



WBPC Messenger

The Small Church with a BIG Heart!

2/2017

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

2911 Berlin Station Road
740-362-5305

Delaware, Ohio 43015 www.westberlinpc.info
Pastor Gustafson15@gmail.com 614-595-1009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Pulpit—
Journey in the
Wilderness
- 2 From the Pulpit
(continued)/MD
Support
- 3 February 2017 Mission
& Ministry Activities
- 4 February 2017 Calendar
of Events/February
Anniversaries &
Birthdays

From the Pulpit...Journey in the Wilderness

By Robert Gustafson

In my January 22nd sermon, I quoted from a recent book by Rev. Gil Rendle, a leading thinker and leader for mainline churches. I want to share a quote from his book with you, so you have more opportunity to think about it. He opens his book “Journey in the Wilderness, New Life for Mainline Churches” with the following.

People no longer join congregations because they want relationships or because they want to “belong”. As far as relationships that serve as social friendships, increasingly people already have as many as their time and lifestyle allow.

Rather than simply seeking social relationships for which there is less room in a harried contemporary lifestyle, people now come to congregations because they want a purposeful relationship with others who are seeking a purpose and meaning in response to the questions that they feel in their lives. For many the function of relationships in congregations has now shifted from being only social to being purposeful.

This shift that removes the congregation from its position as central institution that provides friendships out of which members then shape a personal identity is difficult news to many congregations, which continue to think of their only strength as being warm and friendly relationship providers.

No longer must the de facto centers of social connections, congregations now learn to pick up their new/ancient role as a place where meaning is shaped for people’s lives.

As we continue our New Beginnings Act 2 activities, I think it very important that we consider our purposes and the “why’s” of our church that can be attractive to current and new members.



From the Pulpit (Continued)

History Corner:

As we approach celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, I want to share with you some hopefully helpful background. The following is from the Presbyterian Handbook (Revised Edition):

Presbyterian Origins

1) Reformed Churches

Presbyterians are part of the whole household of Christians. We are part of a family called Reformed churches. These churches began in the sixteenth century at the time of the Protestant Reformation. They were churches that looked especially to the teachings of Huldrych Zwingli of Zurich (1484-1531) and John Calvin (1509-1564), who live in Geneva, Switzerland, as being reliable ways of understanding and interpreting the Bible. Other Reformed leaders followed. They wanted to “reform” the Roman Catholic Church on the basis of Word of God in Scripture.

2) Protestant Churches

Reformed churches became distinguished from Lutheran churches, which followed the teaching of Martin Luther (1483-1546), who had also sought the “reformation” of the Roman Catholic Church. Reformed churches also followed a different path from those who became known as Anabaptist (today’s Baptist, Mennonites, and others) since Anabaptists believed that only adults who profess their faith in Christ and not infants should be baptized. Lutheran, Reformed, and Anabaptists are all “Protestants” in that they do not agree with the Roman Catholic Church.

3) Presbyterian Churches

Presbyterian Churches get their name from their form of church government: governments by presbyters or elders. The primary governing unit is the presbytery, which composed of clergy (teaching elders) and elected lay leaders (ruling elders) in a specific geographical area. The ruling elders who govern in local churches are called the session.

Pastor Bob

Thanks for MD Support

On December 14, your pastor spent a short time in the MD Jail. (Actually this was at the Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant.) Donations from WBPC raised \$165 for Muscular Dystrophy Association. It is to support their important work for kids and adults living with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related life-threatening diseases. Thanks to all who contributed. *Pastor Bob*





February 2017 Mission & Ministry

Family Promise Mission

The WBPC Deacons has selected Family Promise as their mission for this coming year. Family Promise is an organization that supports the homeless population in Delaware County. A presentation on the group's mission and efforts was shared in a special Deacon presentation last October.

Currently, we will have a box located in the Church Annex to collect High Efficiency laundry detergent and printer paper that will be taken to Family Promise. A list of additional items will be placed on the church bulletin board. Donations for Family Promise will be collected every month through the beginning of the Advent Season at which time we will focus on the Turning Point Women's Shelter.

Contact Bill Hanning, Deacon, if you have any questions.

Pre-Presbytery Meeting: Older Adult Event

A worship entitled "The Joy of Ministering with Older Adults" will be held just prior to the February Presbytery meeting, February 21, Noon-3 pm, Broad St. Presbyterian Church. The workshop will begin with lunch at noon and finish before the Presbytery Meeting begins at 3:30 pm. This workshop will present current models of aging, describing stages instead of actual ages.

Anyone interested in attending this worship may attend for a cost of only \$5 per person to help defray the cost of the lunch. To see the flyer and get more information go to www.psvonline.org or contact Pastor Bob.

March 2017 Weekend Adult Mission Opportunity Still Open

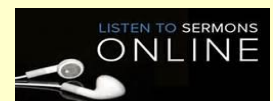
We are invited to participate in a joint mission trip with Worthington Presbyterian Church, March 10-12, 2017 (leaving on Friday at 6:00 p.m. from Worthington Presbyterian Church and returning Sunday at 6:00 p.m.). The trip will be to 1st Presbyterian Church of Portsmouth which is approximately two hours south of Columbus. Our mission will be repairing, painting and serving a community meal as they prepare for their 200th anniversary. Cost will be \$10 per person; we'll be carpooling and hosted in the homes of their congregation (or maybe motels). Please see Pastor Bob for a registration form soon.

Annual Report for 2016

If you missed the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 22, 2017, copies of the Church's annual report, distributed at the annual meeting are available at the information table at the front of the church.

Want to Hear a Sermon You Missed????

Did you know that our weekly sermons are posted on the Church's website? Go to www.westberlinpc.info, select "Mission and Ministry" go to tab – Sermons. Have problems on navigating the site or on how to even get there??? Contact Lou Ann Shy and she will set up a Sunday after worship to show how to get into and navigate the website.



Not a computer user and still want to listen to missed sermons????? Compact Discs (cd) with recordings of the worship service are available upon request from Jerry Donovan. Don't own a cd player??? Let your Deacon know and they may be able to locate one for you or contact Cindy McGraw, Moderator, Deacons, directly.

February Worship and Calendar of Events

Sunday School 9:30 AM, Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday, February 1, 2017 (6:30 PM)	Women's Society – NO MEETING
Sunday, February 5, 2017 (9:30/10:30 AM)	Adult Sunday School/Worship Service/Communion/Session Meeting
Tuesday February 7, 2017 (7:00 PM)	New Beginnings, Act 2 Committee Meeting - Church, Second Floor Meeting Room
Wednesday, February 8, 2017	John Rae Class 11:00 AM - Bob Evans- 36/37
Sunday, February 12, 2017 (9:30/10:30 AM)	Adult Sunday School/Worship Service/Second Sunday
Tuesday, February 14, 2017	Happy Valentine's Day!!!
Sunday, February 19, 2017 (9:30/10:30 AM)	Adult Sunday School/Worship Service
Monday, February 20, 2017	President's Day
Wednesday, February 22, 2017 (6:30 PM)	Lady's Night Out - Mi Cerrito – 19 Winter Street (across from the Strand Theater)
Sunday, February 26, 2017 (9:30/10:30 AM)	Adult Sunday School/Worship Service
LOOKING AHEAD>>>>>>>>	
Wednesday, March 1, 2017 (7:00 PM)	Ash Wednesday Service/Communion

February Birthdays:

Birthdays

7-Tom Cox, 11-Kitty Cottrill, 28-Bob Ford

