

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNICATOR



FROM THE PASTOR:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father

I spent a few minutes this morning looking at a Facebook (For those of you who are not yet familiar, Facebook is a fast growing online community. I first encountered it when my brother sent me an invitation to view pictures of my new nephew there.). I was looking at what is called a profile and I was struck by the questions that were being asked. Well, more specifically, I was struck by what my answers to the questions revealed.

When I began to fill in the answer to the question, “what are your frequent activities?” I thought

about it for a few moments and came to the conclusion that most of my actions, not merely my activities, are reactive. I have recently returned from vacation time and during vacation I had the freedom to choose how to spend my time. I noticed that even when given freedom, I often allowed my schedule to be dominated by the noisiest need I perceive.

I attempted to recall what I have been spending my time on and in. Lately, I have spent a good amount of time on home maintenance. So I wrote that down. I also have spent a lot of time golfing, it was my primary vacation activity. So I wrote that down. I have been reading some books that I had placed in a holding pattern over the past several months. I have not, to my satisfaction, lived intentionally as a disciple of Jesus.

I have painted walls because I saw that they needed paint. I have read books because they were stacking up and beginning to make me feel guilty. I have golfed (in part) because I know that it is a way to intentionally disengage my mind from circling round and round on my to-do list. What I haven’t done, and I am sure that Steven Covey would not appreciate this, is choose the most important things and make them my first priority.

*“starts with a simple prayer-
Jesus, I
surrender”*

Today I am changing that. Not by mere force of will – that would ultimately lead me back to where I started. No, I am changing this behavior of being subject to the tyranny of the urgent by making myself subject to Jesus. It is starting with a simple prayer – “Jesus, I surrender.” Only if I recognize my unavoidable tendency to react and then begin reacting to Jesus will I find the peace and happiness that I long to enjoy.

We are offered many paths to happiness. Goods, services, food and even relationships (out of balance) can offer short term comfort. There are

many distractions afforded to a person living in the United States that claim to bring peace and happiness. I recently saw a cartoon that captured this perfectly. It was a man standing in front of a vending machine. The two top shelves of the machine were filled with items labeled: “Truth, Integrity, Honesty, etc.” The bottom eight shelves of the machine are labeled: “Noisy, Shiny, Crap” and they are sold out. The cartoon is almost right except that it seems to me there is a constant restocking of the bottom shelves.

Jesus tells us, “I am the way, the truth and the life”. He invites us to come to him if we are weary and heavy laden. He offers his yoke. I for one am going to wear it today. And when I realize that I have traded it for something else tomorrow (or even by dinner tonight) I will stop and pray again – “I’m sorry Jesus, I surrender.” I long to know Christ and be his disciple, will you join me?

In Christ,
Jonathan

OCTOBER 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

YOUTH MINISTRIES	2
CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES	3
DEACONS	4
LIFE GROUPS	5
FUNDRAISER	8
CARE AND COMPASSION	11

Forward in Faithfulness: Celebrating 200 years of witness for the Lord Jesus Christ

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witness, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES:

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Sundays	Sr. High Fellowship	6-7:30 pm
Thursdays	Jr. High Fellowship	7-8:15 pm
Oct. 1 st	Jr. High at the Kahrl's	7-8:15 pm
Oct. 4 th	Sr. High at the Bolenders	6-7:30 pm
Oct. 8 th	No Jr. High Youth Group	
Oct. 11 th	Paintball	10:45-5 pm
	Both Jr. & Sr. High are invited!	
Nov. 1 st	Sr. High at the Cochrans	6-7:30 pm



The Freedom in Discipline

God has been teaching me a lot recently, specifically in regards to the art of discipline and freedom. Previously, when I looked at the word “discipline,” ugly images came to my mind of restriction, rigid and formal structure; anything but freedom. Jesus spoke against the strict discipline that the Pharisees upheld as it often led to results that did not glorify God. They rebuked Jesus for his activities on the Sabbath, saying that he was not obeying the law. One time Jesus responds, “Man was not made for the Sabbath, but Sabbath was made for man” (Mark 2:27). Jesus is not against discipline, but he is against a legalism that sets itself higher than God-glorifying principles.

I am not much of a disciplined runner, if I’m honest, I run when I want to, and I eat when I want to (much more eating than running)! Yet when invited by Chris Patterson to go running, I was happy to go. Chris decided that it would be fun to run 3 miles –why anyone would consider this fun is beyond me! To my surprise, Chris and I began running 3 or more miles on a regular basis. Some mornings I looked forward to it, but more often I dreaded it. Yet in the midst of these several weeks, I came to a stunning realization: I had much more energy throughout the day; not only that, but I could see a positive difference in my attitude.

Perhaps you have experienced something similar; you see a commitment to a certain activity or discipline as a burden at first, but as you encounter it, you find some blessing or joy that you didn’t expect. I hope you have experienced this. As followers of Jesus Christ, hopefully we are committed to the discipline of discipleship. In other words, we are committed to growing into the image of our teacher and Lord, Jesus Christ. What this means is that we commit ourselves to activities and/or disciplines that help to challenge and grow our faith. Sometimes we look forward to these activities, sometimes we dread them -if we’re honest. Either way, if we practice these disciplines we experience a freedom and a joy that comes with being transformed into Christ likeness.

If we claim to be Christian, yet we are not committed to this discipline of discipleship, then we are settling for cheap grace.

Continued on page 8



Children's Ministries

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

September 2009 Communicator – Children's Ministry

Infant & Toddler News – Sunday 8:30am to Noon. Prayerful thanks to the adult and youth volunteers who helped in this ministry during September: Kelly Bergeson, Sabrina Camfield, Holly Bredefeld, Lauren McKenzie, and Elizabeth Napier.

Additional Childcare Attendant Mairead Murphy has joined Carly Haas on the staff. This arrangement reduces the need to recruit as many volunteers to help and is working out very well.

If you wish to help with this ministry, contact Elizabeth Napier, enapier@mvnu.edu or by phone 392-9658.

Sunday School – Grades K-5 – Sunday 9:45am to 10:45am:

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with children's Sunday school in September including: Deb Paxton, Kim Reitsma, Gregg Gebhardt, Amanda Gebhardt, Michelle Shillito, Bonnie Stone, Ellen Chadwick, Beth Ruth, Marsha Bibart and George Stone.

Lessons for October will be from the "Kid Connection", Faith Alive Christian Resources, curriculum approved by the Presbyterian Church, USA:

October 4 – A Laughing Matter (the Birth of Isaac) – Geneses 12:1-5; 18:1-15; 21:1-7. God turns the laughter of unbelief into the joy of new life.

October 11 – A Blessing in Disguise (Jacob and Esau) – Genesis 15:19-31; 27:1-45. God uses even a liar like Jacob to fulfill his promises.

October 18 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – plan to attend the Fellowship Breakfast

October 25 – A Dream Come True (Joseph) – Genesis 37:1-36; 39-47. God uses even the bad things that happen to us to fulfill his promises.

We are still seeking a "Children's Sunday School Team Leader" who will be responsible for volunteer staffing of Children's Sunday school and making sure everything runs smoothly on Sunday mornings. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Elder for Children's Ministries, George Stone, 397-8619 or the church office.

Children's Moment/Our Chapel Church – during 11:00am Sunday Worship.

Kyle is seeking several people to be assistant teachers in this ministry. Commitment will be occasional, perhaps once a month. Lessons this fall are based on the stories of the Old Testament. If you would like to serve in this ministry, please contact Kyle Peters through the church office – 393-1326.

Harvest Hoe-Down – Carly Haas will be team leader working with Kyle Peters to conduct a Harvest Hoe-Down on October 31, Halloween night. Booths will be set up with activities for neighborhood Trick or Treaters to participate in. Adults and older teens are needed to give leadership. If you would like to help with this activity that serves the children of our church and the neighborhood, please contact Carly or Kyle.

DEACON'S LOVE Changes, Challenges & Commitment

What a year this has been! Here it is September and what have we accomplished? With all the changes and challenges going on in our community and world, have we lost focus on our faith community? No, I don't think so, but it is ever a challenge to continue in our commitment to serve as deacons of compassion and ministry.

As we go into Fall and the more academic style of life, my heartfelt thanks are being issued to one and all of our ordained deacons. You have all held onto your vows of service and we have much for which to be thankful. Let us continue to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ and make him known in our community and the world.

Peace and Blessings,

Ellen



One day I found two pumpkin seeds. I planted one and pulled the weeds. It sprouted roots and a big, long vine. A pumpkin grew; I called it mine.

The pumpkin was quite round and fat. (I really am quite proud of that.) But there is something I'll admit, That has me worried just a bit. I ate the other seed, you see. Now will it grow inside of me?

(I'm so relieved since I have found, that pumpkins only grow in the ground!)

PUMPKIN POEM

"Church Fall Cleanup Day— Saturday, October 24th"

Volunteers are needed for our annual fall cleanup of church flower beds and shrubbery pruning. Many hands will make light work, so please come to lend a hand at 9 AM in the church parking lot. Please bring your favorite gardening tools and gloves. Contact Mead Weil at 740-397-4300 with any questions."



.It's Just Better together...

As Fall approaches, we all tend to plan the activities we want to have in our lives, much like we did as children returning to school. It is an exciting time as we plan for the future use of our time. Hopefully, we pray for guidance as we make our decisions.

Many have already chosen to be a part of a Life Group; those groups are making plans to reunite after summer vacation. You are invited to make the decision this year to be part of a small group...we call them Life Groups.

What are Life Groups? They are small groups made of 5-12 people that meet regularly to enjoy fellowship, study and pray. They can be a life-line. They provide connection to the larger body of Christ. They are a platform where true friendships grow. Life Groups provide a safe place where you can share your concerns and questions. They are made up of a group of people who are growing in their relationship to Christ and in faith.

Our mission statement is simple: To create places of caring community within First Presbyterian Church where our family of faith can seek Christ together and be transformed into disciples who impact their world for Christ. Our vision is: To become a church of small groups where no one stands alone.

If this speaks to you, you are invited to read the blue pamphlet in the church pews (or the literature table near the sign-in table at 8:30 service). Use that form to sign up for a Life Group and experience first-hand the joy, encouragement, acceptance, love and support that comes from sharing life with your fellow brother and sisters in our family of faith.

You can fill out the card on that folder and drop it in the offering plate.

If you need additional information or have any questions. Please contact Betty Hirsch, Elder for Life Groups, at 397-7944 (home after September 15th) or bhirsch77@gmail.com (anytime!) or Holly Bredefeld, in the church office, is available for your questions also (393-1326).

Paul wrote in Romans 1: 12 these words that explain it all:

“I want not only to share my faith with you, but to be encouraged by yours; each of us will be a blessing to the other.”



First Presbyterian Church has had several really successful **rummage sales** in the recent past. We have sold everything from baby clothes and furniture to yard tools to overstuffed chairs and beds to household items and kitchen ware to computers and many, many knick-knacks and clothes. We need your “cast-offs” as well as your help with set-up, sales and clean-up on **October 7 (evening), and October 8 & 9th (9:00 – 8:00)** If you can help (even just a couple hours) or need “big item pick-up” please call Jan Watson 397-1821. We do not have a good storage area so items can not be brought in before that week. The

church will be open and we need volunteers to be there throughout the week to help unload items. P.S. Jan needs to know what big items you are bringing for advertising purposes. 397-1821.

REMINDER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

ENDS NOV. 1st

On the first Sunday in November, clocks are set back one hour at 2:00 a.m. local daylight time, which becomes 1:00 a.m. local standard time. Don't be early for church that morning.



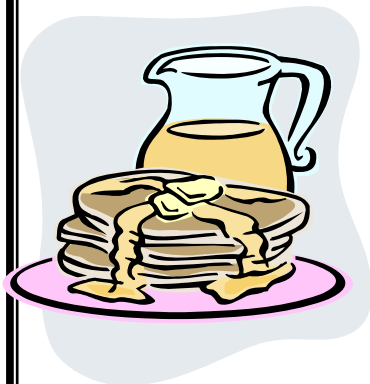
Fellowship Breakfast

Pancakes are here again – ‘back by popular demand. Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 18th – 9:45 AM. We look forward to serving you and providing the opportunity for fellowship during these quarterly breakfasts, where new faces become familiar and acquaintances become new friends.

The number of attendees are steadily increasing, much to our delight. And due to this joyous development, we will most likely be opening the John Knox room behind the stage, to provide more seating. We would also appreciate more volunteers. For this breakfast, we need help with cutting up fruit for a platter, cooking the pancakes and sausage, setting up the buffet table, making coffee and setting out beverages and cleaning up. Some prep is done the day before and most on Sunday morning, starting at 7:30 AM.

Bakers might also be needed.

Please call Penny Sajkowsky at 397-2251 if you can assist.



RUMMAGE SALE

First Presbyterian Church

106 North Gay Street, Mount Vernon

October 8 & 9

Thursday 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Gently-Worn Clothing, Tools, Household Items,
Books, Baby Items, and More*

PLEASE BRING *GENTLY USED* ITEMS

Monday evenings during Hot Meals and throughout the week during office hours 9-3

For pick-up of "big items" call Jan Watson at 397-1821 *Receipts available for tax purposes*

"One man's trash is another man's treasure"

All proceeds benefit missions - Thank you

Hi Everyone,

As most of you are aware, Kroger grocery stores give non profits up to 5% back on many grocery item purchases. First Presbyterian Church has already received a substantial amount of money by this great fundraiser. To continue to have the youth group reap the rewards of your Kroger purchases, all you have to do is take the adjoining page in to your local Kroger store and have them scan the barcode on the page and scan your Kroger card too. Tying your Kroger card to our Church fundraising does not affect your Kroger points that you may be saving for gas purchases. It is truly a win-win situation! If you already belong to this program, then pass along the card to your friends and family. They may want to help our church as well. I sent a copy to my sister who lives in another part of the state but shops at Kroger. She was happy to register.

If you have any questions, call the office at 393-1326 and Kyle or I would be happy to assist you. Many thanks!

Holly Bredefeld

Continued from page 2

Cheap grace says that we can accept the gift of grace through Jesus Christ, and not be expected to be changed by that gift. We can go about our lives as we did prior to receiving that grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian during the time of the Nazi regime, warned against cheap grace. In contrast, he explained the beauty and freedom of costly grace:

“Costly grace is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. Grace is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says, ‘My yoke is easy and my burden is light’”

(Bonhoeffer, “The Cost of Discipleship”).

I encourage you to actively seek ways to practice discipline as a follower of Jesus Christ. Not for the purpose of strict legalism which seeks to earn righteousness. Our righteousness doesn't come from anything we do or don't do. Instead, seek ways to practice discipline for the sole purpose of becoming like Christ. Not sure where to start? Pray about it.

In Christ,

Kyle Peters

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Kroger Community Rewards

Page 1 of 1

NPO # 81151
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH MINISTRY
Attention: KYLE PETERS
106 NORTH GAY STREET
MT. VERNON, OH 43050

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH MINISTRY:

Thank you for your interest in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. We are happy to be a part of your fundraising.

Here is your Organization's Scanbar code as requested. This supplemental process allows your members without access to a computer to be a part of your fund raising through our Community Rewards Program.

How it works

- Make copies of this form and give the copies to members of your organization who wish to enroll with your organization, but do not have access to register online.
- Members take this form the next time they go shopping at Columbus and hand it to the cashier to scan within their order IN ADDITION to either their Kroger Plus Card, or phone number entry that is linked to their Kroger Plus card.
- Within 72 hours, your members will then begin giving a percentage of each shopping trip for the duration of the Community Rewards Term (5/1/09 - 4/30/10) to your organization.
- You only have to scan this letter once to create the link between your card and your organization. You must continue scanning your Kroger Plus Card/phone number during all purchases to get credit for your organization.

Please note:

If your member(s) register for the Community Rewards Program using this Scanbar method AND do not have their correct information updated in the Kroger Plus Card Database, you will not see their names on your quarterly statements. Also, using the Scanbar method of registration, the name of your organization will not appear on their receipt. Please have each member call 1-877-576-7587 to update all their information.



1000081151

DEACONS CARE & COMPASSION

“...pray for each other so that you may be healed...” James 5:16

MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

At the Ohio Eastern Star Home

Helen Chrisman
Maxine Peters
Edith Whitney (*Sally Martin's grandmother*)

At Country Club Retirement Center

Ruth Cleland
Marilyn and Irvin Wilbur

At the Inn at Hillenvale

John Fowler

At Home

Dorothy Calkins
Jean Fribley
Rebecca Grove
Ruth Grove
Treva Haltermon
Mary Lou Lockard (*Daughter of Myra Philpott*)
Ellen Proper
Dorothy White

Special Prayer Concerns

Darla Brown (*Niece of Sally Conway*)
Bill Curran (*car accident*)
Glenn DeBoard (*Liver cancer*)
John Ewalt
Lee Feasel
Joseph Harrison (*heart attack-M. Harrison's brother*)
Jennifer Hatton (*Tyson's granddaughter*)
Debbie Krapf (*Paralyzed friend of Gary Hyman*)
Reverend and Mrs. Markle (*friends of Toby Lord*)
Hunter Lynlee Myers (*Moreland's granddaughter-cancer*)
Matt Palmer (*Lung cancer-friend of Sally Martin*)
Barbara Reitsma
Harriet and Richard Sells (*Toby Lord's brother & sister in law*)
Red Shaw (*cancer*)
Lindsay Smith (*Crones disease*)
Kirk Swartz (*cancer-Ketner's nephew*)
Chuck Waugh
Greg Washington (*accident-W. Gibler's friend*)

In the Military

Adam J. Hinch-*USMC-(Son of Rebecca Hinch)*
Brian Short - *USMC-Afghanistan (son of John Short)*
Levi Thomas-*USMC-Afghanistan (son of Sally Martin)*

COMMUNION

If you have an update to the Deacons Care & Compassion list please let the Church Office know as we would like to stay as up to date as possible. Also, If you are a shut in or know of a shut in who would enjoy having communion, please contact the office with your name, date, time and location as there are friends who are willing and anxious to come to you and share the sacraments. Thanks!

**Mission Committee News**

We continue to collect for the month of October for our church's Hot Meals' program. The following items would be welcome donations: gallon cans of juice (ex. apple juice), ground decaf. coffee, tea bags, paper towels, napkins, styrofoam bowls and canisters of Country Time Lemonade. (Please mark your donations "Hot Meals"). Thank you!





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

106 North Gay Street
Mount Vernon Ohio 43050

Phone: 740-393-1326

Fax: 740-393-1321

Email: Firstpresbyterian@rrohio.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.MTVPRES.ORG

The web site has the most up to date information about what is happening in the life of the church.

You can access the Interactive Church Calendar, Sermon Audio Archives and much more. The web site is constantly updated, so be sure to check it out!

Presorted
Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
PERMIT 141

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

October 2
Perry Trinkner

October 5
Al Craigo

October 7
Robert Crumm
Mark Eutsey
Erica Noll

October 8
Jeff Bergeson
Dan Ruth
Chuck Waugh

October 10
Corinne Eutsey

October 12
Miriam King
Wendell King

October 13
Helen Chrisman
Bill Maney

October 16
Patricia Eaton
Katie Fannin

October 17
Pete Lawhon

October 21
Gordon Riehl

October 22
Michelle Shillito

October 23
Ethan Kahrl
Dan Nagy

October 24
John Bibart

October 26
Jean Smith

October 27
Brett Wiley

October 28
Dorothy Calkins
Betsy Hayes

October 31
Brady Kaufman

