before they left to follow Jesus.

What might your next life-chapter look like? How can you use it to bring glory to God?

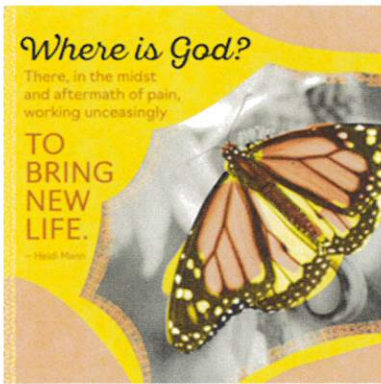


Robert (Bob) Dean Jones
January 22, 1928 – July 25, 2024

Memorial Fund: Linda & David Rankin, Sue Grusenmeyer, Willard and Betty Metzger, Tom Parsons, Lois Cook

Being Christ amid pain

In December 2023, a tanker truck carrying 9,000 gallons of gasoline tipped on its side in Totona, Liberia.



For two hours, a party atmosphere ensued as people living in poverty rushed to gather gas dripping from the vehicle. But then, the tanker suddenly exploded. Dozens of people

died instantly or were severely burned. Thousands have endured deep trauma and grief. How could life go on? Where was God?

Yet, life did go on — not easily, but in this way: Medical staff and others rallied to care for all who were suffering physically and emotionally. A nearby church held comforting worship services, and its choir went to homes to sing messages of hope. Parishes and disaster-response ministries sent teams from near and far to support people through post-traumatic stress, income loss due to disability, the birth of babies whose young fathers had died in the blast, children’s transition back to school and more. These Christian caregivers and comforters couldn’t bring instant, perfect healing. But by connecting with people who were grieving and struggling, they have become the presence of Christ.

Where is God? There, in the midst and aftermath of pain, working unceasingly to bring new life.
—Heidi Hyland Mann (source: *Living Lutheran*, May 13, 2024)



Any youth grade 6-12 interested in Confirmation may contact Pastor Mo or the church office 419-642-2681. They will be meeting at 9:00am each Sunday. Class begins September 15.



On Wednesday, Sept 11 at 6:00pm there will be a choir-kick-off party for bell and vocal choirs. Pizza will be provided. All members and new and prospective members are encouraged to attend! Senior choir practice starts Wed., Sept 18 at 7:00pm. Handbells are moving to 6pm on Wednesday. Sept 18 is a bell choir instruction day, which is a learning day for potential new people.



Our 107th Annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2024. The program will begin at 7pm. Jill Coston will be the director for the evening. The Gomer CC Children’s Choir will be singing. We hope you will be able to join us for this fun filled evening

“The only thing of importance, when we depart, will be the traces of love we have left behind.”
—Albert Schweitzer

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”—Anthony J. D'Angelo



Birthdays

- 4 Marty Thomas
- 7 Travis Watkins
- 9 Derik Mooney
- 10 Sydney Evans
- 10 Dian Ridley
- 12 Seth Tadana
- 12 Maren Clevenger
- 16 Carol Sunderland
- 17 Carolyn Dyke
- 18 Austin Jackson
- 20 Nathan Ewing
- 21 Kim Roethlisberger
- 22 Richard Williams
- 22 Kylie Carpenter
- 23 Jordyn Stewart
- 23 Matthew Nusbaum
- 25 Anna Ogle
- 25 Betty Rager 95
- 26 Anna Watkins
- 27 Mary Jane Vandemark
- 27 Linda Nichols
- 28 Oren Long
- 28 Lucas Hollar
- 30 Ryan Stewart

Penblwydd Hapus i chwili
(Happy Birthday to you in Welsh)

Anniversaries

- 4 James & Christine Lester
 - 7 Larry & Deb Stewart
 - 10 Pam & Bill Askins 57th
 - 14 Bryan & Keri Evans
 - 26 Peg & Dave Walters
 - 28 Katie & Nick Battershell
- SPECIAL DATES**
- Labor Day, *September 2*
 - National Grandparents Day, *September 8*
 - Patriot Day, *September 11*
 - First day of autumn, *September 22*

Young at heart

- I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,
 - Their steps are short like mine.
 - They don't say, "Now hurry up."
 - They always take their time.
- I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,
 - Their eyes see things like mine do
 - Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,
 - Half-hidden drops of dew.
- Most people have to hurry,
 - They do not stop and see.
 - I'm glad that God made Grandpa and Grandma
 - Unrushed and young like me.

—Author unknown

Bible Quiz



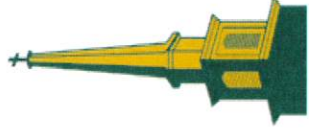
Who helped Samuel understand that it was the Lord calling him in the night?

- A. his mother, Hannah
- B. Moses
- C. his father, Elkanah
- D. Eli

Christian symbol

STEEPLE —

Steeple is a remnant of Gothic church architecture of the Middle Ages, marked by high open spaces and pointed arches that direct attention heavenward.



Nowadays a steeple atop a church small or large serves the same function. Typically topped with a cross, it designates a Christian house of worship. Steeples sometimes double as bell towers, sending out a call to worship high above the surrounding land.

Bible Quiz Answer: D (See 1 Samuel 3:1-10.)

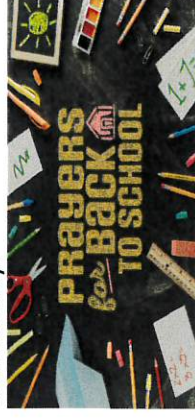
The significance of Patriot Day

Three months after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 as Patriot Day. Every year, we pause to remember the lives lost and changed on that autumn morning.

The resolution requests that each year the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities.

Those include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence and flying the U.S. flag at half-staff.

In his 2023 proclamation President Biden said, "Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect and preserve our democracy."



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Return service requested

Goals for your church

Pastor and professor Howard Clinebell Jr. described the ideal local church as one that strives to become "a healing, growth-stimulating, redemptive organism." Each congregation, he wrote, should work to develop "a dynamic climate of mutual concern which gradually seeps into and saturates the whole fellowship."

How can your church body meet those goals? For starters, compare your mission, ministry, outreach and attitudes to the early church.

The New Testament reveals that a fellowship of believers should engage in these activities together: worshiping (Acts 2:46-47), studying (Acts 2:42), witnessing (Acts 2:44-47; 3:9), serving (Acts 6:1-6; 20:35), loving (Hebrews 10:24), praying (Acts 1:14; 12:12), cooperating (Acts 1:11-14; 2:1; 4:23) and suffering for the sake of the gospel (Hebrews 10:32-34; Philippians 1:29).

In addition, Jesus calls New Testament believers to live joyfully (Acts 2:46; 5:40-41; 13:50-52; 16:25), courageously (Acts 4:13; 4:29; 15:26), powerfully (1 Corinthians 4:20), enthusiastically (Acts 2:43-47) and generously (Acts 2:45; 2 Corinthians 9:10-12). May the Holy Spirit equip us to heal, grow and mutually edify one another!

