



## *The Messenger*    *October 2017*



### **Called Meeting**

On Sunday, October 15, 2017, there is a “called” meeting of the congregation following worship. The purpose of this meeting will be for the Session to share with you the “State of the Church”. It is important for you to know where we are as a church and the obstacles that must be overcome if we are to have a viable future. Please pray for the church and the session as they lead us.

### **The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem**

A simple girl

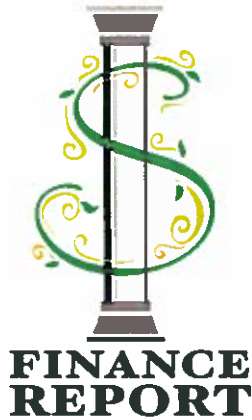
An ordinary man

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**

<b>August:</b>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Current Funds	4,911.61	7,113.97	-2,202.36
Per Capita	30.00	0.00	30.00
Benevolence	200.00	280.00	-80.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,141.61</b>	<b>7,393.97</b>	<b>-2,252.36</b>

**Year-To-Date:**

Current Funds	52,969.66	62,350.97	-9,381.31
Per Capita	815.00	0.00	815.00
Benevolence	825.00	805.00	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,609.66</b>	<b>63,155.97</b>	<b>-8,546.31</b>

**Attendance for August:**

6th --34  
13th --37  
20th --31

Total 102

*More detailed financial reports  
are available upon request  
from Steve Anglin  
or the church office.*



**Ruth Esther Circle  
Tuesday,  
October 17  
at 10:00 am**

**Newsletter Deadline  
for November is  
October 18th.**



**Deacons – October 4 – 1 pm**

**Administration – October 15– after worship**

**Spiritual Growth/Outreach – October 16 – 6 pm**

**Session – October 16 – 7 pm**

Dear Friends at Westwood  
Presbyterian Church,

Thank you to those who made  
donations to the Gideons of  
Hamilton. \$200 was collected. This  
will enable 40 Bibles or 150 New  
Testaments to be purchased and  
place. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Adrian Bolser



## “Struggle Muscles”

In the introduction to his book, *The Road Less Traveled*, Dr. M. Scott Peck states, “Life is difficult”. He says this to emphasize something all of us know. Indeed there are times that life is difficult and we wonder whether or not we will survive yet another of life's roadblocks. Peck begins with this truth in order to say, once we accept that life is difficult, then we can get on with facing the difficulty and doing something about it. Facing our difficulties builds what Christian humorist, Barbara Johnson calls “struggle muscles”.

Theodore Roosevelt is a good example of a person who used personal adversity to develop the strength to face whatever life has to offer. Described as a “steam engine on two legs”, Roosevelt was asthmatic as a little boy, not expected to live beyond age four. In the middle of dark nights, when Teddy would gasp desperately for breath, his father would pick him up and carry him outside—walking around for hours or riding in the carriage. In the arms of his father, the small boy felt safe. The choking subsided as he gulped in fresh air and rested against a strong shoulder. His father was always there, protecting and nurturing him.

But the day came when Theodore Sr. took Teddy aside and told him, “Beating this thing is up to you now, Son. Your mind is strong but you need to develop your body.” His father helped Teddy live an active life involving strenuous exercise, outdoor activities, hunting, and sports of all kinds.

Teddy threw himself into everything with determination and abandon. As he grew taller, his chest expanded and his neck thickened. He disciplined his mind and body. He was developing struggle muscles on his own. Years later those muscles helped him survive life's tragedies. Brokenhearted as a young adult by the death of the father he adored, the dark night came when both his beautiful wife and his mother died within hours of each other. Teddy left Boston and headed for the badlands of North Dakota, where he took on the rugged life of a cowboy. Although a refined Easterner, Teddy gained the respect and admiration of the toughest men riding the range. Today his granddaughter says, “If it were not for that badlands experience, he would never have had what it takes to be president.”

Our lives are ordinary compared with Teddy Roosevelt's. But are we really so different? Think of the way our God carries us through the hard times, providing comfort in those gasping, choking moments, helping us breath again. As we survive and grow, God challenges us to take up the fight ourselves, providing the tools to flex and grow strong.

Some say Teddy never got over the death of his wife and mother. And yet, developing his struggle muscles in the badlands, he went on to remarry, father six children, and lead a great country through some of its most challenging years.

We can be paralyzed by our setbacks or challenged by them to make the world a better place. Which will it be?

Prayer:

*O God, I wish there were no difficulties in life. But You never promised that, did You? You promised to be with me. May that be enough as I face adversity. Help me to grow strong and use even the struggles of life to bless You and the lives of others. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.*

In Christ,  
Norman

### 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**



**Deacon's  
Corner**

**Ushers: Dale Alvey, Marlene Sloneker,  
Reva Johnson**

**Worship Leaders:**

**1 Reva Johnson  
8 Bill Mountsier  
15 Bob Long  
22 Doug Gambrell  
29 Bob Estridge**

**Sunday School:**

**1 Marlene Sloneker  
8 Sandra Warren  
15 Andrea Estridge  
22 Reva Johnson  
29 Marlene Sloneker**

**Coffee Hour:**

**1 Sara & Ted Pinkerton  
8 Ruth Esther Circle  
15 Jacki Tilton & Marion Flynn  
22 Helen Belcher  
29 Donna & Jean Wright**

**Kitchen Duty:**

**Jacki Tilton**

**Communion Preparation:**

**Reva Johnson and Bob Estridge**

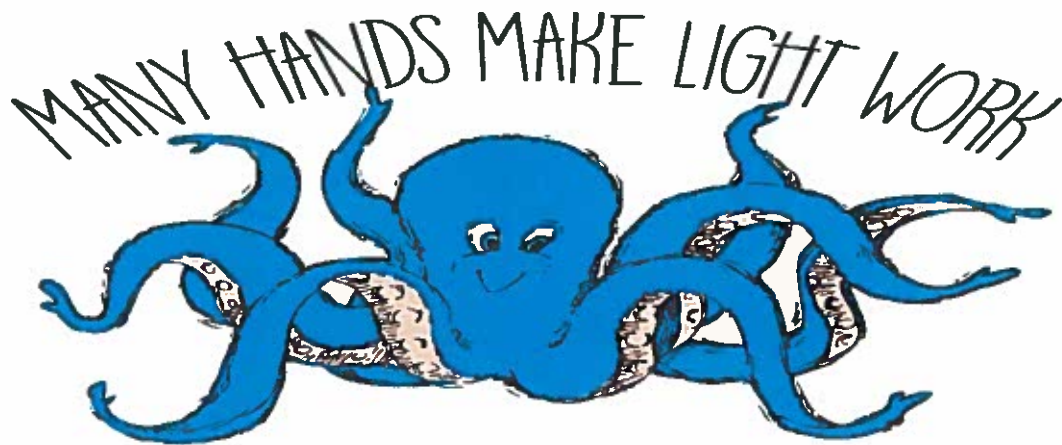
**Communion Servers:**

**Steve Anglin, Reva Johnson,  
Marlene Sloneker, Andrea Estridge**

The Deacons will be collecting canned fruit for the Christmas Project. We will also be collecting Ritz crackers 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.

*Congratulations!*

**Congratulations to Helen Belcher whose twelfth great grandchild was born August 28<sup>th</sup>. His name is Braxton Lee, 8 lbs. 4 oz. And to Loretta Otto at the birth of great granddaughter Mallory Mae Otto on August 24<sup>th</sup>.**



Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses. Special thanks to the  
September volunteers:

Session, Cindy & Steve Anglin, Andrea, Summer & Bob Estridge.

Thank you to the following who were Ushers for the month of September:  
Mose Anglin and Estil Gay

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

Thank you to all of our Kitchen Clean-up people. Special thanks to Sara Pinkerton.

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

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

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the  
Community Meal Center on Friday, September 15th: Marlene Sloneker, Traci Stevison  
Donations: The Deacons, Bob & Andrea Estridge, Bonita Gay, Loretta Otto,  
Marlene Sloneker, Traci Stevison

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

**Prayer Concerns**

**Hospice:**

Pete (Pam Long's brother)

**Cancer/Radiation Treatment:**

Bob Wadleigh (Marlene's cousin)  
 Debbie Wright Baker – ovarian  
 Miriam Kridner (Helen's sister) liver  
 Ruth Mollett – radiation  
 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  
 Family of Don Wright  
 Dot & Bob Huntington (Marilyn)  
 Cathy Sutton  
 Marvin Wilhelm recovering from stroke  
 Daryl Hetrick – serious heart condition  
 Brian Valentine (Mac's nephew) – bicycle accident  
 Ishmael DeBoyd (Ruth's brother) pneumonia & lung infection  
 Linda Lunsford – knee replacement  
 Wes Scenters recovering at home



**In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

The Knolls: Ellen Lowery  
 Maple Knolls: Mae Shane (Loretta)

**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  
 Recovery for victims of Hurricanes  
 Harvey, Irma & Maria

**Congregational Prayer:**

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

**BIBLE CROSSWORD 4 SOLUTION**

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N		D			P	R	E	S	E	N	T

Across: 1 Streets, 8 Fear, 9 Apostle, 10 Spoken, 12 Exhort, 14 Balaam, 15 Throne, 16 Silent, 17 Treads, 19 Cleanse, 21 Obey, 22 Present.

Down: 2 Two, 3 Enthroned, 4 Toes, 5 Necklace, 6 Grandmother, 7 Lamentation, 11 Pharisees, 13 Hardened, 18 Scar, 20 Nun.



**The Presbyterian Church  
of Hamilton, Ohio**  
(513) 867-5411



**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 September. (Next date, October 20)

**Eight Gifts That Do Not Cost A Cent**

- 1) **The Gift of Listening...**But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
- 2) **The Gift of Affection...**Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back, and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
- 3) **The Gift of Laughter...**Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."
- 4) **The Gift of A Written Note...**It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.
- 5) **The Gift of A Compliment...**A simple and sincere, "You look great in red." "You did a super job." or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.
- 6) **The Gift of A Favor...**Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.
- 7) **The Gift of Solitude...**There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
- 8) **The Gift of A Cheerful Disposition...**The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really, it's not that hard to say, Hello or Thank You.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

12 Catherine Gibson  
16 Dick Flynn  
17 Bob Long  
18 Betty Davis  
29 Pam Long

12 Bob & Pam Long  
13 Dick & Marion Flynn



### “The Heart of the Reformation”

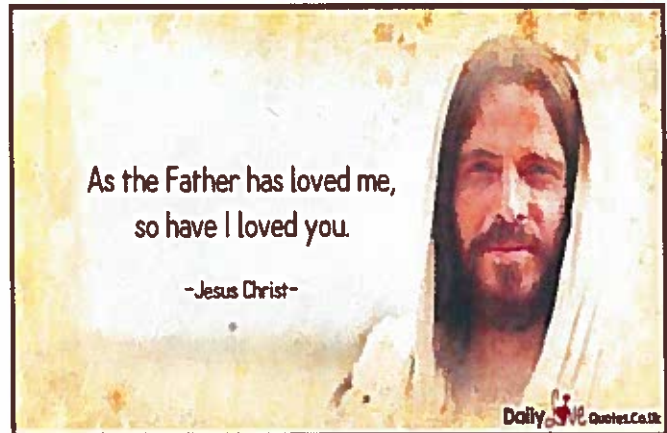
During October, Protestants celebrate the work of the Reformers—Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin and others—who brought about much needed change in the Christian church. Basically, these four teachings were at the heart of their contributions:

**Word alone**—The supremacy of the Bible as the surest guide for faith and life.

**Grace alone**—The supremacy of undeserved love from God. We are counted as being right with God when we accept God's love given to us freely, without any human achievement.

**Faith alone**—The supremacy of faith. It is only by believing and trusting in God's promises, and through no works of our own, that we find salvation through Christ.

**The priesthood of all believers**—Christians are “members of one another” (Ephesians 4:25, NRSV). In the eyes of God, we Christians are all on the same level. We each have a ministry to fulfill to one another and to those outside the faith. Luther said that we are “reciprocally and mutually one”.



*John 15:9*

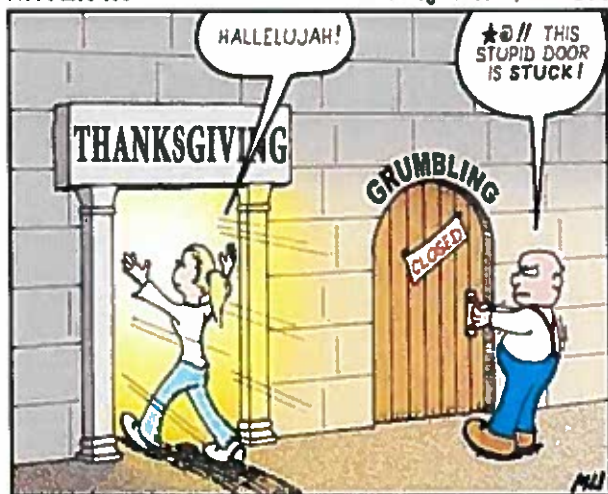
*Christ and living His example is at the heart of it all.*



*World Communion and Peacemaking Offering celebrated on October 1, 2017*

ENTER IN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. - PSALM 100:4 NIV



**Thank you so much for your generous donation to Highland elementary. We truly appreciate your commitment to assisting our school in making our students the very best they can be.**

**With Respect,  
Alex Sorrentino**



**Students with our donation, Andrea Estridge and Mr. Smallwood, Highland Elementary Principal.**



**“Why? Making Sense of God's Will”  
by  
Adam Hamilton**

“Why? Making Sense of God's Will” will be the focus of our Friday Morning study at 10:00 am, beginning October 13 through November 3. All are invited to attend.

In this study Adam Hamilton will help us focus on how to understand the will of God. Simplistic answers are rejected as well as unexamined assumptions. We will look at core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world, including:

- ◆ God will not take away our free will, even when we use it to grieve Him.
- ◆ God will never abandon us, especially in the midst of our suffering.
- ◆ While God is not the author of suffering, God will bring blessing out of tragedy.

**Schedule**

**October 13 - “Why Do the Innocent Suffer?”**

**October 20 - “Why Do Prayers Go Unanswered?”**

**October 27 - “Why Can't I See God's Will for My Life?”**

**November 3 - “Why God's Love Prevails” ← !**

If you are interested in attending this class, please sign up on the bulletin board. Books will be ordered for each participant.



## October 2017 PLANNER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:45 AM WORSHIP World Communion	2	3	4 1:00 PM Deacons	5 10:00 AM CHOIR 7:00 PM Sorority	6 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	7
8 10:45 AM WORSHIP	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12 10:00 AM CHOIR	13 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	14
15 10:45 AM WORSHIP Admin. Com. after worship Congregational Meeting	16 6:00 PM SPIRITUAL GROWTH 7:00 PM SESSION	17 10:00 AM Ruth Esther Circle	18	19 10:00 AM CHOIR	20 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 PM Community Meal Center 7:00 PM AA	21
22 10:45 AM WORSHIP	23	24	25	26 10:00 AM CHOIR	27 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	28
29 10:45 AM WORSHIP	30	31				

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

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## CALL ON HIS NAME

