

The Lamplighter

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Jack McClelland, Pastor

Darcy Miller, Pastor of Congregational Care

January/February 2018

From the Pastor's Desk



Something you may not know about me is that I keep a spiritual journal. I have discovered that this discipline is a great way to track my progress as a follower of Jesus. I don't write in it daily, as some might. But, I do write in it regularly. Sometimes I write in it during my morning devotions when I want to record a clear direction from God or have a particular frustration to express. Most often I write when I take time away for spiritual retreat. Taking the better part of a day to rest in the Lord, pray and listen to the Spirit speak through Scripture is something that I need at least quarterly. I've learned that if I don't do this, I become a person that I don't like very well—and others don't like either. I get consumed with the demands of projects instead of the needs of people. This leads me to be tight on time, short in conversation and missing the beauty of God's presence in daily life. Spending a day with the Lord refocuses me. It reminds me of God's goodness and helps me stay in tune with His will for my life and our church. It makes me a better husband, father, pastor and friend. Through Session's "Becoming a Flourishing Church" study, our elders affirmed my need for retreat and gave me permission to take time out for it. This is a gift for which I am grateful. As a result of that time, I have a thorough account in my journal of how the Lord has worked in my life and in our church family over the past year.

One of the benefits of a spiritual journal is that it allows you to go back and remind yourself of lessons the Lord has taught you. I tend to be like Israel, those "stiff necked people" who the Lord had to repeatedly knock on the head in order to teach them particular lessons. Keeping a journal helps me remember and apply what the Lord has taught me without needing quite as many knocks.

Another value to journaling is that you can clearly see the benefits of the lessons God has taught you. As I review past years of my life, I can see moments of doubt and questioning in particular situations and then read ahead to remember how faithful God proved to be in circumstances that once seemed unsettling. He truly has always "worked all things for the good" (Rom. 8:28) in my life and that gives me faith to trust Him even more. Seeing how God has worked in my past also gives me insight and clearer discernment in ways He may be leading me in the present.

I have explained my process of spiritual journaling to help you understand the remainder of what you will read in this article. As you might guess, much of what I write about in my journal involves our church. It truly is impossible to separate "Pastor Jack" from the "person Jack." As such, my entries often chronicle our collective story of the Lord walking with us. It notes where we have been, where we are, where the Lord may be leading us, and of course, testifies to His faithfulness through it all.

As I review my journal for 2017 and look ahead to 2018, I want to note a few things for you. First, the highlights of 2017:

- Darcy and I were both officially recognized by ECO as installed pastors in our church. I was ordained by our presbytery and she was commissioned as a lay pastor by our Session.
- We worshipped "outside the walls" on our VBS Weekend teaching children that "Jesus is the Light of the World" and shared His light through three community projects.
- We celebrated 200 years of Gospel witness through our bi-centennial.
- We reached out to Fredericksburg through numerous "Bless Your Burg" projects.

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G.L.O.W. BIBLE STUDY IN JANUARY

G.L.O.W. will resume their Wednesday morning Bible Study on January 10 at 10 a.m. The New Year is a great time for anyone interested in joining us as we begin a new study on "Twelve Women of the Bible." Each week's lesson includes scripture reading, discussion questions, and a DVD presentation. Our discussions will help us examine what we can learn from these women of faith and apply to our own lives. If you would like Pastor Darcy to reserve a study guide for you, please let her or Secretary Jeann know. The books will cost each participant \$6.50.

TEXAS MISSION TRIP UPDATE

By: Jerry Herman

We are scheduled to be in Port Arthur, Texas March 11 thru March 17, 2018. We will be working with World Renew – Disaster Response Services. This is the organization ECO has partnered with for disaster relief efforts. There is a real need for help in the Port Arthur area and they have requested that we go there for our trip. They are setting up a new camp in the area where we will be staying.

We need to get started by gathering information on who is going as soon as possible. We are required to complete a background check on everyone who is going on the trip. It is a simple process that I believe can be done on-line. I will give you more information as it becomes available.

If you plan on going with us you will need to let me know by January 15, 2018. We will require a \$35.00 deposit to reserve a spot on our roster. This fee will be due by January 15 and will be used to help defray the cost of the trip. Checks can be made out to Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church and you can give them to me and I will see that they get to the right place. All other trip expenses with the exception of meals while traveling to and from Texas will be covered by the church.

I will share more details as they become available. This is a great opportunity to go on a short term mission trip to an area that truly needs help. If you have ever considered going on a mission trip this is a prime opportunity.

NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH

As a fundraiser for their Colorado Trip this summer, the youth are hosting a GaGa Ball Dodgeball Tournament on Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The games are open to anyone. The cost to play is \$5 per person – and anyone is welcome to play. (You can come watch for free!) Refreshments are available for a donation. No sign-up is necessary. Teams are comprised of 6 people, but single players are welcome and will be assigned a team before the games begin.



The Youth will be attending WinterJam on January . 20. **The sign up deadline is January 14.** The cost is \$15. We will pack a sack lunch, leave the church at 1:00 p.m., and return around midnight. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Gallery.



Get Your Super Bowl Pizza Here!

The Youth will be taking orders for pizzas to be made up and delivered Feb. 3 fresh and ready to bake for your Super Bowl enjoyment.

Your pizza choices are:

- Pepperoni & Cheese \$10
 - Everything (pepp., 'shrooms & sausage) \$12
- Youth Group members will have order forms/sign up lists for you to place your order. Payment is requested when you place your order. Please make checks payable to *Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church*. This is a fundraising activity for the summer mission trip to Colorado.



Valentine Dinner & Newlywed game

Join us for some February food and fun when the Youth host a Valentine Meal on February 10 at 6 p.m. Although the sit-down meal has a Valentine's Day theme, singles, groups and friends are all included in the invitation - not just couples! The meal will be followed by a "Newlywed -type" game. The cost is a donation that will benefit the youth's summer mission trip to Colorado. **Please sign up at the Sign-up table in the gallery by Feb. 3.**

From the Pastor's Desk *(continued from page 1)*

- We had a successful campaign to retire our building debt with 42% of pledges coming from people who did not give to the first campaign. 7 of the pledgers were age 25 or under.
- We began learning more of how Jesus lived and what that means for us through "The Dash."
- Through Confirmation and Covenant classes, we received multiple new Covenant Partners. In fact, since we started worshipping in the new building in October 2015, we have celebrated 93 "new shoots" expressing faith through 15 first-time professions of faith and believer's baptisms, 41 new members joining through confirmation or reaffirming their faith, 4 infant baptisms and 33 exploring faith through regular worship attendance and engagement with the church.

As I prayerfully reflect on 2017, the challenging years before it, and what 2018 may hold, I keep hearing the Holy Spirit whisper one word to me... "wait." Wait upon the Lord to renew your strength (Is. 40:31). We've been running hard for a long time and in order to not grow weary in doing good (Gal. 6:9), we must wait upon the Lord. That is how we will continue to run and not grow weary.

Waiting is hard for me as I suppose it is for you. Our culture hardwires us to be "doers," but God created us to "be" with Him. If we are so busy "doing" that we miss out on "being" in happy, healthy, life-giving relationships with Him and others, we've missed the whole point of our existence—not to mention the best part of life. Over half a dozen leaders in our church have expressed to me the same thing I'm feeling. They've said, "I need a rest." That's okay. Rest is good. Even the Lord rested. Having seen how good all that He made was, "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating he had done" (Gen. 2:3).

We've been a part of the Lord's creative work and now it's time for a holy rest. This does not mean that we do nothing or focus on our own "to do" list and forget about God's. It means that we intentionally take time to be with God in order to refresh our relationship with Him and be renewed for future ministry. It means that we embrace His call to balance worship, work and play that we might enjoy—and lead others into—the abundant life He promises.

Eugene Peterson captures this idea well in his memoir. He uses a quote from "Moby Dick" to explain why holy rest was so necessary in order for him to be able to spend a lifetime in ministry. The quote is this, *"To insure the greatest efficiency in the dart, the harpooners of this world must start to their feet out of idleness, and not from out of toil."* In 2018, may we each enjoy God-blessed idleness that His greatest and most effective work through us may be yet to come.

In Christ,
Pastor Jack

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

Information for Newsletter as of November 30th:

YTD Operating Income: \$ 212,020

YTD Operating Expenses: \$ 198,122

YTD Difference: \$ 13,898

Available Cash: \$ 66,559

Building Line of Credit: \$ 415,893

1st Campaign Building Pledges

to be Received: \$ 23,328

2nd Campaign Building Pledges

to be Received: \$ 389,656



YEAR END REPORTS - It's time to share all that happened in 2017 on the various Ministry Teams and the Trustee and Deacons Boards. If you are a Ministry Team Leader or the Moderator for Deacons or Trustees, please turn in your Annual Report to the church office by January 22. If you need Secretary Jeann to type it for you, please turn the information in to her by January 17. If you have any questions, please check with Secretary Jeann.

NEWS FROM THE SAFETY TEAM - The Safety Team is holding their first training session on Jan. 8 at 6:30pm at the church. Members of the Safety Team are expected to attend this training, but the Team would also like to extend an invitation to Session, as well as the *adults* from the Ushers and Welcome Team. The Safety Team thought they could benefit from the training as well.

Fredericksburg
Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 259
Fredericksburg, OH 44627



January + February 2018

ELDER ASSIST SCHEDULE

Jan. 07 Steve Moffitt
Jan. 14 Delores Schlegel
Jan. 21 Jerry Herman
Jan. 28 Michelle Wood
Feb. 4 Val Haver
Feb. 11 Randy Wirick
Feb. 18 Jeff Styer
Feb. 25 Matthew Smith

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

Jan. 07 Sherri Brown & Miriam Styer
Jan. 14 Beth Miller & Nate McClelland
Jan. 21 Sherri Machamer & Emma Pfeifer
Jan. 28 Shirley Swinehart & Becca Schuch

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Jan. 07 Erika Schuch & Lydia Styer
Jan. 14 Wendy McKelvey & Miriam Yoder
Jan. 21 Molly Parrot & Andi Schuch
Jan. 28 Ruth Graham & Catarina Webb

SUNDAY SCHOOL MONITOR

Jan. 07 Shirley Swinehart/Lisa McClelland
Jan. 14 Georgie Miller/Bridget Rhamy
Jan. 21 Delores Schlegel/Sherri
Jan. 28 Shirley Swiehart/Lisa McClelland

CAFÉ HOSTS & GREETERS

Jan, 07 Shirley Swinehart & Deanna Smith
Greeters Steve & Melinda Moffitt
Jan. 14 Joyce Rhamy & Shirley Swinehart
Greeters: Mary Lee & Randy Wirick
Jan. 21 Shirley Swinehart & Deanna Smith
Greeters: Mary Lee & Randy Wirick
Jan. 28 Tanya Chupp & Daphnee Germann
Greeters: Joyce & Don Rhamy
Feb. 04 Tanya Chupp & Daphnee Germann
Greeters: Joyce & Don Rhamy

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Office hours for Secretary Jeann are:
Mondays 12 noon - 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays and
Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Thurs-
days 9:30 - 2:30 p.m. (please note, some
Thursdays the office could close earlier than
2:30). Closed Fridays.

If you leave a message on the church an-
swering machine (330-695-2511), your call
will be returned as soon as possible. You can
e-mail Secretary Jeann at:
fredpresby@embarqmail.com

Please remember Pastor Jack's Sabbath is
Friday. Generally, he will be unavailable on
this day. If you need to reach him at other
times, his cell phone is 330-749-5245 or
e-mail him at: jack.mcclelland30@gmail.com

Pastor Darcy's Sabbath is on Thursday.
Her cell phone number is: 330 440-4155
her e-mail address: demiller64@hotmail.com