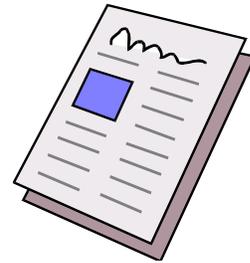


The Communicator



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Rev. David T. O'Leary, Assistant Pastor

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PASTOR NOTES

Forty-fifth Annual National Pro-Life March

A group of six from the church attended the National Pro-Life March in Washington DC on January 19. We drove to the Shady Grove Metro Station in Rockville MD and took the Metro to the Smithsonian Station in the Mall area of the Capital. We came out right at the speaker's stage just as they were starting at noon. It was a beautiful, sunny day. An added treat was to see two American Bald Eagles circle over us in the Mall during the speeches. The President and Vice President as well as several representatives and senators addressed us. There were also non-political figures such as Tim Tebow's mother (career missionary), Sister Madonna (founder of an order that has helped hundreds of mom's keep their babies and receive vocational/educational training. They packed a lot into an hour.

The March started at 1:00 PM. We marched up Constitution Avenue and then across the front of Congress and the Supreme Court. We ended up at a reception that Rep. Mike Kelly and Sen. Patrick Toomey hosted in the Russell Building. We dropped off our signed petitions and heard the Senator and a couple other Representatives speak.

We headed to the Metro Station at 3:45 PM, when we left the Russell Building the March was still going on. It is the largest and longest running civil rights protest in the US and the world. I pray that in my lifetime we will go DC to celebrate the end of legalized abortion in the USA. It is our greatest national sin, killing unborn babies in their mother's womb, pray that God will withhold his judgment upon our nation.

The following is a quiz we took on the van during the trip. See how well you do.

1. Planned Parenthood aborts about how many babies a year?
 - a. Around 320,000
 - b. Around 210,000
 - c. Around 100,000
 - d. Around 25,000

2. In the last year (2016), how much money has Planned Parenthood received in Federal tax-payer funding?
 - a. \$5 million
 - b. Zero
 - c. \$50 million
 - d. \$550 million
3. Through strategic, targeted investigative reporting, Live Action has revealed what kind of corruption and abuse is happening behind closed doors of Planned Parenthood facilities?
 - a. Sex-selection abortion
 - b. Failing to report child sex trafficking
 - c. Covering up sexual abuse of children
 - d. All of the above

-Pastor Nick

Answers: a, d, d

SCRIPTURE VERSE AND HYMN OF THE MONTH

VERSE REVIEW: Romans 5:6-9

“⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

HYMN: # 710 – *God of Our Fathers*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Winter Quarter: December 2017 – February 2018

- Inquirer’s Class – RE Glenn Ogershok – Rooms U1 & U2; includes children in 6th – 8th grade
- On Being Presbyterian; based on the book by Sean Michael Lucas
Pastor Protos & Pastor O’Leary – Sanctuary

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!



Congratulations to our December 2017 college graduate...

Erica Robbins – Slippery Rock University
– Degree in Athletic Training

December
2017

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CONGRATULATIONS!

The children of our church are continuing to learn the Catechism and other important scripture and creeds. Please congratulate the two young ones listed below:

Twyla Starr Catechism Questions 1-5
Jacob Jenny The Lord’s Prayer

If you would like a Memory Work Notebook for your child, please see Kathy Woolner, Julie Jenny or Jan Jenny.

A PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

“We always thank God...when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus...” – Colossians 1:3,4

It's worth reading the whole passage from which the above verse is taken (Colossians 1:3-14). What often strikes me in these verses is that the working of the word in one church is part of the increase and fruitfulness of the word around the world! Understanding this will enable you to freely and genuinely give thanks to the Lord for his work here.

Let me contrast this with two other ways in which we often respond when we see what's going on in other churches. The first is this: we either visit or hear about what's going on in another church, and we begin to covet. “Why can't we do that?” By contrast, these verses encourage us to see the good work of the Lord in other places *as the same good work which he is working here!* What we see in other churches may be something we have become blind to in our own church! Give thanks for the Lord's work; and prayerfully seek to see the working of the same word in the same bride of Christ here.

Here is the second: we either visit or hear about what's going on in another church, and we begin to boast. “Lord, I thank you that we are not like other churches...” This is not real thanksgiving: it is often blind arrogance. If we ever have the sense that what God is doing here is *not* what he is doing throughout the world, then it is not the Lord's work which we have perceived. What he works here, he works around the world; what he works around the world is the same work which he works here.

The thankful antidote to this sort of covetousness, on one hand, and arrogance, on the other, is a conviction and perception that the fruitfulness of the word is one. Not all churches are the same, and some which profess to be faithful are not. But where there is a true church, there is the same true working of God to apply Christ to his people by his Holy Spirit, in and through the word. Wherever this is seen, may it increase thanksgiving unto God.

In Christ,

Rev. David T. O’Leary

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

“...among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.” 2 Timothy 3:6,7

There is a book which was brought to our attention, which we would encourage every woman to read. It is, *No Little Women* (Equipping All Women in the Household of God) by Aimee Byrd. This book encourages Women’s Ministries in the Church. The above Scripture reference is referred to in warning women (and men) not to be led astray by false teachers who “creep into households”. The only way to avoid that is to be in the Word regularly and to follow what it says. There is so much more in the book, which is so helpful. Our prayer as a Committee is to search for ways to help our women grow in their knowledge of the truth.

We also like to encourage our women to serve the Lord in the church. There is an opportunity to do this. We have been asked to host the Women’s Ministries Presbytery Women on March 17 as part of the Missions Conference when all the missionary women will share their ministries with everyone. All that is involved for us is to provide the place and the food. We would need to provide a continental breakfast and a lunch. We are looking for women who would be willing to head this up. The lunch could be catered. Please let one of the committee know if you can help.

Our church is also host of the continental breakfast following sunrise service on Easter. If someone would be willing to take charge of that please let us know. Along another line, Chrysa Hortert will be doing the spaghetti dinner this year, since Jan Hohmann retired. If you could be a help to her in sauce preparation and that evening, please let her know.

Events planned for this year include:

- February 8, 2018, 7:00 p.m. – Packing boxes for the college students (Bring items which can be packed into boxes to be mailed to the students)
- May 12, 2018 – The King’s Daughters Tea
- August 9, 2018, 7:00 p.m. – Share day

We hope you will mark your calendars for the above events and watch for the details in the future months.

There are some regional Leadership Conferences next year---Jackson, MS April 13-14, 2018; Annapolis, MD, September 28-29, 2018; Chattanooga, TN, Oct. 5-6, 2018; and St. Louis, MO, October 29-30, 2018. You can register for any of these at register@pcacdm.org/one-conferences.

So, as always, we covet your prayers for your committee. We need your support and suggestions. If you have questions or comments, you can contact any of the committee members.

Your Committee: Michelle Gibson, Lou Ann Robbins, Mary Ann Shoenthal, Debbi Wadding and Jan Hohmann

OPPORTUNITIES IN MISSIONS

The Missions Committee would like to inform the congregation of opportunities for their involvement in missions. First, **March 14-18** is the annual Round Robin Mission Conference. You'll hear first-hand from missionaries currently serving on the field and others who are in the process of getting to their country of service. Another opportunity is to volunteer to house the missionaries that are participating in this year's conference. See Dan Jenny or Pastor Protos if you would be willing to fill this need.

Second, Mission to North America, a PCA ministry, has been organizing teams to help with hurricane relief in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. They can use more volunteers. The majority of this work is construction related. If you'd like more information see Dan Jenny, Paul Grant or Ashton Grant who have participated in this effort in Florida. Or, go to the PCA website and click on Mission to North America

Third, if you are interested in mission trips, both MNA (national) and MTW (international) have openings on many trips each year. Again, this information can be found on the PCA website.

Fourth, please pray for missionaries faithfully.

Thank you,

PRAYER CHAIN

Continue to pray for Pastor Protos' health and for Linda as she and her family care for her parents and make decisions concerning their care. Also pray for Nikki Hagen who is scheduled to have a lumpectomy on February 20th.

There are several others who are battling cancer who we have been asked to pray for. They are Jerry Barth; John Montgomery, Bill's brother; Jim Cunningham, who had surgery to remove his esophagus and part of his stomach and is doing well; and Linda Skurka's friends, Patty and Diane.

Pauline Girdwood had a partial knee replacement and is home recovering. Pray for total freedom from pain. Dean had surgery on his eyelids.

Ava Kenyon was injured playing basketball and has a concussion. She is slowly recovering. Pray that there will not be any long term affects.

Grace Titus has a procedure to blast her kidney stones. Nelda Jeuther is still dealing with congestive heart failure. Her son-in-law, Ron Shemela had heart bypass surgery and is recovering. Pearl McCloskey is failing and has Alzheimer's. Pray for her daughter, Sue as she takes care of her.

Sam Slee had an infusion to help with his problem. Jaci Daugherty was hospitalized with viral pneumonia. Carolyn (Girdwood) Mehalevic was hospitalized with asthma and vertigo. Bob and Ellen Brierly's son and family were in an auto accident. Micah, the wife and the grandson, Jesse were injured. Mary Jo Hohman's Uncle Chuck passed away. Our Sympathy goes out to the family.

Barbara Coppersmith stepped on a sewing needle and had to have surgery to remove it. She is doing well now.

Brenden Cunningham was abruptly moved to a high security prison, with no reasonable reason why. Pray for him as he looks forward to being moved back to minimum security in the next two weeks. Pray for his spiritual needs as he is put through these trials.

Pray for the Sedlak's in Virginia, for health and encouragement for them.

Continue to pray for our expectant mothers, Courtney DeMarco, Sam Miller, Lydia Grimm and Katarina Gray.

Thank you for being prayer warriors.
Coordinator

Jan Hohmann,

If you have a prayer request, Jan can be reached at
724-443-3517 or 3517.hohmjan@gmail.com
Calls and e-mails received at the church office will be forwarded to her.

SESSION NOTES

- We received an update on the memory work of the children in the church, and considered how to encourage this effort. We as a session cannot stress enough the importance for all of us, young and old, to memorize scripture and learn the catechisms.
- Minutes of the commission to examine Samuel Hahn, Zoe Morley, and Wesley Morley for membership were approved.
- Bella Grant, Ashton Grant, Samuel Hahn, Zoe Morley, and Wesley Morley were received publicly as communicant members on December 24, 2017.
- The Lord's Supper was observed with Wilma Pressau on December 16, 2017.
- The 2018 budget was approved.
- Bill Hohman and Glenn Ogershok will serve as delegates at the January 27 meeting of presbytery.
- The 2017 Thank Offering totaled \$14,567, which will support a church plant in Chile and seminary students in India.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the church body for the continued prayers for our family and Nikki following her cancer diagnosis. We have been touched by your care and concern for her and our family as well as the outpouring of love and support.

The Hagen Family

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

JONI AND FRIENDS FAMILY RETREAT 2018

Last year our team got the chance to meet Joni Eareckson Tada and Ken. As you know Joni was injured at the age of 17 years old. In July 2017 she marked 50 years in a wheelchair, the same week our team was at family retreat. As many of you know I was not in attendance at this trip however I got to meet and personally pray, and sing with her at a conference.

In the early years of Joni's disability she was inspired by RC Sprouls teaching, while attending a Presbyterian Church in Maryland. In 1979 after meeting with a group of friends discussing how they can help people affected by disability come closer to Christ Joni and Friends was born. After realizing families affected by disability does not or not as easily go on a family vacation, so she challenged the ministry in 1991 and Family Retreats were born. One of the first retreats was held at Spruce Lake in Eastern PA. At the conference where I met Joni she said *"My cross is not my wheelchair; it is my attitude."* At family retreat we give the campers opportunities to have fun and brighten their attitude.

YOU can have an impact on a person with a disability this year at Joni and Friends Family Retreat at Shawnee Resort and Conference Center near Friendship Ohio. This mission trip consisted of the Short Term Missionary coming beside a person affected by a disability and their family to become their friend and show them the love of Christ. The session along with the Special Needs and Missions Committees would like to encourage you to participate in this life changing trip.

What: Joni and Friends Family Retreat

Calling: all 11 year olds to Adults

When: July 22rd – 27th 2018

Questions: Please talk to Rob Olszewski, Ken Gray, or Catie Morley

Note: ALL Teenagers need to meet with Rob Olszewski BEFORE April 1st to go on this trip.

Registration opens for Short Term Missionaries, Campers and their families January 9th 2018. More information to come, please look in the bulletin or upcoming newsletters.

In His Service,
Rob Olszewski, Special Needs Ministry

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH UPDATE

by Kevin and Nikki Hagen

Happy New Year! Nikki was diagnosed with breast cancer over Christmas break, so we started the year talking to the teens about her diagnosis. Nikki shared portions of the Psalms that had been shared with her and that she had been reading and finding comfort. We also reassured the youth of our commitment to them and promised that we plan to be there for them as much as possible.

For our second meeting, we pushed the kids out of their comfort zones. For our devotion time, each teen was asked to bring a passage of Scripture and share why it was significant to them. We were impressed by the passages that our youth picked from 1 Peter, Colossians, John, and Isaiah, and their thoughtful reasons for picking those passages.

Continuing in God's Words in January, we decided to spend the rest of the month reminding our youth of the importance of spending time in and knowing God's Word. We did this by quizzing them on characters in the Old and New Testament. Each week, they were given a 40 question, "Who Am I" quiz. We let them work in groups of 2 or 3, then we reviewed the answers together as a group. In some cases, we could hear the teens discuss that they remembered the Bible story, but they could not come up with the name. On the OT quiz, there were 6 answers that nobody knew. We turned those into teaching opportunities and had the youth look up the Bible references to find the answer. We will see how the NT quiz goes!

Something exciting happened at youth group this month! Two people brought friends! We found it encouraging that some of our teens were reaching out to their friends, and we hope that more will have a desire to bring friends to youth group with them. That coupled with most of our regulars being there, it was nice to have a full room again!



We have a good group of teens, and we enjoy working with them. We came to youth group one night with close to 300 pencils. They were curious as to why there were so many pencils and electric pencil sharpeners around the room. Then we explained the impromptu service project that we had planned for that evening. No complaints. After



our devotion time, they willingly sharpened all of the pencils, then went upstairs and replaced all of the pencils in the pews. It didn't end there, they returned with the old pencils and sharpened them so that there is a supply ready in the church office for future replacements. It is refreshing to see our youth willingly serve.

In addition to our regularly scheduled weekly meetings, we try to shake it up and do other activities with our youth. Here are some items that we have on the calendar:

February 2-4: Ascension Presbytery Jr./Sr. High Snow Camp

February 16: Winter Jam 2018 in Pittsburgh

February 20: Family Christian Skate Night at the Skate Castle in Butler

March 29 – 30: Annual Overnight Retreat at the church

Please continue to pray for our youth and for us as we work with them.