



The Lamplighter

201 N. Mill St. Fredericksburg, Ohio 44627 Phone 330-695-2511

Website: www.fredericksburgpres.org

Jack McClelland, Pastor

March/April 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DEACON



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH ALL

In our Presbyterian tradition, we have three ordained servant-leader positions within the church—pastors, elders and deacons. Our ECO polity describes each of these roles:

Pastors are to use the spiritual gifts for ministry, with a particular emphasis on the gifts of teaching and leadership. A pastor is to nurture the spiritual health and maturity of the body of Christ in order that the body may be equipped to partner with God in His redemptive work in the world.

Elders are given authority and responsibility, along with pastors, to oversee the spiritual health of the congregation as well as the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission.

Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation.

For most people, it's easy to understand the roles and responsibilities of pastors and elders. Pastors are visible, so the congregation sees them at work. Elders function much like the governing board of any organization—a concept that's easy for most to grasp. However, the work of deacons is sometimes misunderstood. In fact, every year when it comes time to nominate deacons for their important ministry, we have a hard time finding willing candidates. Session has suggested that at least part of this unwillingness is due to a general misunderstanding about the role and responsibilities of a deacon. Perhaps people think the job is more difficult or time consuming than they can commit to. In the hopes of erasing any such notions or misunderstandings, the remainder of this article is dedicated to explaining the role and responsibilities of a deacon by answering two questions: "What is a deacon?" and "What does a deacon do?"

What is a deacon? Deacons are first described in Scripture in Acts 6. This passage shows that the early church was growing so rapidly that the Twelve Apostles could no longer keep up with doing all the tasks of ministry. So, they asked the church to choose seven men from among them who were "known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom," that those people might lead mercy ministries such as caring for widows. Then, said the apostles, we "will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word"—which is the ministry of pastors and elders today. When the church brought the seven to the apostles, they prayed for them and laid hands on them, an act which recognized God's call upon the seven and commissioned them for service in the church. Today, we call that act ordination and we call the people who lead mercy ministries deacons. The name deacon comes from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means "table server." So a deacon is a person who has been gifted and called by God to serve others in a care giving role. (continued on page 3)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY EUCHRE PARTY



Join us for a fun evening on March 17 as we host another evening of Progressive Euchre. The party starts at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome to play regardless of skill level. It is St. Paddy's Day, so be sure to wear green!

EASTER LILIES

It's time to order Easter lilies (or hyacinths, or tulips) for Easter Sunday. An order form is available on the counter in the gallery. The cost is \$9. Be sure to list who the flower is in honor or memory of. Sunday, April 2 is the last day to order.



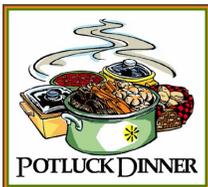
"A Summer of Love" Sermon Series

Everyone has a "love language," a form of communication and expression that is how we prefer to give and receive love. For example, for some it's positive words. For others, it's physical affection or gift giving. When we understand our own language, and that of the people we're close to, it can open us up to give and receive love in the fulfilling way God intended.



Our summer Sermon Series, beginning after the "Believe" series has been completed, is based on Gary Chapman's book "The 5 Love Languages". The series will begin June 4 and run through July 16, when there will be a service of testimony, Communion and a fellowship event following the worship service.

CONGREGATIONAL MEALS



We had such good times this winter fellowshiping at the Euchre Parties, the Magic Show & when we celebrated Pastor Jack's ordination that a decision was made to create more opportunities to come together and share a meal and conversation. Starting April 23 at 5:30 p.m. we be having some Sunday evening potluck suppers, giving everyone a chance to enjoy a meal and conversation - maybe we'll have an activity, or maybe we'll just sit and visit with one another. Be watching for announcements - the dinners won't happen every month, but the dates are listed on the calendar on the church website:

www.fredericksburgpres.org

HOLY WEEK

On Palm Sunday, April 9, the children will take part in a processional of palms.



Maundy Thursday's service, is "Walking to the Cross - a Silent Service of Reflection and Communion." This "come and go as you desire" time of worship is April 13 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Each worshipper will be given a prayer guide with information on five stations representing steps on Jesus' journey to the cross. Each person is encouraged to go at his/her own pace, and genuinely "walk" with the Lord. This will be a moving, meaningful time of worship. Please join us.

Easter is April 16. A Community Easter Sunrise Service will take place at 6:40 a.m. at East Cemetery, then everyone is invited back to the Mennonite Christian Assembly for a continental breakfast following the Sunrise Service.

Easter Morning, we will have one worship service at 9:30 a.m. Nursery and Children's Church will be available. **Please note:** There are no Sunday School or FUN Groups on Easter Sunday.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

March 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the 1-3 grade classroom

WELCOME TEAM MEETING

A Welcome Team meeting is scheduled for Monday March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Café. This meeting is for all hosts and greeters, but ushers need not attend.

THE BURGS

The BURGS will meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on March 18 in the Fellowship Hall. There are several service projects in the works that need to be discussed.

FINANCE TEAM

March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in classroom #2

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

January 2017 Finance Information
YTD Operating Income: \$21,014
YTD Operating Expenses: \$17,088
YTD Difference: \$3,926

Available Cash: \$55,384
Building Line of Credit: \$512,095
Building Pledges to be Received: \$106,094

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 23, 2017

- Opened with devotion, prayer and discussion of the health and ministry of the church.
- Heard a report regarding the Safety Assessment that security consultant Jerry Vaccha is doing for the church. It will be presented at the Mar. 23 meeting.
- Per Bylaws Art. 1 Sec. 1.2, reviewed the list of Covenant Partners and determined a course of action for contacting inactive partners to see if they want to remain Covenant Partners.
- Pastor Jack reported we currently have 29 adults and approximately a dozen children and youth participating in the life of the church who are not Covenant Partners. He will offer another Covenant Class soon.
- Decided to make no recommendation regarding an ECO Synod (national church governing body) request that we revise our Book of Confessions.
- Elected Delores Schlegel as an Elder delegate to our Apr. 1 Presbytery meeting and Angie Chapman as an alternate.
- Agree to participate in a new, 6 month long study, called "Becoming a Flourishing Church." This study, produced by ECO, will help us take Spirit-directed steps toward fulfilling our disciple-making mission.
- Gave Pastor Jack permission to be away on Sunday May 21 to be a chaperone on the youth retreat. Pastor Darcy will preach.



THE PASTOR'S DESK (Continued from page 1)

As the church expanded even more under the leadership of the Apostle Paul, elders (who also functioned as pastors) and deacons were prayerfully chosen for each of the churches he planted. Paul explained to Timothy, a pastor-elder, that a deacon should be a mature believer who is well respected in the church and community (1 Timothy 3). Churches take these general teachings from the Bible about deacons and use them to organize the specific work of deacons in today's world. As you might expect, different churches structure this work differently.

What does a deacon do? In our congregation, deacons have two basic objectives: 1.) "promote the systematic caring of those within our church family," and 2.) "appropriately follow-up with church members in key moments of joy and concern in their lives (e.g. births, deaths, weddings, illness)." These objectives come from our Ministry Team Handbook. Our deacons fulfill these objectives by visiting the sick, hospitalized and shut-in, preparing meals, sending cards, making phone calls and reaching out when people are in need. In the past, we used to assign the coordination of all these tasks to a "deacon of the month." So if anything happened within the church during their assigned month, that deacon would be responsible for all the care.

No more. Two years ago we stopped that practice to better utilize each deacon's spiritual gifts and to allow for more of a team approach to ministry. Now, we have three defined areas of caregiving: 1) visitation, 2) meal coordination, and 3) cards and special projects. Two deacons co-lead each area. Additionally, members of the church family are encouraged to sign up to help with these ministries as they feel led. This system lightens the work load for everyone and enables them to serve in areas they feel called to and gifted for. The Deacons have a pamphlet in the brochure rack which provides more information on how they work with the congregation to provide care for those in our church family. Please pick up a copy. Of course, you can always talk to me or Pastor Darcy if you have more questions. (She is our staff liaison to the deacons.) Lastly, if you haven't signed up to help with our visitation, meal preparation or card ministries—and you would like to—please contact Bridget Rhamy, our Deacon Moderator.

In Christ,
Pastor Jack

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



March/April 2017

ELDER ASSIST SCHEDULE

- Mar. 19 Delores Schlegel
- Mar. 26 Jerry Herman
- Apr. 2 Michelle Wood
- Apr. 9 Steve Moffitt
- Apr. 16 Jeff Styer

USHER SCHEDULE

The ushers for March are Shad Swinehart & Brian Yoder. The usher for April is Allison Yacapraro.

CAFÉ HOSTS & GREETERS

- Mar. 19 Tanya Chupp & Shirley Swinehart
Greeters Joyce Rhamy & Pat Thomson
- Mar. 26 Tanya Chupp & Wendy McKelvey
Greeters Val & Jay Haver
- Apr. 2 Tanya Chupp & Styer family
Greeters Val & Jay Haver
- Apr. 9 Tanya Chupp & Deanna Smith
Greeters Mary Ann & Barry Henderson
- Apr. 16 Tanya Chupp & Daphnee German
Greeters Mary Ann & Barry Henderson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Mar. 19 Vickie Rhamy & Shyler Swinehart
- Mar. 26 Lisa McClelland & Miriam Styer
- Apr. 2 Delores Schlegel & Brenden Pfeiffer
- Apr. 9 Vickie Rhamy & Natalie Schlegel
- Apr. 16 Angie Chapman & Sadie Schlegel

NURSERY SCHEDULE

- Mar. 19 Connie Herman & Becca Schuch
- Mar. 26 Molly Parrot & Miriam Yoder
- Apr. 2 Ruth Graham & Alivea Stefano
- Apr. 9 Wendy McKelvey & Emmalai Steiner-Wengerd
- Apr. 16 Beth Miller & Darbee Rhamy

VACATIONS: Secretary Jeann will be on vacation from March 24 through April 3.



She will be back in the office on April 4. Pastor Jack will be on vacation April 8-12. He will be back for Maundy Thursday.

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., Thursdays 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 answering 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