

The Messenger *November 2017*

STEWARDSHIP

Three Thoughts on Church Stewardship

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it. - William James

In the frantic pace of our day-to-day lives, it is easy to get caught up in forgetting that there is a higher connection to our activity. When the dust settles, where do we find ourselves? What has been accomplished? The church enables us to align with the infinite power of our creator. In this one place we are linked to the awesomeness of the universe.

The church is the world the way God means it to be. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The great strength of the church is less about what we do, and more about who we are. We are the embodiment of God in one specific place. We are a beacon and a refuge to a lost and weary world.

Be the change you want to see in the world. - Gandhi

There is more than just wishing people's lives could be better; there needs to be some action. At the least, there needs to be a decision in our life where we want to see the changes happen. By supporting the work of our church we are joined in an effort to faith to bring about real transformation.



The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

A simple girl

An ordinary man

An unforgettable destination

Beginning Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 9:15 am, our church will offer a five-week Sunday School Advent Study you won't want to miss: "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem". In the study, Adam Hamilton travels with us from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological findings, and personal reflections, Hamilton illuminates this most amazing moment in history. We follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into our own journeys with Christ.

Each class will begin with a video from Adam Hamilton and end with a discussion period. Please register in advance so we know the number of books that need to be ordered. A registration sheet will be on the hallway bulletin board during the month of October or contact Steve Anglin.



Westwood Financial Report - 2017

September:	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Current Funds	8,863.80	6,753.67	2,110.13
Per Capita	0.00	2,065.00	30.00
Benevolence	0.00	20.00	-20.00
Total	8,863.80	8,838.67	25.13

Year-To-Date:

Current Funds	61,833.46	69,104.64	-7,271.18
Per Capita	815.00	2,065.00	-1,250.00
Benevolence	825.00	825.00	0.00
Total	63,473.46	71,994.64	-8,521.18

Attendance for September:

3rd	--33	<i>More detailed financial reports are available upon request from Steve Anglin or the church office.</i>
10th	--33	
17th	--38	
24th	--33	
Total	131	



Pledges for 2018 will be received on Sundays, November 12th and 19th

Pledges for the New Year will be received in November. As you were made aware at our congregational meeting on October 15, this will be a make or break year for Westwood. We are expecting a major shortfall, financially, because of our losses through decline in membership over the past years. Our budget is expected to be around \$101,000, while anticipated income will most likely be between \$76,000 and \$78,000.

Soon you will receive a Stewardship letter with a pledge card enclosed. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give.

It is our belief that God is not through with us yet. We are considering "possible alternatives" for Westwood's future. Thank you to all of you who have put forth ideas on how we might build up our congregation and ministry. If we are to succeed, it will take all of us working together. Let's continue to trust God as we move ahead.

Years ago when I ministered at a small church near Greensburg, Indiana, there was a class of adults that called themselves the TIGAPA class. Tigapa stands for, Trust in God and Push Ahead. I believe that is exactly what we must consciously do. I am excited about our future. I hope you are as well.

Thank You to those who gave for the Peace Offering on October 1. \$150 was received. Twenty-five percent of the offering will be sent to support "One Way Farm while the other seventy-five percent will be sent to support the PC USA's peace efforts around the world.



“A Monument to Boll Weevils”

As we think about the season of Thanksgiving, I want to share a story about a town in Enterprise, Alabama. In 1895 the boll weevil began to destroy the major crop of their county, cotton. In desperation to survive, the farmers had to diversify, and by 1919 the county's peanut crop was worth many times what cotton had been at its height. In that year of prosperity a fountain and monument were built. The inscription reads: “In profound appreciation of the boll weevil and what it has done as the herald of prosperity. This monument was erected by the citizens of Enterprise, Coffee County, Alabama.” Out of a time of struggle and crisis had come new growth and success. Out of adversity had come blessing.

Many of you in this season of Thanksgiving have adversity as you deal with illness, aging parents, financial issues, grief over life losses, change, and more. As you deal with the adversity, it is easy to want to just give up and quit. If you do, life becomes only days and nights of desperation. The burden you carry becomes so heavy you fall beneath the load.

When adversity strikes me, I too, for a while fall into a time of anger, frustration, and hopelessness. There I find no help. In times like that, I can barely stand my own company. Thankfully, though, as time passes, I get up, with the strength of God, and begin to move on. Christian Psychiatrist, M. Scott Peck, states in the first chapter of his book, *The Road Less Traveled*:

Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult—once we truly understand and accept it—then life is no longer difficult. Because once this is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters.

The first time I read these words, I threw the book across the floor and let it lie there for a while. I don't like to face that life is difficult sometimes. Whether I like it or not, it is. The question then becomes, how will I handle this difficulty?

When we accept what we are facing, then and only then will we find the strength and courage to deal with it. The good news is that we do not have to do this alone. There are fellow travelers who also face and have faced trials. We also have a God who has promised to never leave us alone. A God who walks with us every step of the way. A God who even carries us when necessary.

Most of us have found, over time, that even the adversity's of our lives have brought us blessings. When we experience these struggles and find new life, perhaps it is time to build a monument for the richness our lives have found. May you experience many blessings in this season of Thanksgiving.

In Christ,
NORMAN

Newsletter Deadline
for November is
November 15th.



Per Capita for 2017

Several of you have asked about the amount of Per Capita that is paid for 2017. The total is \$35 per member. The **General Assembly**, the **Synod of the Covenant**, and **The Presbytery of the Miami Valley** will each receive a portion. If you would like to pay your portion for 2017, just make a check to the church and mark it Per Capita. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with any member of the Session.



PER CAPITA

**SERVING
THIS
MONTH**



Ushers: Marlene Sloneker, Reva Johnson

Worship Leaders:

- 5 Steve Anglin
- 12 Bob Long
- 19 Bob Estridge
- 26 Doug Gambrell

Sunday School:

- 5 Sandra Warren
- 12 Andrea Estridge
- 19 Reva Johnson
- 26 Marlene Sloneker

Coffee Hour:

- 5 Betty & Doug Gambrell
- 12 Jeanne & Mike Riechers
- 19 Thanksgiving Potluck
- 26 Dale Alvey & Dianne Hurst

Kitchen Duty:

Andrea Estridge

Communion Preparation:

Reva Johnson and Bob Estridge

Communion Servers:

**Reva Johnson, Catherine Gibson
Marlene Sloneker**

The Deacons will be collecting canned meat for the Christmas Project. We will also be collecting canned vegetables for One Way Farm. Please do not forget the Serve City Barrel under the coat rack in the hallway. All non-perishable items will be appreciated.

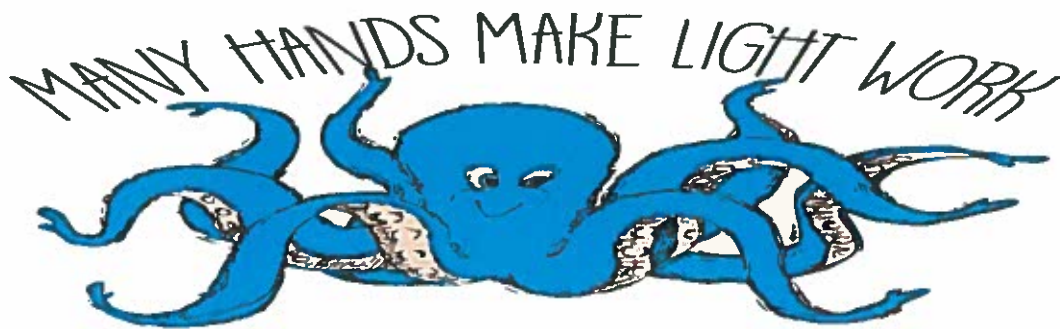


Thanksgiving Dinner

The Spiritual Growth/Outreach Committee is once again sponsoring the Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner will be November 19, 2017, after the church service in the fellowship hall. The committee will furnish the meat, potatoes and drinks. Please bring a covered dish or dessert. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Hope to see you there. Any questions, see Reva.

**Ruth Esther Circle
Tuesday,
November 1
at 10:00 am**





Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses. Special thanks to the
October volunteers:
Sara & Ted Pinkerton, Ruth Esther Circle, Jacki Tilton & Marion Flynn, Helen Belcher,
Donna & Jean Wright.

Thank you to the following who were Ushers for the month of October:
Dale Alvey, Marlene Sloneker, Reva Johnson.

Thank you to the following Sunday School volunteers for the month of October:
Marlene Sloneker, Sandra Warren, Andrea Estridge, Reva Johnson.

Thank you to all of our Kitchen Clean-up people. Special thanks to Jacki Tilton.

Thank you to Reva Johnson and Bob Estridge for preparing communion for October.
Thank you to the following for serving communion: Steve Anglin, Reva Johnson,
Marlene Sloneker, Andrea Estridge

Thank you to the following volunteers for mowing:
Don Greer, Bob Estridge, Estil Gay, Dale Alvey.

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the
Community Meal Center on Friday, October 20th: Loretta Otto, Marlene Sloneker, Tommy
Stevison, Traci Stevison, Jacki Tilton.

Donations: Helen Belcher, Bob & Andrea Estridge, Bonita Gay, Reva Johnson, Loretta Otto,
Marlene Sloneker, Tommy Stevison, Jacki Tilton

A Special Thanks to Estil and Bonita Gay for posting new messages on the church sign.

Deacons – November 1 – 1 pm
Administration – November 26– after worship
Spiritual Gr/Outreach – November 27 – 6 pm
Session – November 27 – 7 pm



Prayer Concerns

Hospice:

Pete (Pam Long's brother)

Cancer/Radiation Treatment:

Miriam Kridner (Helen's sister) liver
Connie Hensley (Ruth's daughter) chemo
Joy Stadler(Dale Alvey) – lung/brain tumor operation

Miscellaneous concerns:

Summer Estridge - health
Sue (Pam Long) – primary caregiver for Pete
Daryl Hetrick – serious heart condition
Jean & Donna Wright
Debbie Wright Baker – cancer free
Merrymae Hardebeck – bad fall
Christina Brittain – family problems
Dale Alvey – healing
Family of Elizabeth Beasley (Loretta)
Steven Santel (Bonnie Santel) blood slot in left arm
Ruth Mollett – cancer free

In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

The Knolls: Ellen Lowery
Maple Knolls: Mae Shane (Loretta)
The Woodlands: Dot Huntington (Marilyn)

National & International Concerns:

Our country, Natural disasters, violence, unity
Our armed forces worldwide
Persecuted Christians
Missionaries across the world
Peace in our world

Local Concerns:

Our church
Cities of Hamilton & Fairfield
Serve City/One Way Farm
Haven House
Churches in community
Community Meal Center

Congregational Prayer:

As we continue to pray for our sister churches in the Miami Presbytery, this month we are remembering Bellbrook Presbyterian Church in Bellbrook, OH and their pastor Rev. Diane Ziegler.

Prayers for
the Sick



The Heart
of Christ
In the Heart
of the City



The Presbyterian Church
of Hamilton, Ohio

(513) 867-5111

The Community Meal Center, under the direction of Mrs. Lauren Marsh, serves over four hundred meals to the hungry in our community each Friday evening at The Presbyterian Church on Front Street. For many years Westwood has supported this ministry through donation of funds and food. Several of our members have participated directly by preparing, on the third Friday of each month, the desserts. These desserts are provided by you, the members of our fellowship. **This notice is a reminder to you that desserts are needed every third Friday!** If you are able to assist, please drop your desserts by the church. Our helpers will pick them up and transport them to the Meal Center. Thank you to all who have provided desserts in the past and to those who will provide in the future. God Bless!

Thanks to those who gave so generously in October. (Also if you would like to help prepare the desserts, our group meets at 3:00 pm the third Friday.)



NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

12	Barbara Mainous
13	Jerry Alvey
17	Bonnie Santel
20	Kym Smith



2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 AM Ruth Esther Circle 1:00 PM Deacons	2 10:00 AM CHOIR 7:00 PM Sorority	3 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	4
5 10:45 AM WORSHIP Called Session Meeting Communion Dyflight Savings Trust Leads	6	7 Election Day	8	9 10:00 AM CHOIR	10 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	11 Veterans Day
12 10:45 AM WORSHIP	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 10:00 AM CHOIR	17 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 PM Community Meal Center 7:00 PM AA	18
19 10:45 AM WORSHIP Stewardship Sunday - pledges due Thanksgiving Dinner	20 Pastor on vacation	21 Pastor on vacation	22 Pastor on vacation	23 Pastor on vacation Thanksgiving	24 7:00 PM AA Office Closed Pastor on vacation secretary vacation	25 9:30 AM Hanging of Greens Pastor on vacation
26 9:15 AM Advent Study 10:45 AM WORSHIP Advent Con. after worship Bob Scridge leading worship	27 6:00 PM SPIRITUAL GROWTH 7:00 PM SESSION	28	29	30 10:00 AM CHOIR		

Westwood Presbyterian Church
1068 Stahlheber Road
Hamilton, OH 45013
Address Service Requested

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CALL ON HIS NAME

