



The Voice of the Steeple First Congregational United Church of Christ

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February 2014

From the Pastor's Study

For the month of February I'd like you to take this little quiz:

(Now don't be running off to the computer to look up these answers.

There is a point to be made here. Are you ready? Pencil? Paper? Okay, let's go.)

- * Name the three wealthiest people in the world.
- * Name the last four winners of the Heisman trophy.
- * Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
- * Name five people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize.
- * How about the last five Academy Award winners for best picture.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remember much about yesterday's headlines. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies, awards tarnish, achievements are forgotten, accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

- * Think of three people you enjoy spending time with.
- * Name ten people who have taught you something worthwhile.
- * Name five friends who have helped you in a difficult time.

- * List five teachers who aided your journey through school.
- * Name five people whose stories have inspired you.

Easier? I bet so! The lesson? The people who make a difference in our lives are not the ones with the big credentials, but the ones that have cared for us.

Remember, that Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." It is the people in our lives who have loved us through bad times and good time, through the storms and during the smooth sailing, who are the ones we remember. And I'd bet that many of those folk are the ones who set in the same pew with us on Sunday morning or set just across the aisle!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jerry



February 2014 Scriptures and Sermons
(Scriptures in *Bold-Italics*
are sermon texts)

February 2 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6.1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1.18-31

Matthew 5.1-12

Sermon: "Are You Truly Happy? Why Not?"

February 9 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58.1-9a

Psalm 112.1-10

1 Corinthians 2.1-16

Matthew 5.13-20

Sermon: "How Does God See Us?"

February 16 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6.1-8

Psalm 119.1-8

1 Corinthians 3.1-11 (I'm not confused, I'm using both texts!)

Matthew 5.21-37

Sermon: "In Partnership with God"

February 23 - 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19.1-2, 9-18

Psalm 119.33-40

1 Corinthians 3.10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5.38-48

Sermon: "Why, Because He Said So"

Diaconate Report

The Diaconate held their first meeting of 2014 on Tuesday January 7. We welcomed Pastor Jerry, and he gave his first report as the congregation's new pastor. Old business consisted of review of December activities: Gifts to the Butte children and Andover Retirement Village; Poinsettias; Christmas potluck dinner; and Christmas Eve programs. Minor problems were reviewed and changes suggested. Dollar General will be

sent a thank you card for their Christmas donation.

New business consisted of discussing planning for Ash Wednesday March 5, Maundy Thursday April 17, Good Friday April 18 and Easter April 20. Pastor Jerry's Installation has been tentatively planned for May 4th. An afternoon installation to permit local churches/clergy to attend has been recommended. A representative from regional office needs to be on hand to preside over installation.

Pastor Jerry will be leading a study course entitled Listening to God beginning around March 9th. A decision needs to be made whether to hold it on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. He will be talking to several prospective members and holding orientation classes, and he recommends a reception for these new members in the Feb. 16 time frame. He has also suggested the Diaconate consider a Homecoming day to be held during the summer and has asked the Diaconate to think about how we reach out to the community and let them know who we are and what we stand for. Hilary suggested a church cookbook be compiled and asked us to consider expanding the card writing to Veterans to include Easter.

Potluck dinner will be held on Feb. 16th. We will go totally potluck and no meat will be provided by diaconate.

Deacons for next two months will be Darlene for February and Connie for March.

January Birthdays

John Schaefer	February 3
Bill Beck	February 7
Wyatt Lipinsky	February 10
Tom Martin	February 17
Linda Marr	February 19
Barbara Labombarbe	February 19
Angie Kite	February 20
Hilary Godfrey	February 21
Geoffrey Shaw	February 22

January Anniversaries

Jim & Gina Bocook Feb. 14
Lance & Sherry Gims Feb. 14
Melvin & Evelyn Zaebst-Marrison Feb. 14

Calendar of Events

Kids Bell Practice – 9:45 a.m.
Children's Sunday School – 10 a.m.
Choir practice – 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays
Steeple Stitches – Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
Diaconate will meet
at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 4
Trustees will meet
at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 4
Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 4

Prayer Concerns

Those in need: Dorothy Amy, Jamie Andrews, Tammy Atkins, Ethel Barbus and family, Jean Botham, Brandy (Pastor Jerry's grandchild), Susan Brown, Jillian Butte, Rochelle Mizner Coder, Bob Collins, Julie and Glenn Day, Mike Day, Zach Day, Tim and Mark Eckland, Brian and Glenna Godfrey & family, Chase Guysinger, Ken Hill, Bob and Pat Hinson, Emily Hunt, Mary Louise Isenberg, Cheri Jones, Darlene Lamson, Lisa (Joanie's daughter), Christine Lipps and the family of Bob Lipps, Judy Long, Steve Miller, Margaret Mills, Ruth Reeve, Keith Rhoades, Karen Rolinson, Rod Rudler and family, Peggy Ruth, Mark Schultz, Dave Slater, Nora Studer, Nancy Thompson, Nora Villella, Dylan Wludyga and Allan Zaebst.

Nursing Home Residents: Gregg Wildermuth and Roy Stillman - Andover Village Retirement Community, 486 South Main St., Andover OH 44003, and Mary Howdyshe - St. Paul's Home, 339 E. Jamestown Road, Greenville, PA 16127.

Those Serving our Country: Austin Abbuhl, Brian Hineborg, Greg Hineborg, Pete Petri, Master Sgt. David Skaggs, Ryan Wlotzko, and Brian Young.

Notes from the Trustees

Treasurers Report: December income - \$5,412.29. Expenses for December - \$16,181.17. Much of this was due to the repairs and kitchen/bathroom remodeling done in parsonage.

Old Business:

- *Trustees worked on the 2014 budget.
- *We will be keeping the light on in the new sign to prevent moisture build-up and keep it warm enough that the new letters can be removed/replaced.
- *We discussed the work done on the parsonage and made up a list of things still needing done. We had taken a hiatus from the required work during the holidays. We need to get back and finish now.
- *Our new copier is now installed. A training session was scheduled so we will know how to use it.
- *A corporate account has been set up at Staples for our church secretary's use for ordering materials needed to run our church efficiently.
- *The downstairs toilets have been repaired and seem to be working well now.

New Business:

- *While removing Christmas decorations, Steve Hinson and Geoff Shaw noted cracks above the stained glass windows that need repaired. Trustees voted to approve materials needed to repair the cracks. Trustees indicated to order whatever is needed to repair cracks.

Trustees for February: Jan & Sue

On Sunday, February 16, we will be receiving new members into our midst. If you have been attending worship, but have not yet joined the church, this is your opportunity to become a full-fledged member with all of the rights and privileges which come with membership. If you are interested in membership please call Pastor Jerry (508-627-0970) or the church office (440-293-6771) to set up a time to learn more about membership.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MEETING

Steeple Stitchers

Steeple Stitchers took a bit of a hiatus over the holidays and with bad weather most of us have been spending the extra time trying to catch up on our quilting at home. But when we ARE at church these days, you'll find us working on some new altar cloths. We've designed and are working on new "Ordinary Time" green cloths for the pulpits. See you Tuesdays at 10 AM!

Children's Bell Choir

Welcome to Michael Day who has joined us now! We played "Jesus Loves Me" on Jan. 26 at the morning service. It had something extra in it – multiple bells being played at the same time on the last line. Hopefully you'll be hearing more of that in months to come. Also look for some more surprises from a couple of our older kids.

Many congratulations to Victoria Day for being chosen Pymatuning Valley Middle School's November student of the month. Victoria is in the sixth grade. This is quite an honor, and we are proud of you, Victoria!

Interested in sharing recipes? Our potluck dinners have so many delicious dishes that need to be shared for other occasions. Our church family is compiling our very own cookbook to be shared amongst ourselves. There is no limit to the amount of recipes you can submit. Please give or email your legibly written or typewritten recipes to Hilary, and include any story that goes with the recipe. Thanks for participating, and please see Hilary should you have a question.



Our Jan. 26, 2014 annual meeting was held on a cold, snowy Sunday morning with temperatures ranging in the single digits. With a quorum of 17 present (thanks to Will and Dennis Abbuhl for coming in so we could meet our quorum), minutes from both congregational meetings held in 2013 were read and passed. Moderator Sue Beck gave a summary of the 2013 committee reports and led discussions on these reports.

New officers elected at this meeting included:

Stewardship Chairperson: Steve Hinson
(1 year)

Historian: Linda Young (1 year)

Audit Committee: Linda Marr, Darlene Lamson, Geoff Shaw (1 year)

Diaconate: Steve Hinson (1 year), 2 years: Pam French, Connie Martin, Hilary Godfrey

Trustees: Jan Switzer, Lorrie Turner
(3 years)

A Budget of \$62,600 was passed for 2014. Total income for 2013 was \$109,880.08, including \$44,844.62 in Memorial Funds. Total expenses for 2013 were \$71,563.31.

New Business discussions covered a recommendation to change the Sunday service time from 11:00 AM to 10:00 AM from June through August since we have no Sunday School in the summertime. Pastor Jerry would like us to think about adding a second short service in the summertime at 8:00 a.m., a very informal service with all music a capella, open to community. No votes taken on these proposals – please make your wishes known to the Diaconate regarding these two recommendations.

Pastor Jerry commented on how pleased and excited he is that Kathleen and he are to be part of the community. He felt we have opened our hearts, accepted him, made him at home.

Respectfully Submitted by
Venie Hinson, Clerk of Council

If you did not receive a copy of the 2014 Annual Report, please contact the office. Copies are available at back of the church for local members.