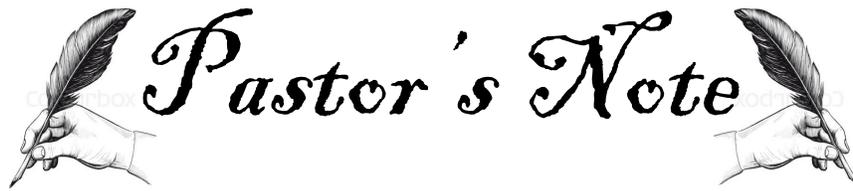


The Evangel



The First Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER 2015



Pastor's Note

From the Pastor – *We Give Because We Need To*

With the month of October upon us, we again turn our minds to the subject of stewardship, a topic that causes many of us to wince. We, of course, remember last year's difficult stewardship campaign, after which so many cuts had to be made to the budget. It's painful that, *yet again*, we find ourselves talking about money, just as it's painful that *yet again*, we find that the bills keep on coming, whether we want them to or not.

And yet, I hope that this year we can clear away all of that baggage, and talk about stewardship in a different way. I hope that, as we conduct our campaign for 2016, we can set aside the idea that we're giving merely to fill holes in the budget, and instead talk about giving, money and generosity in light of what Scripture says. For Scripture has a lot of interesting and timely things to say on this matter. Consider the following:

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us . . . For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9, ESV).

Paul is writing to the Corinthian church here to urge them to give generously to a collection he is taking up for famine relief for the church in Jerusalem. By way of motivation, he's holding up the generosity of the churches in Macedonia (northern Greece), which even in their *extreme poverty*, were so eager to give that they even begged Paul for the chance to do so! When was the last time you ever saw anyone at church *beg* to have an offering? That's not something that happens often, to put it mildly.

And yet, Paul writes that the Macedonian believers "excelled in the grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7, ESV), and that the reason is clear: *Because the Lord Jesus, though He was rich, became poor for us* (2 Corinthians 8:9, ESV). Our Lord did not hesitate to *give generously* for our sakes – even giving His blood, His life! The Macedonian believers, Paul writes, gave as Jesus gave – they gave as Christians. And so he urges the Corinthians – and by extension, us! – to give.

So how do we do that? Well, Paul answers that in the next chapter:

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work . . . He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-11, ESV).

To give as Jesus gives means several things, in other words. On the one hand, it means giving cheerfully, not grudgingly. It means giving with joy, knowing that what we give will be blessed by God, and used for His glory. Now, does this mean that we should only drop a dollar in the offering plate, because that's all we can give *cheerfully*? Of course not! Jesus gave generously, and so should we. Jesus gave willingly, even cheerfully, and so should we.

At the same time, we are called to give *with trust that God will provide for our needs*. Sometimes God calls us to give beyond our means, beyond what we think we can afford to give. Stretching to give a tithe, and even beyond a tithe (which is what I believe the Bible teaches) can be hard. And yet, Paul says here that *when we sow generously, we will reap generously* – that in the same cheerful, generous spirit with which we give, so it will be given to us by God, not just for our physical needs, but *in all things, at all times*. God is the One who supplies all of our gifts and resources, and He responds joyfully when we cheerfully, generously trust in Him. This is a promise from God – we can depend on it!

So, the question is: do we give in this way? Do we give joyfully, generously, cheerfully, trustingly? Do we give according to the way Jesus gave, in response to all He has given? In the words of the pithy church sign: Do we give God what's right, or merely what's left? We're going to be talking more about these things this month as we gear up toward 2016. Please prayerfully consider your pledge to the work of God here – not just because we have a budget to meet, but because Jesus has given so much to us, *and because we need to give back in gratitude to Him!*

To Him alone be the glory!

In Christ's Love,
Joshua



World Communion Sunday is October 4. Be sure to come worship with us as we join with our brothers and sisters around the world in celebrating the Lord's Supper as a sign of our unity.

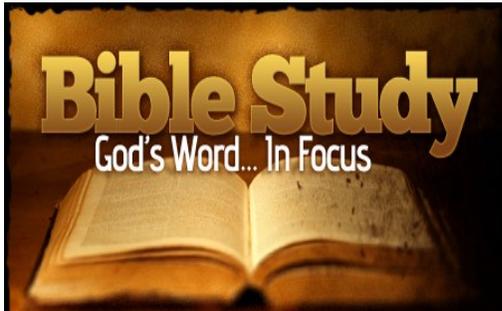


Congratulations to Audrey Marie Hasenohr, who will receive the **Sacrament of Baptism** during the 10:45 worship service on Sunday, October 11. Welcome, dear sister in Christ!

Reformation Sunday

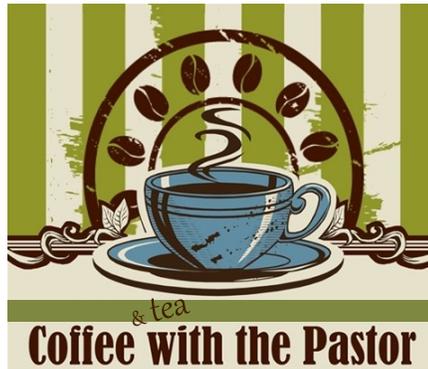


Reformation Sunday is October 25. Be sure to join us in worship as we celebrate our Protestant heritage, and give thanks to God for the assurance of salvation.



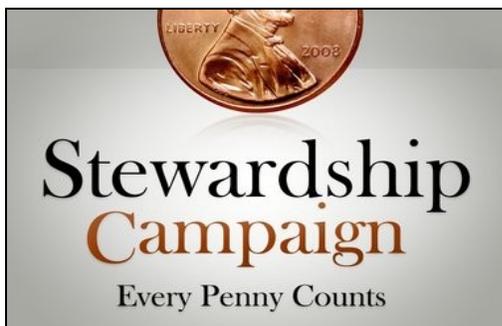
The **Pastor's Bible Study** is back! Have you been missing our weekly studies of Scripture on Mondays? Or are you perhaps looking for a new way to dig into God's Word, or to get closer to Him? Come join us each Monday at 7pm in the Conference Room for a relaxed, informative Bible Study! We will begin with Paul's letter to the Ephesians. All are welcome! **(Note – we will not have Bible Study on October 5, in favor of the Evangelism Seminar).**

Quote to Ponder... *"The more you give, the more comes back to you, because God is the greatest giver in the universe, and He won't let you outgive Him. Go ahead and try. See what happens."*



Our next **Tea or Coffee With the Pastor** will be held from 2-4pm on Wednesday, October 14. We will meet again at the Coffee Peddler in downtown Harrison (112 Harrison Avenue).

Come for good fellowship, good conversation, good hot beverages, and for a chance to ask any question you want! All are welcome!



Our 2016 Stewardship Campaign will be held in the month of October. It is an important step in the Mission of our church: **First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Ohio is growing in faith by building stronger relationships with God and community through prayer and worship. The reading and understanding of God's Word strengthens our commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through love and service to our neighbor so that all may experience God's grace.**

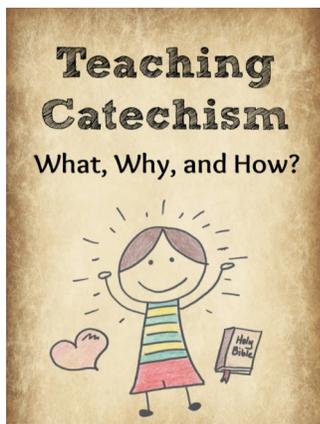
We continue to be blessed with your generous sharing of time, talents and prayers. No less important is the support provided through your faithful financial giving.

During the first week of October you will receive a mailing with our preliminary budget and a pledge card. Please prayerfully consider your financial giving for 2016 to support the mission of our church.

Please complete your pledge card and return it to the church on or before Sunday, November 1. Please include our Stewardship campaign in your prayers. Feel free to reach out to the Stewardship committee with any questions or concerns. Current committee: Sandra McCauley, Erwin Hein, Belinda Moul and Jeff Gibbs.

- 2 Rick Sweeney, Robert Yocum
- 4 Pat Scheer, Lana
- Stapp
- 5 Mindy Biddle, Clement Street
- 7 Jason Fury, George
- Schummer
- 8 Rodger Meyers
- 10 Mary Rae Ward, Kaitlyn
Unroe, Alyn Derringer
- 11 Lauren Loos
- 13 Renee Schinaman
- 15 Judie Hein, Kathleen Gibbs,
Erin Hill

- 16 Michael Snape
- 17 Marilyn Rueger, Marvin Cook,
- 18 Mindy Sindiong
- 20 Amy Green, Tom Steuver,
Emily Stapp
- 23 Dawna Thomas
- 24 Virginia Steelman



The Catechism Class will begin meeting every Sunday immediately after the 10:45 worship service in the library. Lunch will be provided as we dig into the basics of our faith. If you have any questions, please see Rev. Long.



It is time to review the performance of Rev. Joshua Long as our Pastor for the 12 months from October

1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. We would like your opinions. Your comments will be treated confidentially. Review forms are available from members of the Pastor Review committee. Please place your completed review documents in the "ballot box" that sits just outside the church office. We would like to have the results on or before Sunday, October 11, 2015. The Pastor Review Committee this year is: Karen Greschel, Erwin Hein, Sandra McCauley.

Proverbs 22:9 Food Drive Update:

The 3rd annual Proverbs 22:9 Food Drive is now complete. Our local food pantries run low on food during the months of September and October, so the church youth collected and delivered non perishable food items to Love Inc and the North Dearborn food pantry each week during September. As of September 27, the congregation donated 112 items and the youth donated 111 items for a total of 223 items collected. Thank you for your support! While the food drive is officially over, we encourage everyone to continue to donate non perishable food items each week through out the year. You may drop off items in the basket located in the Welcome center or the basket near the office entry door.

*Sincerely, Youth Connection, Frogs
and parents*



Thank you from the Stewardship Committee & Session:

A big thank you to our Financial Review Committee for all of their time and work on reviewing the 2014 church financials. All reports passed their audit. Thank you Marilyn Bourquein, Lana Bybee and Bob Tabor! We would also like to thank the following for all of their time and dedication to serving our church: Reta Crone and Mike Green (our weekly offering counters), Belinda Moul (our Treasurer) and Jeff Gibbs (our Financial Secretary). Please take a moment next time you see them and give them a big thank you!



Can't make it to church? Out of town last month and want to see what you missed? You can watch Rev. Long live and catch up on previous sermons via our church's website:(www.harrisonpresbyterian.com) or via our new YouTube station (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr_A4d3L-GAEF8ymxJF_8Zg) or search "First Presbyterian Church of Harrison" in YouTube.





MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES
Interested in going to Matthew 25? Plan to meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 am on **Monday, Oct. 26.**

churchWIDE RUMMAGE SALE




The Women's Association Fall "Big Stuff Sale"

Sunday, October 4 after 10:45 service:
Need volunteers to set up tables in Sonrise Hall.

Monday - Thursday, October 5-8, 9:30-3:30:
Drop off your "Stuff", sort and price.

Friday, October 9, 9:00 - 3:00: STUFF SALE IS ON!

Saturday, October 10, 9:00 - 1:00: STUFF SALE IS ON!

Saturday, October 4 at 1:00: NEED VOLUNTEERS to help bag and box left over items.

Please see June if you have questions

The Women's Association October Meeting will take place Thursday, October 8 at noon. Bring your own lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided by your hostesses: Reta Crone, Deanna Jones, Joan Loos and Evelyn Stutzman.

If you have an article or event you would like featured in the **November Evangel**, please submit them to Kristy by **October 20**.

You can leave a note in her mailbox or email her at kkathman@harrisonpresbyterian.com

2¢ A MEAL SUNDAY, OCT. 11

You can place your donations in the gold pots located at both entrances to the sanctuary. Thanks for your donation to feed the hungry.



REMINDER: We are still collecting empty medicine bottles for Matthew 25. You can leave them in the basket in between the office entrance doors or in the basket near the doors of the Welcome Center. Thanks!



Evangelism Seminar: Have you ever wanted to share your faith with someone, but just didn't know where to start? Does the idea of talking to someone about Jesus cause you to break out into a cold sweat? We have just the thing for you! On Monday, October 5, at 6:30pm the Outreach Committee will be hosting Rev. Russell Smith, pastor of Covenant-First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, for a wonderful evening event on the nuts and bolts of doing evangelism. We hope all will be able to attend. (Note: Rev. Smith and Covenant-First Presbyterian are also members of The Fellowship Community!)



Our next monthly prayer meeting is Saturday, October 10 at 11 am in the chapel. Please join us as we lift up our congregation, our leaders, our nation, and other needs in prayer! All are welcome!

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven"

(James 5:14-15,ESV). In

obedience to these verses, we offer a **HEALING SERVICE** in the chapel on the last Sunday of each month after the 10:45 worship service. Any who are sick or in need are welcome to come receive anointing and prayer from the elders of our congregation. God has given us a great promise here – let's take Him at His Word!



The Facilities Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped at the church this past year by setting up and taking down tables, tidying-up and moving rooms around for meetings, cleaning the church, assisting with gardening, spreading rock, mowing the lawn and doing repairs. We will continue with our weekly clean-up days on Thursdays from 9am - noon. If you would like to volunteer on an evening, please contact the church office to arrange a time with Marcia.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SERVICE & TIME!



The Pastor Recommends: "War Room" (2015). Let's face it - so often, we don't want to see the latest so-called "Christian film", because usually the acting is lame, the writing trite, and the quality of the production design abysmal. But in the latest in a line of Christian movies from siblings Alex and Stephen Kendrick ("Flywheel", "Fireproof", "Courageous"), "War Room" is far from what you would expect from a "Christian movie". Instead, it is a rather well-made, thought-provoking film about the power of prayer which earlier this month knocked other much higher budget pieces from the #1 spot. The story centers on

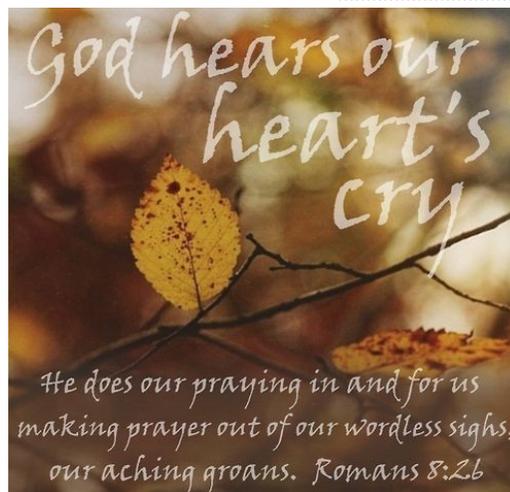
Elizabeth, a woman drifting in a troubled marriage, and how her life is changed when she meets Miss Clara, who teaches her to treat her prayer closet like a War Room. If you are looking for a good, clean, yet challenging film, go see this film, which is in theaters now. You won't regret it!

THOUGHTS and PRAYERS for our CHURCH FAMILY



Our Shut-ins

Pauline Zimmerman
Nora Montgomery
Theresa Johnson
Jeanette Rae
Gloria Culley
Ginny Thiele
Don Kraus



For health needs

Lou Rozmarynowski
Gene Steelman
Georgia Dwelly
Louanna Smith
Bennie Pierson
Hester Konkle
Janet Coakley
Russell Taylor
Jerry Frances
Ellen Puckett
Elaine Harris
Carter Jones
Nomi Taylor
Jane Poland
Earl Dwelly
Diane Arel
Jean Vest

Specific Prayer needs

Deb Menninger: for her son's health;
June Merten: for her brother's health;
Stephanie Trabel: for her aunt's health;
Jim & Ellen Puckett: for her sister's health;
Georgia & Earl Dwelly: for their daughter's health;
Gloria Culley: for her grandson and his Mission Team;
Nancy Mendell: for her niece, Mary Ellen Watts', health;
Bill & Sherry Schlager: for his brother and sister's health;
Ted & Janet Coakley: for their granddaughter's, her sister's & his brother's health



PRAYER CHAIN CALLS

*The Prayer Chain is a group of people who are committed to praying daily for those requesting prayer. This ministry is administered through our Board of Deacons. If you have a prayer request please contact **Marcia Merse at 812-637-3702 (home) or 367-4301 (work) during the day or Phyllis Wolfram at 367-4578 during the evening.** For two weeks, the people on the chain will pray daily for the person or situation requested.*



Quote to Ponder... “

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)

