



Community of Christ Boyer City Beacon

Newsletter

May 2017, Vol 20- No 5

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY

Beginning May 21st, at 10:00am, we will have an intergenerational activity in place of classes. Mark your calendars now! I would encourage all to come and share as a church family.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS!

Mark your calendars now! Our Congregation Conference for electing officers for the year beginning Sept. 1, 2017 - Aug. 31, 2018, will be on June 4th, following the shortened 11:00am worship service.

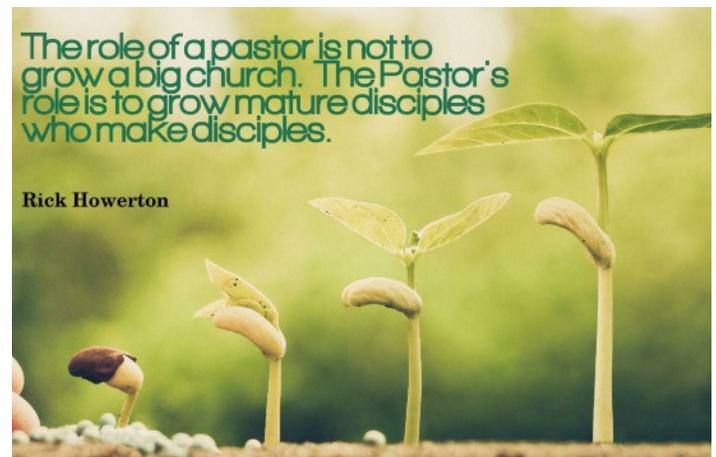
SPRING CLEANING!

On Friday, June 2nd, starting at 9:00am, there will be a spring cleaning session at the church. If you are able to come and help, it would be much appreciated.

There is much cleaning to be done, and old things needing to be thrown out. Many hands make less work.

We hope you can find time to come and help.

Please be thinking about how you would like to serve for the coming year. Make this a matter of prayer. Listen to the voice of the Spirit guiding you and giving you encouragement to maybe step out of your comfort zone and try something new. All are called! Each of us has a gift, whether it be small or large, you are needed!



May 14, 2017



Happy May Birthday!

- May 9: Bou Peters
- 11: Monte Eaton
- 17: Judy Barnes
- 19: Riley Ecker
- 22: Anne Jenkins
Monica Kroondyk
- 24: Marlene Groh

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 -- had an abscess lanced -- in Boulder Park

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

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

Ileen Newlin -- having treatments

Janet Balogh -- Tremors

Sue McDonald -- breast cancer

Karen Ryan -- liver problems

Tim Follette -- in remission

Meredith Mitchell -- possible cerebral amyloid angiography

Youth Camps & Family Camp/ Reunion -- Directors & staff

Orion Ecker -- pulmonary hypertension -- manageable by medicine.



God's Work Children's Clothing Pantry

Our next children's clothing pantry will be held May 20th, from 2-4pm. Anyone that can help with set up on Friday evening and during the pantry would be much appreciated. Tell your friends about our clothing pantry. All things are free! We aren't accepting any more clothing for the present time. If you know of someone that needs clothing, at times other than the day of our pantry, please contact Ron Fuller or Ruthie Eaton.

Boyne City Beacon

Pastors: Sandi Ecker, Eleanor West & Ron Fuller
Editor: Sandi Ecker

The Boyne City Beacon is published by the Boyne City Congregation of Community of Christ. If you would like a copy of the newsletter mailed to your home, contact Sandi Ecker, PO Box 489, Walloon Lake, MI 49796-0489; phone (231) 330-2568. Donations for mailing costs accepted and appreciated. To receive an email version in PDF format contact Sandi at leesan@charter.net or sandi.ecker@gmail.com

Pastor's Column

Mission Story by President Stephen M. Veazey

Awaken to God's Invitation

It happened like this. The World Church Leadership Council was meeting. We were discussing budget constraints, pressing church needs, and mission opportunities throughout the world. I found myself burdened and increasingly frustrated because of all the needs and challenges.

Following one meeting, I took time to be alone with my concerns. I quieted my frustration and anxiety by prayerfully focusing on God's grace and peace. In the quiet center of contemplation and intentional spiritual openness, I inquired, "What should our priorities be?" Surprisingly, the divine response was swift.

It came as rapid spiritual and intellectual perceptions I could not totally comprehend. I do not know what all of it means, or how it is all connected. But, I do know we need to pay attention to it.

I will describe what I experienced as best I can within the limitations of human language and comprehension. As always, I trust the Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds, guide our planning, and bless our responses.

The essence of the Spirit's witness is that the Mission Initiatives are heading the church where God is calling us. Or, put differently, the initiatives are forming us into whom God is intending us to be as a people.

Beyond the initiatives, recent Continuing Revelation about Temple-inspired ministries, the essence of church identity, and additional blessings to be received from expanded understandings of the sacraments and priesthood ministries address some of the greatest needs of the church today.

Regarding the Temple, let me be clear. I'm not saying the physical Temple and only activities within its walls should be the highest priority. I am saying that revelatory counsel about the focus and purposes of Temple ministries provides the visionary-prophetic language the church needs to spiritually awaken, mature, and enthusiastically pursue the Mission Initiatives. This understanding is in harmony with the insight offered in Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a that "The Temple is an instrument of ongoing revelation in the life of the church."

For example, I often ask myself, "What is the greatest need in the life of the church?" When I asked

this question during the experience described above, particular paragraphs of Doctrine and Covenants were brought to mind, and particular phrases were "highlighted." I have emphasized those phrases in bold text.

...for there is great need of the spiritual awakening that will be engendered by the ministries experienced within its walls.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:3

Indeed these ministries shall be the means of great blessing for you...The priesthood offices already provided for in my church have always had the potential of supplying these blessings. Some of their functions, however, will be expanded and given additional meaning as the purposes of temple ministries are revealed more fully.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:4

Look especially to the sacraments to enrich the spiritual life of the body. Seek for greater understanding of my purposes in these sacred rites and prepare to receive a renewed confirmation of the presence of my Spirit in your experiences of worship.

—Doctrine and Covenants 158:11c

Another question I ponder frequently focuses on our identity and calling as a faith community. For a worldwide church to be cohesive, it needs a shared identity that transcends national or ethnic identities. Also, for spiritual seekers to discover our church community we need an identity that stands out, connects with people, and effectively communicates our vision and mission. Again, as I pondered this need a passage from Doctrine and Covenants came to mind, and certain phrases were emphasized.

And it shall be a place in which the essential meaning of the Restoration as healing and redeeming agent is given new life and understanding, inspired by the life and witness of the Redeemer of the world.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:5e

As I pondered how to better express the "essential meaning of the Restoration as healing and redeeming agent," I was led to the following counsel:

Be respectful of tradition. Do not fail to listen attentively to the telling of the sacred story, for the story of scripture and faith empowers and illuminates.

—Doctrine and Covenants 161:5

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Listen carefully to your own journey as a people, for it is a sacred journey and it has taught you many things you must know for the journey yet to come. Listen to its teachings and discover anew its principles.

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:2a–b

“Community of Christ,” your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

Vital to this awakening is the understanding that the Temple calls the entire church to become a sanctuary of Christ’s peace, where people from all nations, ethnicities, and life circumstances can be gathered into a spiritual home without dividing walls, as a fulfillment of the vision for which Jesus Christ sacrificed his life.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:8c

More questions followed. What does it mean to give new life and understanding to the essential meaning of the Restoration as healing and redeeming agent inspired by Jesus Christ? On what are we to focus? The experience continued:

The Temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation and for healing of the spirit.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a

It shall also be for a strengthening of faith and preparation for witness.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:5b

By its ministries an attitude of wholeness of body, mind, and spirit as a desirable end toward which to strive will be fostered.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:5c

Look especially to the sacraments to enrich the spiritual life of the body. Seek for greater understanding of my purposes in these sacred rites and prepare to receive a renewed confirmation of the presence of my Spirit in your experiences of worship.

—Doctrine and Covenants 158:11c

Become a people of the Temple—those who see violence but proclaim peace, who feel conflict yet extend the hand of reconciliation, who encounter broken spirits and find pathways for healing.

—Doctrine and Covenants 161:2a

Fulfill the purposes of the Temple by making its ministries manifest in your hearts. It was built from your sacrifices and searching over many generations. Let it stand as a towering symbol of a people who knew injustice and strife on the frontier and who now seek the peace of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

—Doctrine and Covenants 161:2b

Transformative encounters with the Eternal Creator and Reconciler await those who follow its [Temple] spiritual pathways of healing, reconciliation, peace, strengthening of faith, and knowledge.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a

There are additional sacred ministries that will spring forth from the Temple as rivers of living water to help people soothe and resolve the brokenness and pain in their lives.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:8b

Throughout my experience of growing understanding of the relevance of recent Continuing Revelation, I had an increasing sense of truth and blessing straining to be released, to take on “flesh” and grow. What areas of possibility should we focus on?

The priesthood offices already provided for in my church have always had the potential of supplying these blessings. Some of their functions, however, will be expanded and given additional meaning as the purposes of temple ministries are revealed more fully.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:4b

As I pondered all of this, it finally occurred to me that when God speaks of the Temple, God is simultaneously speaking of the Temple as sacred space-symbol, each disciple-member as temple, and the whole church body as temple. The eternal mind functions and acts holistically and relationally. The spiritual principle of temple is revealed in multiple ways. Creation is the temple of God’s presence as well as individual aspects of creation. Physical temples help us encounter and embody that truth. The following counsel speaks of this insight:

Vital to this awakening is the understanding that the Temple calls the entire church to become a sanctuary of Christ’s peace, where people from all nations, ethnicities, and life circumstances can be gathered into a spiritual home without dividing walls, as a fulfillment of the vision for which Jesus Christ sacrificed his life.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:8c

What shall we make of all of this? I am not sure. I am still working on my understanding. However, as I look back on that experience and what I have written here, there seem to be several emphases in church life calling for increased attention:

Spiritual awakening and formation
The shaping of church identity to express better the essential meaning of restoration as healing and redeeming agent. Greater awareness of and appreciation for our sacred story and its spiritual power to teach us vital principles for the journey ahead
Broader understanding of the power and

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possibilities of the sacraments to spiritually awaken the church. Deeper understanding of priesthood ministry, functions, and possibilities.

The Temple to continue to shape us a people who share the peace of Jesus Christ through ministries of peacemaking, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit with a particular focus on wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships.

I think it is important to add that these emphases should not be approached in a linear or compartmentalized fashion. They all are interrelated. Each contributes to the fulfillment of the others.

Beyond my reflections, though, it is more important that the church engages in prayerful exploration, spiritual discernment, and serious discussion about the meaning of this guidance. Who is God calling us to be? What primary themes of that calling are emerging? What do those emphases mean for the direction and priorities of the worldwide church? What do they mean for congregational life? What new functions of ministry and mission are seeking to come forth?

Hopefully, this will stimulate the kinds of questions, discussions, insights, and affirmative testimonies that will illuminate the next steps.

Listen, O people of the Restoration—you who would become a prophetic people, embodying in your life together the ministries of the Temple. Listen to the Voice that speaks from beyond the farthest hills, from the infinite heavens above, and the vast seas below.

Listen to the Voice that echoes across the eons of time and yet speaks anew in this moment. Listen to the Voice, for it cannot be stilled, and it calls you once again to the great and marvelous work of building the peaceable kingdom, even Zion, on behalf of the One whose name you claim.

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:1



FAMILY CAMP

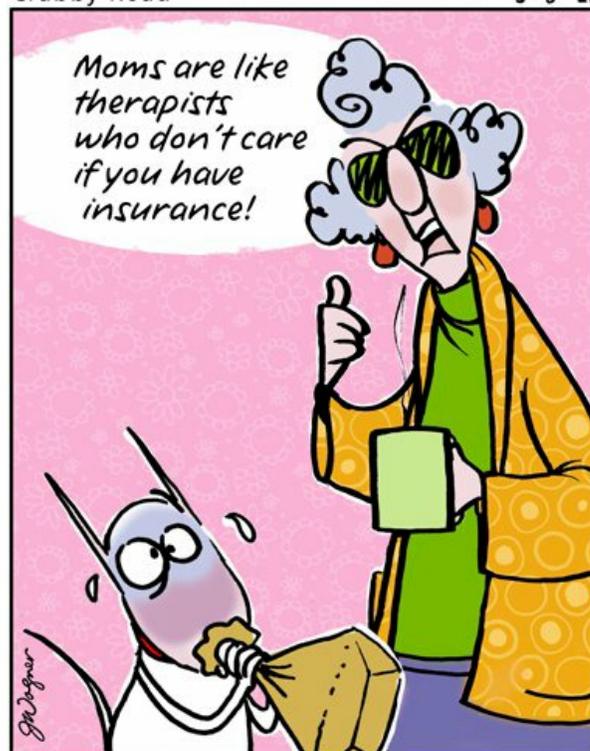
At Park of the Pines
July 7-14, 2017

Theme: Fully Awake & Ready to Respond

Guest ministry:
President of Seventy John Wight
High Priest Dianna Vanderkarr

There are some exciting activities this year.
Come and see!

Registration forms are on the bulletin board, and also on the Mission Center website.



LIFETREE CAFE Now Showing in **May 2017**  (for FAQ's)

 Lifetree@fpboyne.org / LifetreeCafe.com

Week of May 7 | Week of May 14

CHANGES AHEAD

Embracing CHANGE

Taking the fear out of what comes next

What's Wrong Right With You?

The surprising truth about self-worth

Week of May 21 | Week of May 28

Christian? Cult? What do they really believe?

MORMONS

Curing Healthcare

Practical help for an ailing nation

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Sundays at 6:30 p.m.
401 S. Park St.
Entrance is off Pine St.

231-582-7983



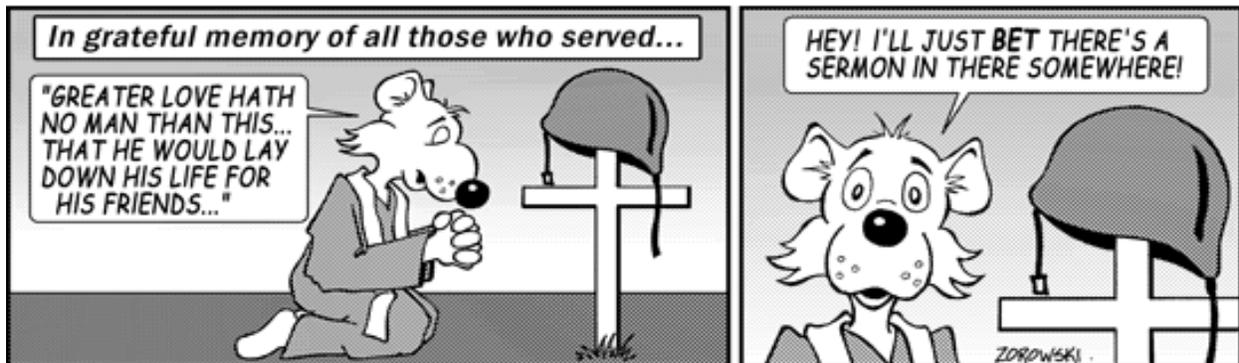
May 29, 2017

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day has come to mean the beginning of summer, a time for picnics and barbecues, and a holiday to gather around the family. That happiness and freedom, however, is a product of the real cause for the holiday: the sacrifice made by men and women who have fought and died for the freedoms and liberties Americans hold dear. Memorial Day is a time to remember that the American way of life is not cheap but rather has been purchased by the lives and blood of so many who have sacrificed for us to live free and happily now.



Church Mice



May 2017

Date/Time	Worship Leader	Speaker	Assisting	Musician
May 7: Hear His Voice				
10:00am:	Classes			
11:00am:	S. Ecker	E. West		A. Seamon
May 14: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life <i>Mother's Day</i>				
10:00am:	Classes			
11:00am:	R. Fuller	R. Eaton		A. Seamon
May 21: Love Me and Keep My Commandments				
10:00am:	Intergenerational Activity			
11:00am:	S. Ecker	L. Ecker		A. Seamon
May 28: Open Our Minds to the Scriptures				
10:00am:	Intergenerational Activity			
11:00am:	R. Eaton	S. Ecker		A. Seamon

Evening Activities

- Wed, May 3, 6:00pm: Priesthood Meeting**
- Wed, May 10, 6:00pm: Fellowship at The Brook**
- Wed, May 17, 6:00pm: Congregation Planning Meeting**
- Wed, May 24 6:00pm: Prayer & Share** with Elder Ron Fuller. Theme: *"Open Our Minds to the Scriptures"*
- Wed, May 31, 6:00pm: Prayer & Share** with High Priest Eleanor West. Theme: *"Rivers of Living Water."*

Dates to Remember

- Sat, May 6, 9:30am - 5:00pm: Ministry Training** at the Park of the Pines.
- Sat, May 13, 5:30pm: Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by the youth. All donations will go to the Youth Camperships
- Sat, May 20, 2-4pm: Children's Clothing Pantry**
- Sun, June 4: Congregational Conference for Election of Officers.**

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 6:00 PM Priesthood Mtg	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Ministry Training @ the Park of the Pines
<i>7</i> Speaker: E. West	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 6:00 PM The Brook	<i>11</i>  Monte Eaton	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 5:30 PM Spaghetti Supper & Candy Bar Bingo -- by the youth
<i>14</i> Mother's Day Speaker: R. Eaton	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 6:00 PM Planning Mtg	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>  Riley Ecker	<i>20</i> 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Clothing Pantry
<i>21</i> Speaker: L. Ecker	<i>22</i>  Monica Kroondyk	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 6:00 PM Prayer & Share  Marlene Groh	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Speaker: S. Ecker	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 6:00 PM Prayer & Share			



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