



# RESBYTERIAN TIDBITS

The Newsletter of Ottawa Presbyterian Church

150 N. Oak St.

Rev. Steve Elderbrock, *Pastor*

[www.ottawapresby.org](http://www.ottawapresby.org)

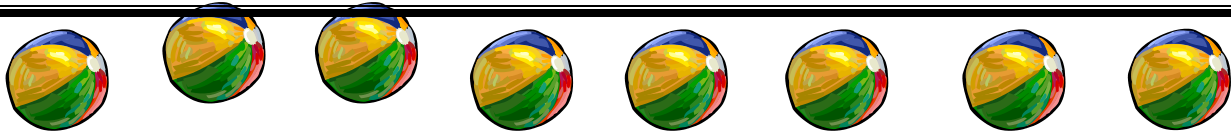
Ottawa, OH 45875-1810

Andrea Morman, *Secretary*

9:00 am Breakfast ♦ 9:45 am Worship

(419) 523.3694

## August 2011



### OUTDOOR WORSHIP with OTTAWA COMMUNITY BAND



Sunday, August 14 at 10:30AM

@ Joe & Becky R's house

12503 Road G-12



Please join us for our annual Outdoor worship service – we will worship out in God's beautiful creation and share communion together accompanied by the music of the Ottawa Community Band.

We will then enjoy a Potluck dinner after worship. Please bring a **dish to share, lawn chairs** (if you have them – we will provide seating if you don't!), and a **swimsuit and towel** if you'd like to go swimming. **Notice the time change from our "usual" summer schedule!!!** If you need directions to Joe & Becky's house, just contact the church office.



### Sanctuary Renovation Update

As our Sanctuary Renovation plans move forward, there are a couple ways You can get involved!

On the table in the entry way at church are diagrams of possible arrangements of pews and pew designs – please pick one up and let us know your favorite – either #1 or #2.

Two committees have been formed – one in charge of decorations (carpeting, paint colors, etc) and the other taking charge of the woodworking (pews, carpentry work, etc). If you are interested in being on either committee, please let Mike Kaufman or Pastor Steve know! We want your input on this exciting project!!!



## Applying Bible Principles

Although we realize that we are only here on this earth for a relatively short time, most of us avoid thinking about the inevitable. Somehow, it is as though we think we'll live forever. Well, in a sense, that's true we will live forever, only not here. The chapters of our memory book of life which we write each day are but a prelude to our life in eternity.

It's important, therefore, to consider how this impacts our use of the funds and possessions which God has given to us. As we have seen repeatedly, God owns everything. He has never relinquished His title deed to the world. We are stewards who are responsible to use His resources wisely. And part of that usage includes giving to the Lord's work, particularly here at Ottawa Presbyterian Church.

Some Christians are saving all that they can for the eventual "rainy day," to the exclusion of giving to God as they should or as God has prospered them. The only problem is that for many of them, their "rainy day" never comes because their life ends much sooner than they anticipated. Then the words of an anonymous poet thunder across time and eternity:

Not, how did he die?  
But, how did he live?  
Not, what did he gain?  
But, what did he give?  
These are the merits  
To measure the worth  
Of a man as man,  
Regardless of birth.

It's true that we cannot "take it with us." It's also true that once we stand on the threshold of eternity, our giving will be over. Doesn't it stand to reason,

therefore, that giving here and now should be a priority in our lives? Or as someone said, "You can't take your money with you, but you can send it on ahead."

It's not what you'd do with a million, should riches ever be your lot; but what are you doing at present, with the dollar and quarter you've got?

© Kenneth L. Williams

### Next Meeting of Session

Thursday, Sept. 15, at 7 pm

### Prayer Requests



***For those with health concerns:*** *Note:*  
*Names of those individuals are not listed on this web version for privacy reasons*

For ***favorable weather,***

For the political situation ***in Libya and the Middle East,***

For all affected by ***natural disasters,***

For those with ***employment concerns,***

For military personnel serving around the world,

***And...Joy for prayers answered***

## Sunday Scripture Readings

### August 7

Romans 10:5-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

### August 14

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-32

### August 21

Romans 12:1-8

Psalms 124

### August 28

Romans 12:9-21

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c



## Upcoming Events:

- **Men's Breakfast Meeting will be September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am at Henry's.**
- **OPW Breakfast Meeting will be September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.**

## Bible Study



Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 pm  
(Putnam Acres)

**August 3:** *Revelation 1:1-20*

**August 10:** *Revelation 2:1-11*

**August 17:** *Revelation 2:12-29*

**August 24:** *No Bible study*

**August 31:** *Revelation 3:1-13*

## New Books in the Library

From Vera J.:

*The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd (author of *The Secret Life of Bees*) – This novel is about mermaids and saints and the passions of the spirit. It illuminates the awakening of a woman to her own deepest self.

*Surprises Around the Bend* by Richard A. Hasler (a Presbyterian minister) – Many of the most creative people in history have been ardent walkers, and these same people testify that walking has played a significant role in their creativity. This is a collection of their stories.

*The Wedding Promise* by Thomas Kinkadee and Katherine Spencer – This is the second book in the Angel Island series. The island is said to harbor angels who help guide the lost, delivering them from despair and darkness into the golden light of love and faith.

*A Turn in the Road* by Debbie Macomber – This story is another with the Blossom Street friends. This is a story of a mother, her daughter, and her former mother-in-law taking a cross country road trip to Florida for the mother-in-law's 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion.

*A Tailor-Made Bride* by Karen Witemeyer – When a dressmaker who values beauty tangles with a liveryman who condemns vanity, the sparks begin to fly!

**"...our heart is restless  
until it rests in You."**

*The Confessions of Saint Augustine, Book 1, Chapter 1*

Friends,

This month I highlight another spiritual mentor of mine (last month was Julian of Norwich, remember?), **Saint Augustine of Hippo**, and his wonderful **Confessions** (which there is a copy of in our church library, waiting for you to check it out!)

Augustine's **Confessions** are considered to be the first spiritual autobiography; in it St. Augustine tells the story of his early, sinful life and how he came to be converted to Christianity at the age of 31. This is the first great "tell-all" book, in which Augustine reveals himself, warts and all, as someone who drifted away from God while at the same time searching for God, without even realizing at the time what he was searching for. It tells of a spiritual journey and lessons learned along the way, and in that sense it has a very modern feel to it.

This is the one book, other than the Bible, that I turned to after it was suggested to me that I consider going to seminary. Augustine got pulled away from God through his study of philosophy, just as I did for a time. Yet Augustine always felt there was "something" lacking in his life, an emptiness he came to realize could only be filled by God – also very similar to my experience at about the same age.

My first reading of **The Confessions** convinced me that even I, sinner that I am, could indeed be called to a place of leadership in God's Church. If Augustine could be called by God, it seemed possible that I might be called by God as well...I did not really believe that until I read his book.

But Augustine's Confessions range far beyond his compelling spiritual journey. He also addresses questions about education, about sin and evil and human nature, about the nature of time (it is Augustine who first taught me to think about God as being "outside of time" itself – ***Your years stand all at once...With you, today is eternity.***) and about the meaning, and process, of creation.

Augustine also offers wisdom, way back in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, about the interpretation of Scripture. He was an originator of the idea that the Bible could be interpreted in various ways beyond a simple literal reading. We cannot know what the writers of the Biblical texts were thinking exactly, so many various interpretations may result, all of them faithful to the text. Augustine reminds us that even if we differ in our interpretations we should continue to love one another.

Above all, Augustine reminds the reader again and again of the salvation offered by God and the overwhelming goodness of the Great Physician to all of us sinful human beings: ***"Many and great are those infirmities of mine, many are they and great, but more potent is your medicine."*** Amen.

Peace,

Pastor Steve

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**OTTAWA, OH 45875-1810**  
**(419) 523-3694**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Presbyterian Tidbits** is published once a month by: Ottawa Presbyterian Church, part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Rev. Steve Elderbrock is here in the morning Tuesday-Friday; occasional afternoons.

Andrea Morman, secretary, is here Tuesdays/Thursdays, 8am-12pm.

Our website is [ottawapresby.org](http://ottawapresby.org)

**May 29 – Summer Schedule Begins: Breakfast at 9 am, Worship at 9:45 am**

The **Prayer Circle** is a group willing to confidentially pray for your joys and concerns.

Please contact **Pastor Steve** (523-3694 or 523-3297).

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ELDERS IN CHARGE</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>
August 7	Dee Beckman	Myers
August 14 (Outdoor worship)	Jean Setser Servers: Susan Schroeder, Jean Setser	Beckman
August 21	Jane Doepker	Kaufman
August 28	Andee Parker	Carolyn D.

**Session:**

Class of 2011: **Paul Baransy, Arlene Cress, Jane Doepker**

Class of 2012: **Rick Barteck, Susan Schroeder, Jean Setser**

Class of 2013: **Dee Beckman, Andee Parker**