



The Communicator



Pastor's Notes
September 2017



Pastor's Report

[Following is a reprint of the Pastor's annual report as presented to the congregation at the June 25 corporation meeting]

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me.”

These are words of greeting offered by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippian Church, and echo on many levels my own thoughts and feelings about the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church I've now been privileged to serve for sixteen years! As I reflect on these years – which represent over a quarter of my own years upon this earth – I am more than grateful that you've continued to respect, support and follow the leadership I've been called here to offer. Part of my daily devotional time is praying for our mutual ministry in and through Central, and for the Lord's leading and guidance of our efforts to reach out to our community with the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Level one is JOY. There are few blessings as rich as loving one's job. And in every respect, I do! I enjoy my role as Minister of Word and Sacrament and its fundamental duties of proclaiming the word, administering the sacraments, and providing pastoral care. Beyond these, I also derive great satisfaction from my administrative and visionary roles, wherein I've been blessed to work with some of the finest leaders any pastor could ask or pray for: our staff, our Ruling Elders, our Deacons, members of our various ministry groups and committees. Together, we have accomplished much to the glory of Christ. Throughout our journey, we have sailed seas peaceful and tranquil, and we have negotiated waters choppy and rough. Our sails at times have been filled with the wind of the Spirit propelling us forward with speed and purpose. At other times, the sails have hung flaccid as we've prayed for and awaited the Lord's next order to set forth. The rudder has at times been fluid and flexible in its movement, while at other times stiff and unyielding despite all our best efforts to control it. Nevertheless, the vessel of our beloved church has remained steady and true, not because of our extraordinary seamanship, but because our Pilot is steady and true. This makes the entire endeavor a joyful one; for me as your pastor; for all of us together as ministers of the Gospel.

Level two is CONFIDENT. While we continue to face harsh conditions “at sea” from time-to-time, especially as a downtown, mainline church (a church demographic and typology which many say is “sinking”), I am supremely confident that the Lord has set us on a course of ministry in and to the city of Massillon, and has much more for us to accomplish. Community response to and support of the ministries and outreaches we offer is a demonstration that we have much important work yet to do. In that somewhat hackneyed cliché, “*The Lord's not done with us yet.*” As I see continued growth in initiatives such as Need-A-Lunch, Second Helping Lunch, GED (and now additionally college and career preparatory courses) Program, PALS, Compassionate Friends, I grow in my certainty and confidence that we are responding to the Lord's voice calling through the many needs which surround us.

Level three is COMPLETION. This is tied closely with confident, both in Paul's ecclesiology, and in our real life ministry experiences as we build upon the good work of others who have preceded us. As Paul points out, completion of the Church's work shall only be upon what he calls "**the day of Jesus Christ,**" understood as the return of Jesus when He shall receive His Church unto Himself, as a *bride receives the bridegroom*. On that day, the Church will finally be perfected and be at perfect peace. In the meanwhile – as we sail upon seas both smooth and rough -- we are charged to carry on that great commission of being disciples, and making disciples, confident that our work serves a higher – indeed, the highest -- purpose, all to the glory of the One who calls us, commissions us, equips us, strengthens us, and promises to ultimately bring our efforts to a blessed completion, even the full establishment of the Kingdom of God. I give thanks daily in my prayers that a vision of the Kingdom Jesus came to both herald and embody is an assurance that, according to the words of Paul elsewhere: "**...in the Lord your labor is not in vain**" (*1 Cor. 15:58*). In a nutshell, what God has begun through Central Presbyterian Church, God will complete through Central Presbyterian Church.

Level four is HOLD. I have had no doubt in my mind or heart that from the day I arrived – July 1 2001 – you have held me, my family, and my ministry in your prayers. Especially in my most difficult days of service throughout these years, I have felt the weight of those prayers covering me, and the sincerity of those prayers keeping me afloat when it would have been all too easy to sink in the sea of vocational ministry's despair. And as you have been holding me in prayer, I have been holding you in prayer; not just in your times of struggle and sorrow, or in your times of celebration and joy, but for your calls to discipleship and service. For we – pastor and people – are all sailing in this vessel together. As I hold you in prayer, and as you hold me in prayer, let us employ another metaphor: We are in an embrace of grace!

Throughout this annual program report, you will read of many of the ministry and outreach efforts happening in our midst and impacting our community. Please hold in prayer all those in leadership roles: staff members, Ruling Elders, Deacons, members of our various ministry groups and committees. Under the guidance of God's word, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, envisioning the Kingdom of Christ as the ultimate destination, we all sail forth together in joy, in confidence, toward completion, holding one another close.



Vineyard Small Group Review

Many thanks to those who participated in Vineyard III-17 which focused on a study of the Psalms. This vineyard was held at the Lalama home on Sundays, July 9, 16, 23, and 30. The group over the course of four sessions covered about a quarter of the Book of Psalms, spending time discussing issues of genre, content, historical and cultural context, and how the Psalms can help guide our own lives of prayer and devotion. Engagement was both lively and deep. Following are those who were a part of Vineyard III: **Barbara Adams, Fred Bohse, Ann Butler, Fred Butler, Karen Elvin, Stew Fryer, Larry Lalama, Vale Lalama, Noreen Rogers, Marcia Short, Tig Swartz, and Polly Thompson.** Please stay tuned for upcoming vineyards



Birthdays

Lynn Heiser -----1
Lois Werner ----- 5
Becky Raisner----- 7
Nancy Putt ----- 8
Ethan Craddock --- 9
Karen Houchins --- 9
Richard Slabaugh - 9
Piper Werner ----- 9
Linda Contrael---- 11
Camille Leslie----- 11
Olivia Aguon ----- 12
Will Beltz ----- 12
Heather Vignos -- 13
Jennifer Watson-- 13
Char Bickel----- 15
Donna Burau ----- 16
Kelly Hamilton --- 18
Lian Sidharta ----- 18
Nancy Aguon----- 19
Gary Miller ----- 19
Hollie Beltz -----20
Quincy Davis----- 21
Sue Kelewae ----- 21
Janice Swan ----- 21



Fellowship
Hour
Deacons

Card Ministry
Jackie
Pfeiffer



Please Pray For:

Marie Buckey ----- Caldwell
Chuck Cochran ----- Rose Lane
Earl Coen -----Regency
Patty Daughenbaugh ----- The Landing
Joyce Dowd -----Inn at Belden Village
Margaret Fetzer ----- Altercare Navarre
Sally Frieg----- Amherst Meadows
Barbara Mertes -----Inn at Belden Village
Jenny O'Connor ----- The Danbury
Hank & Genie Ross ----- Home
Annitta Schrickel----- Tuttle Crossing
Hermine Schwendiman ----- Amherst
Walker Smith ----- Inn at BeldenVillage
Happy Snively ----- The Danbury
Velda Snyder----- Home
Bette Yonkich----- Meadow Wind

Hospitalized In July and August

Dana Vargo Ruth Sibert Doris Oberlin
Dorothy Beck Don McDonald Bud Shaffer

Anniversaries

Ron &Norma Roberts ----- 4
David & Linda Rankl----- 7
Lynn & David Heiser----- 8
Bud & Alice Shaffer ----- 13
Scott & Heather Vignos --- 19
Gail & Kenneth Billman ---29

Stewardship of Attendance

August 6 ----- 156
August 13 -----160
August 20----- 153
August 27 ----- 167

**Average attendance May 28– August 27
was 172**



Greeters

Liturgists

Carrie Paisley ----- 3
John Beltz----- 10

Rosie Sikorsky ----- 17
Barb Cornell ----- 24

Cash Crew Reminder

Bob Dawson starts his schedule on August 13– September 3rd and Liz Sibert September 10– October 1st. Please report to the office after worship on your scheduled Sundays. If you have any conflicts please contact Bob Dawson.



Hope Rebekah Circle News

Hope Rebekah Circle of Central Church will resume its regular meeting schedule on Thursday, September 14. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and fellowship. Our hostesses for this meeting are Carolyn Kennen, Bonnie Craven and Margaret Guleff. The Bible Study is the final one in our Women of the New Testament Study Book and we will be learning about Priscilla – A Partner in Leadership. The Scripture Passage is Acts 18:1-4 and verses 18 through 28. Please remember to bring non-perishables and paper goods

Peace and Global Witness Offering will be celebrated on World Communion Sunday October 1

The Peace & Global Witness Offering, formerly Peacemaking Offering, is received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday, October 1.

Ephesians 2:14-17 teaches us that we are created anew as one body through the cross. We are called to put aside our differences and our hostilities – to love one another and proclaim the peace of Christ to those near and far.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Because of your congregation's support, Presbyterians have helped to rebuild war-torn communities and advocate for peace at tables where global leaders meet, such as United Nations.

Please give generously to the Peace and Global Witness offering on Sunday October 1.



Back to School Program

Thanks to the entire congregation for their donations of school supplies to assist the Massillon Salvation Army for their Back to School program. We collected over 237 supplies from paper and notebooks, pens, pencils and crayons, backpacks and other supplies.



Golf Outing Final

We had 28 golfers for a total of 7 teams playing in a scramble at Tam O'Shanter. We had a wonderful time in the bright beautiful Sunday afternoon to play golf. We had a total of 35 for dinner served on the back patio by Santangelo restaurant. Winners with the lowest score 33 was Team Sibert which included Roger and Liz Sibert, Seth Sibert and his fiancé Sarah Sinetos. Runners up were Team Mungo with a tied score of 33, which included JoAnn Mungo, Linda Pfeiffer and Sue and Jim Bushway. Contest winners included: 50/50 raffle: Chris Evans, longest drive: Seth Sibert, longest putt: Liz Sibert, and closest to the pin: Jim Bushway.

Thanks to Outreach Ministry, Chris Evans and Liz Sibert for their hard work, and hole sponsors including Enhanced Consultants, LTD, Camille Leslie and Debbie Feichter

Staff Changes



We extend our deep gratitude to **Chris Craddock** who completed her work as Parish Administrator earlier this summer in order to accept a full-time position at Walsh University. We are most pleased Chris will remain in her capacity as Financial Secretary. We welcome to our staff **Char Bickel** who has been serving in an interim role. She will remain in the position of Office Administrator along with **Sandy Hannan**, who assumed her duties August 14. Sandy brings rich administrative experience, having served in the Superintendent's office in the Massillon District for twelve years. She serves on the Leadership Board at Faith Community Fellowship of Massillon, as well as leading women's Bible study and fellowship. Stop by and welcome Char and Sandy to their new roles at CPC!

Officers Installed

On Sunday, July 30 during worship, we were pleased to ordain and install those who will be providing administrative and spiritual leadership over the next year. Ordained to the office of Ruling Elder was **Dale Smith**. Ordained to the office of Deacon was **Julie Hamilton**. Installed as Ruling Elders were **Ann Butler, Fred Butler, Byron Lash** and **Leslie Picot**. Installed as Deacons were **Carolyn Kennen, Cheryl Lash, Martha McDonald** and **Sue Wesley**. Please remain in prayer for these servant leaders as they guide the ministries of Central.

August Needy Lunch



News

The Massillon Museum Fun Fest 2017 and the Lincoln Way Garage sale and rummage sale brought hundreds of people into downtown Massillon during the Need A Lunch dinner. About one hundred of our regular guests braved the action for a hot meal. We served Hamburgers (yes two months in a row and no complaints) baked beans, coleslaw, and water melon. Nancy brought a large grocery bag full of home grown tomatoes that were sliced for the burgers. An unidentified church previously had a fresh food give away. The extra food was delivered to Central on Friday and filled the refrigerator. We gave away about 100 pounds of corn repackaged into half dozen bags. There were four sacks of potatoes equivalent to 200 pounds. A box each of green peppers and romaine lettuce. And, a box of green bean that unfortunately went bad and were discarded. The Lord will provide a bounty when in need. Thanks for everyone's support and help.



We extend our condolences and blessings to those who have recently lost loved ones.

Family and friends of **Helen K. Swann** who was received into Christ's arms on May 23 at the age of 97. Services were conducted for Helen on May 27 at Schermesser Funeral Home with Pastor Larry officiating.

Roger, Liz, Seth Sibert and Samantha Eubank, family and friends of **Onalette "Nonie" Sibert** who entered the glory of Jesus on July 5. She was 92 years of age. Services were held for Nonie in our sanctuary on July 9 with Pastor Larry officiating and a ministry of music provided by Leigh Conti.

Family and friends of **Betty "Becky" Raisner** who Jesus called home on July 8 at the age of 89. A private service was conducted for Becky on July 11 at South Lawn Cemetery in Beach City with Pastor Larry officiating.

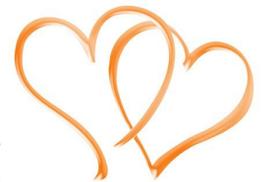
Ken and Sue Kelewae, family and friends of Ken's brother **Gene Kelewae** who was victorious in Christ following a lengthy and courageously-faced illness. He was 67 years of age. Services were conducted for Gene in New Berwick, Maine on August 26.

Family and friends of **Peg Trimble** who found rest in the Lord on August 16 following a lengthy period of decline. Services were conducted for Peg at the Rose Hill Chapel on August 26 with Pastor Larry officiating.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Wedding Bells



Congratulations to **Chad Pfeiffer** and **Nicole Adkins** who were joined in holy matrimony on Saturday, July 8 at Zoar Gardens with Pastor Larry officiating. Congratulations also to **Doug Beery** and **Maria Getz** who were united as husband and wife in the beautiful courtyard of their 4th Street home on Saturday, July 29 with Pastor Larry officiating.

congratulations

We send our congratulations to **Allison Norris** who is the 2017 recipient of the **McAllister Family Memorial Scholarship**. Allison is a 2017 graduate of Washington High School, and will be attending West Liberty University this fall where she will be majoring in zoology and biology. We wish Allison a wonderful educational journey.

Pastor Larry and Vale would like to invite anyone interested to join them at their home for an afternoon viewing of the 1988 film "Mississippi Burning" starring Gene Hackman and William Dafoe. In these days of heightened racial tension, this film is timely as it explores racism and hate groups in the 1960's south. It is loosely based on the real life story of three civil rights workers who disappeared and were found murdered in 1964. Please be advised that this film is graphic and intense. Please let Pastor Larry or the church office know if you'd like a ticket.



Financial Snapshot

	<u>As of July 31, 2017</u>	<u>As of July 31, 2016</u>
YTD Receipts	\$186,723.95	\$188,486.31
YTD Disbursements	194,753.39	\$191,309.82
YTD Surfeit/(Deficit)	\$8,029.44	\$2,823.51
Operating Fund Balance	\$1,560.53	\$6,645.43

THANK YOU!!! Throughout the summer, giving has remained strong. Where we anticipated a deficit in excess of \$29,000 at this point in the fiscal year, the deficit stands at a mere \$8,029; and where we anticipated total operating income of around \$178,000 at this point, TOI is actually \$186,723! Thanks to you, the ministry and mission of CPC continues to grow and thrive. Your generosity has truly been God sent, and to God we give the glory! Please continue to give as the Lord has prospered you

Report from the August Session Meeting

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The regular meeting of Session was held on August 17, 2017 with Rev. Larry Lalama moderating. Ruling Elders in attendance were Chris Evans, Herb Shreiner, Ann Butler, Fred Butler, Byron Lash, Dale Smith, Nancy McEwen, Char Bickel, Don McDonald, Dana Vargo, Carl Wise, Rich Wilder, Camille Leslie, and Clerk Roger Sibert. Also in attendance was Deacon Representative Brenda Wise. Elder Wise offered devotions followed by review of the church family prayer list and opening prayer by Pastor Larry.

General Business

- * Approved minutes from the June 15, 2017 regular and July 30, 2017 special Session meetings.
- * Approved removal of Onalette Sibert and Peg Trimble from the church rolls due to death.
- * Approved request for membership transfer for Bob and Carolyn Porter to Massanutten Presbyterian Church in Penn Laird, Virginia.
- * Approved motion responding "Do not object" to a liquor permit request for Jen's Place in downtown Massillon.
- * Approved request for baptism for Gabriel Emerson Picot on September 3, 2017.
- * Approved request from Ted Gardner that he be removed from the church rolls.
- * Approved motion to appoint to the Financial Review Committee for fiscal 2016 Byron Lash (convener), Ron Fogle, Bill Indorf, and Bob Pribanic.

Report of the Pastor

Pastor Lalama submitted a written report to the Session detailing his activities since the June meeting. He reported 6 hospital visitations, 8 nursing home visitations, and 3 home visitations. He conducted 2 funeral services, officiated 2 weddings and 2 baptisms, offered 1 pre-membership counseling session and 4 pre-marital counseling sessions, attended 3 church committee meetings and 1 presbytery meeting, and led 8 Sunday worship services. Several other activities were noted.

From the Ministries

- * Approved the Report of the Treasurer which showed an Operating Fund Balance of \$1,560.53 as of July 31, 2017.
- * General discussions regarding Vacation Bible School, Bell Choir, office administrative staff, Kairos women's prison ministry, photo directory, work of Team Vision 21.1, and activities of Deacons.

Report of the Clerk

- * Holy Communion served on July 2, 2017 to 151 communicants and on August 6, 2017 to 143 Communicants.
- * Death of Onalette Sibert (7/5/17) and Peg Trimble (8/16/17)

Respectfully Submitted by Roger Sibert, Clerk of Session



Hannah Group



Where moms of school-aged children connect to be spiritually encouraged for the journey of parenthood.

Hannah Group aims to:

-  **Invite every mom of school-agers into a safe community**
-  **Provide personal support and encouragement**
-  **Relate Christian faith to our life practices**

The Hannah Group has emerged from the needs of concerned mothers who would like to connect with other moms in the community to find encouragement for their parenting adventures. Our monthly meetings have been designed to provide uplifting, faith based discussion that is relevant to the issues of parenting school-aged children.

Hannah Group will meet in the fellowship hall of Central Presbyterian Church every first Thursday of the month September—June from 7:00-9:00 PM. There is no membership fee to join the Hannah group, but it is recommended that participants purchase a workbook for \$15 that will be used throughout the year. (Workbooks are available for purchase at each meeting.)



Meeting Dates

September 7	February 1
October 5	March 1
November 2	May 3
December 7	June 7
January 4	



September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pastor's Day off	2
3 Communion 10:30 Worship 10:45 Gateway 11:30 Fellowship	4 Labor Day Office closed	5 ASPIRE 8:00 Men's Prayer Group	6 ASPIRE 7:30 Choir	7 7p Hannah Group	8 Pastor's Day off	9 Need A Lunch MVP at New Concord
10 10:30 Worship 10:45 Gateway 11:30 Fellowship 12n Team Vision	11 ASPIRE 1:00 Quilters 7p Men's Study	12 ASPIRE 8:00 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 Trustees & Outreach	13 ASPIRE 7:30 Choir	14 9:30 Hope Rebekah 6:30 Deacons	15 Pastor's Day off	16
17 10:30 Worship 10:45 Gateway 1:00 Youth Fellowship Canoe Trip 3p Pastor Movie	18 ASPIRE 1:00 Quilters 7p Men's Study	19 ASPIRE 8:00 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 Team Vision	20 APIRE 7:30 Choir	21 6:30 Session	22 Pastor's Day off	23 Second Helping
24 10:30 Worship 10:45 Gateway 11:30 Fellowship	25 ASPIRE 1:00 Quilters 7p Men's Study	26 ASPIRE 8:00 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 Faith & Nurture Compassionate Friends	27 ASPIRE 7:30 Choir	28	29 Pastor's Day off	30