

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

GRAPEVINE

May 9, 2007

Parson to Person

As the beauty of springtime in Adams County surrounds us and as more news of potential housing development in Adams County assaults us, I pass along the following thoughts from a great little book I read recently. In The Gospel According to Starbucks, seminary professor of evangelism Len Sweet writes:

Life's second greatest passion is to grow a soul that is a beautiful work of art, a soul with such sensitivities that it can pick up signals of transcendence in the most unlikely of places, a soul with such stretch that it can experience the subtleties of life that separate the good from the bad and the good from the great.

Granted, one must be careful about what one means by *beauty*. The nineteenth-century German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer took this a little too far. He

was once so offended by one man's looks that he attacked the man with a stick. One wonders what the philosopher might have done if on the street he had

passed Jesus, who in the eyes of the world was without deformity and comeliness and without beauty that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:2)

While beauty signals the scent of the Spirit, beauty can also disguise the truth it is meant to display. Personal preference is one thing (and not grounds for attacking another), but uglification is another name for corruption. God created us as works of beauty. God created planet Earth as a masterwork of art. It is a sin to make ugly what God created beautiful. When you look at some real estate developments and see cookie-cutter monstrosities rubbing shoulders with one another,

it takes all the strength one can muster not to get out Schopenhauer's cane and attack their developer. (p. 53-54)

To that thought I add these questions: Does God value uniqueness more than conformity? Does God delight in creativity more than efficiency? Does God honor conservation more than progress? While conformity, efficiency, and progress all have a place in the human story, I believe uniqueness, creativity and conservation have preference in the divine heart.

Faithfully Yours,

An Additional Parson to Person

In recent reading I came across an article in which this question presented to members of a congregation: "If you had one or two things you could tell your preacher that would help energize you when you are listening to a sermon, what would they be?"

I would value your response to that question. Would you take some time to provide me with an honest, thoughtful reply via the tear off below? Thanks! Dan

Things that would help energize me when I am listening to your sermons are:

- 1.
- 2.

Please keep your response(s) anonymous and mail it to:
Dan Hans, 208 Baltimore St., Gettysburg, PA 17325

Or put them in a white envelope with "Dan Hans" written on it and place it in the collection plate.

Thank You:

To Our Dear Church Family,
 We want to express our deep, deep gratitude for the love and support offered to us during my recent hospitalization, surgeries and treatments. The prayers, phone calls, cards, notes, visits, food and offers of assistance were so greatly appreciated. In Joni Eareckson Tada and Dave and Jan Dravecky's book, *365 Days of Hope*, Joni writes that we are to praise God for friends who are willing to call on the name of the Lord on our behalf. Indeed, praise and thanks be to God for you, our church family, who helped to carry us through these difficult days.

In His gracious name,
 Bruce and Pam Rowland

Thanks for Dinner-to-Go and Trip to Mt. Tabor Park

One of our traditional spring activities for Youth Club is our Dinner-to-Go, a walking game involving small groups of children, bags of numbered food items, and dice. You never know where your group is going to end up in Gettysburg, or which items are going to be eaten first! Thanks to the following adults who led our groups this year: Alva Ecker, Kathy Dudash, Amy Deitch, Deb Litten, and Sarah Morton.

Our last Youth Club meeting at the end of each year is a trip to Mt. Tabor Park in Rocky Ridge, MD. We had beautiful weather on May 2nd as 35 children and 10 leaders and parents ventured to the park with the "Big Slide"! Thanks to the following for providing transportation: Alva Ecker, Amy Deitch, Wendy Beauchat, Lori Bridel, Betsy Wilhelm, Amy Tomassini, Lucy Breighner, and Gina Plamann. And thanks to Mark Beauchat for "manning the grill"!

Blessings, Phyllis

Thank you to John Harman, Paul Ketterman and Beth Smith for conducting the 2006 audit.

Thank you to Sheryl Suplee for the new dish towels in the kitchen.

Thanks to Barry Breighner for installing new emergency lights and our outdoor light timer in our church.

Did You Know??!! 2007 Lenten Small Groups Were a Great Success!

93 people were part of 10 small groups that met weekly for prayer, study and fellowship during the Lenten season (Feb. and March). Groups read *The Lord's Prayer for Today* by Rev. Dr. William Carl, who will be our guest preacher here at GPC next March 9, 2008.

On April 5th, all small group leaders and members met for a Soup and Bread supper in Fellowship Hall before attending the Maundy Thursday worship service.

Thanks to Kay Knox for organizing a wonderful meal!
 Thanks to Phyllis Dowd, Dan Hans and Lou Nyiri for serving soup! Thanks to Lou Nyiri for helping with the power point.
 Thanks to Don Clark for the set up. Thanks to all who helped clean-up!

A special THANK YOU to our 2007 Lenten Small Group Leaders:

- Lori and Scott McNair
- Sue and Al Moyer
- Yvonne and Jim Whitney
- Pat and Ken Hickey
- Becky and Chooch Wells
- Doug and Betty Forbeck
- Lou Nyiri

"AN EVENING OF MUSIC"

On Sunday, April 29, an "Evening of Music" was held here at the church, including a musical presented by our Chapel Choir entitled "Faith Hall of Fame". It was a delightful musical rendition of Biblical heroes, including Abraham, Joseph, Miriam, Moses, David, and Esther. Thanks to the following who made this production possible:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Tammi Swartzbaugh - Chapel Choir Director | Becky Wareham - Accompanist |
| Kay Knox - Costumes | Paulette Brabender - Scenery |
| Larry Sanders - Narrator | Rich Watson - Goliath |
| Steve Swartzbaugh - Videographer | |

Choir Members: Olivia Pelletier, Beverly Gard, Drew May, Katelyn Gormley, Alexandra Chandon, Holly Scarbrough, Casey Ecker, Brandi Watson, Grant Sanders, Christian Swartzbaugh, Sydney Tomassini, Jordan Williams, Jack Haskins, and Isaiah Stancil.

Thanks to the following participants whose contributions also made the evening special:
 George Marguglio (sang & MC), Don Clark, Alexandra Chandon, Fran Salisbury, Larry Bullis, Scott Hartwig, Linda MacAskill, Christian Swartzbaugh - tuba, and Rachel Doehring

Vacation Bible School

June 25 - 28

"Climb the Mountains with Jesus!" will be our theme for Vacation Bible School this year. The program is open to all children ages 3 to Grade 5 (completed). It will be held on June 25 - 28 from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon.

Through an experiential hands-on approach, children will explore 4 Bible stories of Jesus on the mountains. The stories will be told through drama, and groups of children will then participate in games, scripture, snack, and Bible activities centered around each story. A visit to "Land of the Mountains" in Fellowship Hall (and outside) will provide an opportunity for children to choose a variety of crafts that interest them. We also have a special activity planned for children in Grades 3—5 on Thursday afternoon.

VBS registration will be held from May 20 - June 17. Fee will be \$5.00 /child or \$10.00 /family. Registration forms will be included in the next newsletter, or may be obtained from the bulletin boards or through the church office.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Below you will find a list of personnel needed. (A supply list will be included in the next newsletter). Please take a look and find out how you can be part of our program. Call Phyllis at 334-1235, ext. 5 to volunteer. Thanks in advance for helping to make this VBS another great program for our children!

PERSONNEL NEEDED

4 Preschool Leaders

3 Teachers - lead 4 groups of children in pre-planned 20-minute activities each day

Games Leader

10 Group Leaders - 2 group leaders accompany each group of elementary children through the morning

25 Volunteers needed for "Land of the Mountains" - help children complete a craft or scientific experiment for 1 hour each morning

Snack Assistant

Drama Participants (non-speaking) - middle, high school & adult

Childcare (for leaders' children)

Teen Aides (completed Grade 6 or older)

Upcoming Events

REMINDER: The last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 20th. Be sure to thank your teacher!

May Music Schedule		
5/13	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Primary Choir Adult Choir
		Stephen Swartzbaugh
5/20	8:15 a.m.	Stephen Swartzbaugh
	11:00 a.m.	Adult & Youth Bell Choirs Youth Choir
		Stephen Swartzbaugh
5/27	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult & Youth Choirs
		Stephen Swartzbaugh

Young @ Heart

May 17th

Carpool from the church parking lot @ **10:30 a.m.** to go on a tour of the Conewago Chapel with lunch to follow @ Perkin's Restaurant.

Directions to Conewago Chapel:

East on Route 30 to New Oxford Square. Turn right on Hanover Street out of Square. Follow Hanover Street 1.2 miles to Stop sign. Bear right onto Irishtown Road.

Stay on Irishtown Road 3 miles to Chapel on right. Pass Chapel to next right turn, Basillica Drive, turn right then immediately turn right into Cemetery. Take drive to right to the Chapel and park in the handicapped lot.

For those able to handle stairs, when you reach the chapel, turn right on Chapel road and then left into the church drive leading to the parking lot.

FISH BOXES WERE FULL! !

During the season of Lent, children ages 3-Grade 8 were given fish boxes+in Sunday School to use to collect coins for One Great Hour of Sharing. The coins in these boxes totaled a whopping **\$294.03!** This was certainly not the fish that got away.+ This was the best catch of the season! Thanks to all who participated and demonstrated how to love your neighbor+

Paul Miller has a student involved in his ministry at Gettysburg College with a rather particular need. She is traveling abroad and needs a place to store her minivan this summer. Is there any church member that might be willing to let her park her car on their property and start it up every few weeks to keep it running? Please call Paul Miller at 448-1699 if you can help.

PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle

Monday, May 21 @ 12:00 p.m.

Hostess for lunch at the Brethren Village:

Nancy Saunders

Study Leader: Joan Pore

Lesson 9: Genesis 37: 39-45; 50

Those not at April Circle meeting please call Nancy (624-5952) by May 16.

(Carpool from GPC parking lot at 11:30 a.m.)

Mary Martha Circle

Monday, May 21 @ 7:30 p.m.

Hostess: Bev Weber

67 Cedarfield Dr.

337-2194

Lesson 9: Genesis 37: 39-45; 50

(Rte 116 East to Bonneauville, after curve, make right [opposite Weaver's Hardware] onto Maple St., bear left, third left is Cedarfield.

Bev's house is the last house on the right)

New Daytime Women's Circle

Tuesday, May 15 @ 9:30 a.m.

(contact Tanya Heinemann 337-1629)



ALL CHURCH WORK DAY!

If you can help with small repairs, painting and clean up jobs around the church on Saturday, May 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **please sign up today.**

_____ Yes, I / we can help on Saturday, May 19th.

Name (s) _____

Phone # _____

(Please return to the church office by May 15)

Gathering for Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity **June 14-16, 2007** at Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, PA

Worship, Fellowship, PW Resources; Bookstore, Garden Party, Singing and 12 workshops from which to choose.

Reservation forms available from GPC Moderator Mary Smith (334-4452).

Deadline for Registration is May 22.

Total cost is \$165.00

First timers: \$150.00

PW / GPC will pay half the registration fee.

Techies Wanted!!!

Are you the first person in your family to pick up the video camera to record vacations and holidays? Do you love to play at the computer and surf the net? Is Powerpoint your second language? Have you ever dreamed of being a band roadie, music producer or a movie director? If you have answered "yes" or want to answer "yes" to any of these questions, we need your help! The Contemporary Worship team is looking for volunteers to help with the technical aspects of our service a few Sundays a month. No special skills are needed, just a desire to help share the Good News in creative ways. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact Rev. Candace Nyiri at 337-2939, or lucan615@comcast.net.

Thank You, Youth Club Leaders

As our Youth Club year ends, I once again express my deep gratitude to the following adults and teen aides for their commitment, faith, patience, and enthusiasm every Wednesday afternoon from 3:15 - 6:45 p.m. since we began in September: Amy Deitch, Wendy Beauchat, Mark Beauchat, Melanie Keller, Amy Tomassini, and Lucy Breighner, as well as teens Sarah Morton, Sergei Ismailoff, Sam Tomassini, Megan Gochenauer, Ally Ecker, Scott Keller, Kasey Rathgeber, and Christina Soliday. Also many thanks to Tammi Swartzbaugh and Becky Wareham who served as Chapel Choir and Chapel Bell Choir directors respectively.

Thank you also to all the parents who cooked each week, and those who drove for special trips. Fifth graders, we will miss all of you very much, but know that you will be a wonderful addition to Middle School Fellowship next year! The rest of you, enjoy our break, and I look forward to seeing you in September.

—Love, Phyllis

Some UPCOMING SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES:

Summer 2007

1. Spiritual Growth: A Layperson Looks at Life on the Ladder by Becky Wells - Contact Becky for more information at 337-2487.

2. Summer Walking Small Group

Contact Candace Nyiri for more information at 337-2939.

Looking Ahead

Fall 2007

1. The Lord's Prayer for Today (a repeat of our Lenten Study for those who were not able to participate.) Led by Pat and Ken Hickey (Date and Time to be announced)

2. Paul's Letter to the Galatians and Philippians Bible Study

Led by Rev. Dr. Dan Hans on Tuesday evenings (Sept. 11-Nov. 20)
(This will also be the Pastor's Class on Sunday mornings at 9:30am.)

Be watching the newsletter for more small group opportunities!

BIBLE-A-THON A Great Success!

Congratulations to the 26 children listed below who successfully completed our Bible-A-Thon by scoring 80% or higher. Children in Kindergarten-Grade 2 answered a list of 50 Biblical questions, while children in Grades 3-5 answered 100 biblical questions. Last Sunday we held a pizza party for the children. After lunch we played a game and enjoyed make-your-own sundaes. The children then received special ribbons and a balloon and had their pictures taken.

Tessa Beauchat
Nicole Bridel
Emma Burgess *
Alexandra Chandon
Jacob Durboraw
Casey Ecker
Danny Ecker *
Sarah Fossett
Beverly Gard
Faith Gard
Blaze Graff *
Kayla Hosterman *
Sean Hosterman *

Drew May
Luke May *
Alex McNair *
Kate Mowrey *
Austin Rucker
Nicholas Rucker *
Emma Sanders
Grant Sanders
Daelyn Stabler *
Christian Swartzbaugh
Carolyn Warcup
Jordan Williams
Sedona Wilson *

* perfect score

If you live outside of the 17325 zip code and there is a delay in the arrival of your newsletter, remember that you can always access the information on our website, www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org. Select "Newsletter" at the top of the left margin.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for worship in a relaxed, creative style.
Come and lift your voice to God with the joyous songs of our Contemporary Music Team!

May 13 (re) creation - In God's Image-(Mother's Day)
May 20 (re) creation - In the Word
May 27 (re) creation - In the Fire (Day of Pentecost)

*If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation;
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:17*

**Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, May 17, 2007**

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