



# Community of Christ Boyne City Beacon

**Newsletter**

April 2016, Vol 19- No 4

## PARK OF THE PINES

### Maple Syrup Festival Fund Raiser

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00am to 2:00pm  
Cost -- Donation

Featuring Pure Michigan Maple Syrup games  
and leisure activities in the lodge.

Anyone desiring to spend the night at the Park of  
the Pines, contact the resident manager.

Then if you want to hang around for the  
day, Boyne City Community of Christ Youth are  
sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00-6:00pm  
to raise money to send our kids to camp!

## Stewardship Work Week

May 14-21

Jobs for all skill levels. Lunch will  
be provided each day. No charge for  
camping or the lodge.  
Contact the resident manager.

Our congregation could choose a  
building or area as our project.

## FAMILY CAMP

Family Camp is July 8-15<sup>th</sup>. Registration  
forms should be out soon. Plan now to attend!

For the Auction Fund Raiser, it has been  
suggested that each congregation bring at least  
one themed basket to be auctioned off. That  
was a highlight of last year's auction.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:00 -- 6:00pm

Boyne City Community of Christ Youth are  
sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00-6:00pm  
to raise money to send our kids to camp.  
Come and support our youth!

## GOD'S WORK CHILDREN'S CLOTHING PANTRY

Our next children's clothing pantry will be held April  
16<sup>h</sup>, from 2-4pm. Anyone that can help with set up on  
Friday evening and during the pantry would be much  
appreciated.



## Happy April Birthday!

- April 9: Stanford Follette
- 18: Bill Holland
- 19: Dominic Fosmore
- 23: Alyssa Seamon  
Krystina Westman
- 27: Bradley Lundy
- 28: Tim Grube
- 29: Sophie Eaton

# PRAYER REQUESTS

*In your daily personal prayers, please remember those on this list.*

**All military and civilians** serving in dangerous places

**Our church members and friends** around the world

**Marlene Groh** -- arthritis

**Our enemies** -- “. . . for they know not what they do.”

**Ileen Newlin** -- chest pain

**Whitney Wangeman** -- enlarged lymph nodes and spot on her liver. Under hospice care but still hopeful.

**Michelle Archer** -- peace, joy, strength & healing.

**Wynona Wirth** -- in rehab now and hopes to go home within a couple of weeks.

**Warren Nelson** -- motocross accident. -- Home and doing therapy locally

**Sophia Eber** -- cancerous tumor. Getting chemo treatments. Has been selected to go to NYC for treatment

**Darlene Ormsbee** -- heart repair surgery around April 18<sup>th</sup>.



## CONGREGATION MISSION STATEMENT

*To Share the Redeeming Love of Jesus Christ with Boyne Area Communities, while encouraging the Sacraments, Reconciliation, Healing of the Spirit, and the Pursuit of Peace.*



**“Hounds used to find things using their sense of smell, but now I use a search tool called Google Nose!”**

### *Boyne City Beacon*

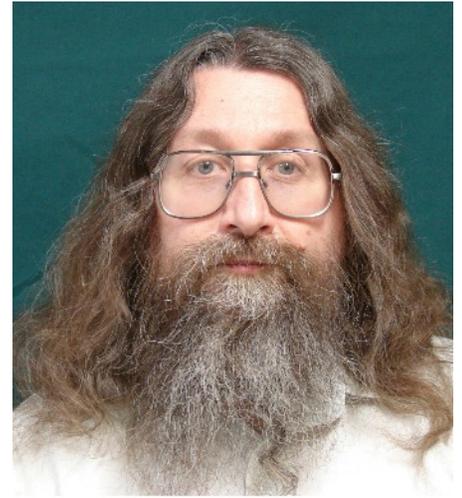
Pastors: Eleanor West, Sandi Ecker & Ron Fuller

Editor: Sandi Ecker

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# PASTOR'S COLUMN

BY RON FULLER



## I AM BLESSED

I am blessed. I exist. I am a disruption of time and space known as matter. I am blessed. I am a form of matter that moves and regenerates itself. I am alive. I am blessed. I am a sentient being, self-aware and capable of choice. I am blessed.

In a moment of personal anguish God lent me his eyes to view the world with a new perspective. I saw the unity of all existence, of joy and of sorrow. I do not know if he took his eyes back because now I had changed. The pain was still there but I could no longer view reality as I once did. All has become new. This is a statement of my personal theology, committed to paper many years ago.

Now, more than ever, I realize that things do not exist in a vacuum. I cannot honestly express a love for God, without expressing an

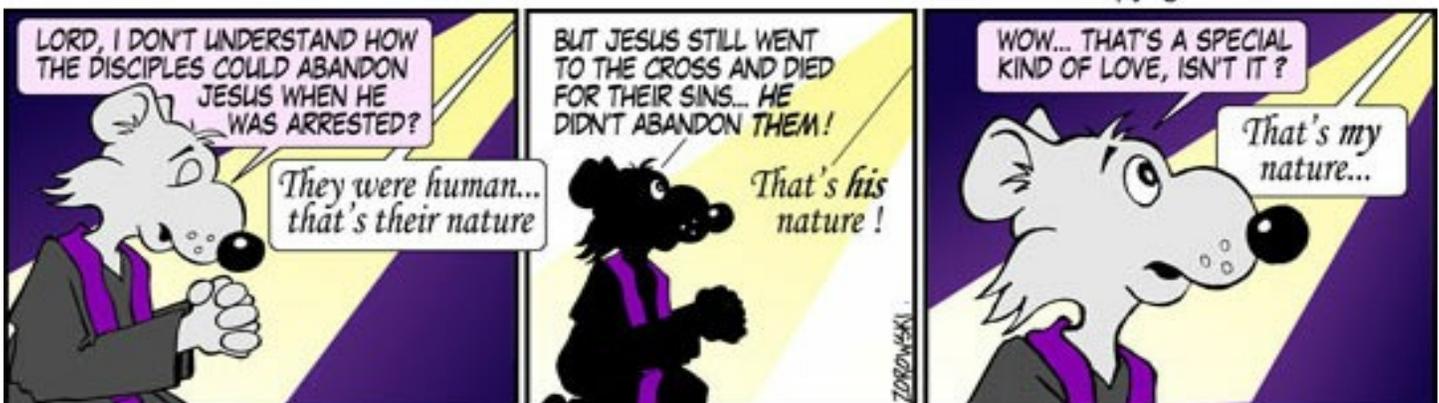
equal love for the rest of his children. I cannot single out a short list of people who are worthy of my love, nor exclude a large segment because they aren't like me. This is the sum of what it means to me to be a Christian.

Some people single out the act of the cross as the defining moment of the life of Jesus. I would say that it is two events, one at the beginning of the story and one near the end. The first is the sermon on the mount, throwing down a spiritual gauntlet, daring us to express our faith in actions of radical love. The second is the parable of the sheep and the goats. It important to note that many interpret the sheep as being people like us and the goats as the unchurched. But that is not what the scripture says. The sheep are the ones who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, tend to the sick and those marginalized by society. The goats are simply those who do not.

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## Church Mice

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# YOUTH CAMPS AT PARK OF THE PINES

Senior High Camp (Grades 10, 11 & 12)  
June 26-July 2  
Director: Jamie Lis  
Cost: \$300.00

Junior High Camp: (Grades 7, 8 & 9)  
July 24-30  
Director: Robyn Wiltse  
Cost: \$300

Junior Camp (Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6)  
July 17-21  
Director: Ruth Eaton  
Cost: \$200

Registration for Youth Scholarships from Mission Center forms on youth bulletin board.

Registration Forms on the youth bulletin board.

Get the forms to Lee Ecker not later than June 5<sup>th</sup>, but as soon as possible to receive a discount and the congregation to pay for it.

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## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering."

# WORTH REPEATING....

By Sandi Ecker

As I was reading through a weekly paper we received, I came across an article by Billy Graham. It was called, "Participation Makes a Real Difference." Someone asked Billy how they could get more out of church. Stating they had a hard time keeping their mind on the sermon or getting anything out of the service. Billy answered them by stating the following:

"Church often becomes a 'spectator sport' for many – observing what the minister or choir is doing instead of participating in what is going on. This should not be the case; God wants us to worship and learn from His Word when we come together. Let me make three suggestions to help you get more out of the service:

**First, Participation.** Before you go to church, ask God to turn your heart toward Him and speak to you through His Word.

**Second, Interaction.** Take notes on what the preacher is saying. This forces you to concentrate. Identify the main point or theme of the sermon, and try to remember it. Share it with a family member afterward.

**Finally, Reflection.** Reflect or meditate on the sermon prayerfully when you get home. Decide what difference its truth should make in your life during the coming week.

The psalmist said, "I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways; renew my life according to your word." (Psalm 119:15; 37) Remember that God wants our fellowship every day, and He has made this possible through Jesus Christ."

How often have we heard our children express the idea that they are bored in church? Perhaps they, as well as adults, can use these suggestions to not only improve participation, but to grow close to the Lord. At least, we can all give it a try!

# WORDS OF COUNSEL

For three years the church prayerfully studied the words of counsel given in 2013. The Holy Spirit confirms the church would be blessed by considering this counsel for inclusion in the Doctrine and Covenants. This document is offered humbly for that purpose as an expression of our cherished principle of Continuing Revelation.

While preparing the final document, I stayed open to more divine direction that might enhance the church's understanding now or in the future. Guidance refined some sentences. In several instances, it also added content for reasons known to God.

I also considered prayerfully what portions of the words of counsel applied specifically to when they were given and did not necessarily need to be in the Doctrine and Covenants. So some sentences have been removed. Those sentences either have fulfilled their purposes, or the concepts they highlighted are expressed sufficiently elsewhere in the Doctrine and Covenants.

The testimony I offer is assurance that God, the eternal One, lovingly and patiently guides the church according to divine purposes. Let us be grateful for that guidance. May it serve as a pathway of light and hope for all who seek to follow God's will.

## **To the councils, quorums, and orders, to the World Conference, and to the church:**

1 a. Community of Christ, a divine vision is set before you. Presented over the years through various inspired phrases and symbols, it is expressed now through initiatives in harmony with Jesus Christ's mission.

b. As a spiritual venture, boldly follow the initiatives into the heart of God's vision for the church and creation. Then, in response to growing insight about God's nature and will, continue to shape communities that live Christ's love and mission.

c. Lovingly invite others to experience the good news of new life in community with Christ. Opportunities abound in your daily lives if you choose to see them.

d. Undertake compassionate and just actions to abolish poverty and end needless suffering. Pursue peace on and for the Earth.

e. Let nothing separate you from this mission. It reveals divine intent for personal, societal, and environmental salvation; a fullness of gospel witness for creation's restoration.

f. Continue to align your priorities with local and worldwide church efforts to move the initiatives forward. Additional innovative approaches to

coordinating congregational life and supporting groups of disciples and seekers are needed to address mission opportunities in a changing world.

2 a. Free the full capacity of Christ's mission through generosity that imitates God's generosity.

b. Listen to the testimonies of those responding generously. Follow your soul's yearning to come home to God's grace and generosity. Let gratitude show you the way.

c. Remember, a basic discipleship principle is growing Christ's mission through local and world mission tithes according to true capacity. Giving to other worthwhile organizations, while an important part of A Disciple's Generous Response, should not diminish or replace mission tithes.

d. Tithing is a spiritual practice that demonstrates willingness to offer every dimension of one's life to God. When defined by faith, love, and hopeful planning, including resolving unwise debt, capacity to respond becomes much greater than initially assumed.

e. Stewardship as response to the ministry of Christ is more than individual giving. It includes the generosity of congregations and jurisdictions that give to worldwide ministries of the church to strengthen community in Christ in all nations.

f. Sharing for the common good is the spirit of Zion.  
3 a. More fully embody your oneness and equality in Jesus Christ. Oneness and equality in Christ are realized through the waters of baptism, confirmed by the Holy Spirit, and sustained through the sacrament of Communion. Embrace the full meaning of these sacraments and be spiritually joined in Christ as never before.

b. However, it is not right to profess oneness and equality in Christ through sacramental covenants and then to deny them by word or action. Such behavior wounds Christ's body and denies what is resolved eternally in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

c. You do not fully understand many interrelated processes of human creation. Through its wonderful complexity, creation produces diversity and order.

d. Be not consumed with concern about variety in human types and characteristics as you see them. Be passionately concerned about forming inclusive communities of love, oneness, and equality that reveal divine nature.

e. Oneness and equality in Christ do not mean uniformity. They mean Unity in Diversity and relating in Christ-like love to the circumstances of others as if they were one's own. They also mean full opportunity for people to experience human worth and related

Continued on Page 6

## Words of Council Continued

rights, including expressing God-given giftedness in the church and society.

4 a. Regarding priesthood, God calls whomever God calls from among committed disciples, according to their gifts, to serve and reach all humankind.

b. Priesthood policies developed through wisdom and inspiration provide a clear way for disciples to respond to calling. They also define the difference between a sense of call as potential and the need to align one's life with principles of moral behavior and relationships that promote the well-being of the church community.

5 a. Spiritual growth and guidance enrich involvement in Christ's mission. The presiding evangelist and the Order of Evangelists, with their colleagues in ministry, should concentrate on spiritually forming communities of disciples and seekers that live deeply and generously in Christ's Spirit.

b. Offer the sacrament of evangelist blessing not only to individuals and congregations, but to families, households, and groups seeking spiritual guidance to more completely give themselves to Christ's mission. Nothing in this instruction should be construed to lessen the importance of the sacrament of evangelist blessing for individuals.

6 a. Beloved Community of Christ, do not just speak and sing of Zion. Live, love, and share as Zion: those who strive to be visibly one in Christ, among whom there are no poor or oppressed.

b. As Christ's body, lovingly and patiently bear the weight of criticism from those who hesitate to respond to the divine vision of human worth and equality in Christ. This burden and blessing is yours for divine purposes.

c. And, always remember, the way of suffering love that leads to the cross also leads to resurrection and everlasting life in Christ's eternal community of oneness and peace. Trust in this promise.

Stephen M. Veazey  
President of the church

## 2016 PEACE & JUSTICE CONFERENCE SEEKING A FUTURE OF HOPE FOR OUR CHILDREN

The conference is free and open to everyone that would like to attend. I would like to encourage all to attend. Register online so materials and staff can be prepared. [Http://cofchristmi.org/peace-justice-conference](http://cofchristmi.org/peace-justice-conference)

"Open your ears to hear the pleading of mothers and fathers in all nations who desperately seek a future of hope for their children. Do not turn away from them. For in their welfare resides your welfare."

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

**8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**223 S WASHINGTON, CHARLOTTE, MI 48813**

### Learn & Grow

Join us as we learn about injustice many children face both globally and locally. Guest speakers include:

Jane White, Director of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force

Jon Gromek, Bread for the World Senior Regional Organizer

Sister Cheryl Liske, Executive Director of Gamaliel Michigan

### Take Action

Leave with the knowledge and tools to build relationships, listen, and work with others in your community to respond with action.

### Tentative Schedule

8:30 Welcome & Registration

9:00 Spiritual Centering

10:00 Awareness Presentations (Child Poverty, Child Abuse/Neglect, Human Trafficking, Trauma)

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Offering of Letters – Bread for the World

1:00 Prayer for Peace

1:15 Panel Discussion

2:15 Break

2:30 Small Group Debriefing (GAMALIEL Facilitator)

3:00 Sacred Conversations (GAMALIEL Facilitator)

3:30 Next Steps and Sending Forward

4:00 End of Conference

4:00 – 5:00 Optional Q & A Session with Community of Christ USA and Michigan Leaders

A free will donation will be accepted to cover the costs of the lunch provided by the hosting Charlotte Congregation.

# April 2016

Date/Time	Worship Leader	Speaker	Assisting	Musician
<b>April 3: Peace Be With You</b>				
9:00am:	Priesthood Meeting			
10:00am:	Classes			
11:00am:	S. Ecker	E. West		A. Seamon
<b>April 10: Do You Love Me?</b>				
10:00am:	Classes			
11:00am:	E. West	R. Fuller		A. Seamon
<b>April 17: Follow Me</b>				
10:00am:	Classes			
11:00am:	R. Eaton	L. Ecker		A. Seamon
<b>April 24: Love One Another</b>				
10:00am:	Classes			
11:00am:	L. Ecker	M. Rice		A. Seamon
Noon:	Potluck Dinner			

## Evening Activities

- Wed, Apr. 6, 6:00pm: Prayer & Share** with Priest Sandi Ecker. Theme: *"Do You Love Me?"*
- Wed, Apr. 13, 6:00pm: Fellowship at The Brook**
- Tues, Apr. 19, 6:00pm: Congregational Planning Meeting**
- Wed, Apr. 27, 6:00pm: Prayer & Share** with Elder Lee Ecker Theme: *"Holy Spirit Dwell with Us"*

## Dates to Remember

- Sat, Apr. 16: 2-4pm: Children's Clothing Pantry**
- Sat, Apr. 23, 10am - 2pm: Maple Syrup Festival** at the Park of the Pines.
- Sat, Apr. 23, 5:30pm: Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by the youth to benefit camperships.
- Sat, Apr. 30: Mission Center Peace & Justice Conference** in Charlotte.

# April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Priesthood Mtg Speaker: E. West	4	5	6 6:00 PM Prayer & Share	7	8	9  Stanford Follette
10 Speaker: R. Fuller	11	12	13 6:00 PM The Brook	14	15	16
17 Speaker: L. Ecker	18  Bill Holland	19 6:00 PM Planning Mtg  Dominic Fosmore	20	21	22	23 4:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner by the Youth BDay: Alysya Seamon BDay: Krystina Westman
24 Speaker: M. Rice	25	26	27 6:00 PM Prayer & Share  Bradley Lundy	28  Tim Grube	29  Sophie Eaton	30



Community of Christ  
3006 Ross Ln  
East Jordan, MI 49727