



# PRESBYTERIAN 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

## July 2011



### Christmas in July

For the **fourth year in a row**, we here at Ottawa Presbyterian Church will be celebrating Christmas in July! On **Friday, July 22** and **Saturday, July 23**, church members will be outside of Wal-Mart ringing bells (and playing other instruments in some cases) to help raise needed funds for our local Salvation Army. *Hunger and poverty know no seasons*, and are year-round concerns in our community, so we decided 4 years ago we would do a Salvation Army kettle campaign in July to not only raise funds, but awareness as well. Not to mention that July is a much more pleasant time of year to stand outside and ring that bell!

There is a **sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at church** if you'd like to be part of this important mission activity, **or let Pastor Steve know** when you'd like to ring the bell. We need all the Presbyterian "*ding-a-lings*" we can find!!!

### 2011 Summer Reads

Listeners are needed for this important program for children ages 1-6 who will be reading out loud to volunteers and working to improve their reading and speaking skills.

Trinity UMC is hosting this program **July 12-14** and **July 19-21**; since there are at least 40 children signed up, they need at least **40 listeners willing to give just a half an hour (11:00-11:30) on some or all of those dates**. You do not have to commit to all 6 days – **if you can commit to any number of days from 1-6, that will be much appreciated!** All you have to do is be willing to listen!!! Listeners are asked to arrive no later than 10:45AM each day.

**To volunteer, call the Trinity UMC office at (419) 523-6496**. If you have any questions, contact Tina Basinger.

### Sanctuary Renovation Update & Meeting

At its last meeting, the Session voted to fund our proposed sanctuary renovation, including new carpet, paint, and pews, from the John and Jean Sewell bequest funds we received last year.

The next step is to the details – colors, styles, arrangements of pews, etc. **If you are interested in being part of that planning in any way, please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, July 10, for the next Sanctuary Renovation Task Force meeting**. In the meantime, be sure to check out the sample pew from Sauders, which is sitting in Fellowship Hall, and also the various plans for a new arrangement of pews on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, see **Pastor Steve** and/or **Mike Kaufman**.



## Applying Bible Principles

Many illustrations found in the Scriptures have to do with an agrarian economy. Farmers in particular find much in the Bible with which they identify directly.

For example, both Old and New Testaments indicate that the ox which is treading out the grain should be allowed to eat of the grain. The owner of that ox is not to place a muzzle on the animal to prevent it from enjoying that which is being produced. But that illustration is to provide insight into a greater truth, namely, that the person who is producing the harvest should share in the harvest. And just in case we're confused about what this means, the Scripture provides clarity by stating, "... those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

This is why we support our pastor and others who in one way or another are involved in preaching the gospel. That is why we support financially the work and outreach of our church. That is why we give to the work of the Lord here at Ottawa Presbyterian Church. Yes, we give out of our love and devotion to Christ. Yes, we give because of all that we have in Him. Yes, we give because God owns everything and we are just managers and stewards. But we also give so that those who preach the gospel might receive their living from the gospel, so that they might give their full attention to their divine calling without being side-tracked by the necessity of other work.

A lady named Mrs. Jones passed away without any survivors that is, without any human survivors. She left three dogs to mourn her passing: Dolly,

Skippy and Bozo. She specified that her estate (consisting of \$72,800) should go for the "care and maintenance of the dogs." When the dogs are dead, what is left is to be given to her church. A veterinarian examined the dogs and, finding them in "excellent health," made this statement: "The church may have to wait as long as twelve years to say 'dog-gone' and receive the money."

How much better to support the work and ministry of the church as a priority. How much better to place first things first. And while we may not have oxen that tread out the grain as part of the harvesting process, we can learn much from that apt illustration. Just as the owner of the ox allows it to eat of the grain it is producing, in the same way, "...the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."

Or as the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:6, "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor."

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**Next Meeting of Session  
Thursday, July 21, at 7 pm**

## Prayer Requests

For those with *health concerns*



For those *mourning loved ones*

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*

*Joy for prayers answered*

## Sunday Scripture Readings

### July 3

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### July 10

Romans 8:1-11

Psalm 119:105-112

### July 17

Romans 8:12-25

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

### July 24

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### July 31

Romans 9:1-5

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

## Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 pm  
(Putnam Acres)



**July 6:** *Mark 15:21-47*

**July 13:** *Mark 16:1-20*

**July 20:** *Bible questions!!!*

**July 27:** *No Bible study*

## Highway Cleanup

It is highway cleanup time again. Due to weather and schedules, we did not get a highway cleanup in during the spring as we had hoped. But we are planning to head out after church on **Sunday, July 17**, to clean our stretch of State Route 65.

If you are willing and able to help out that day, please see either **Pastor Steve** or **Paul Baransy**. *If you have not helped in this ministry before, there is a video you are required to watch before you participate.* Otherwise, wear or bring your “walk along the highway and pick up trash” clothes to church on Sunday, July 17, and we’ll head out right after worship...and we’ll do our best to have you home in time for lunch that day!

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!!**



**"Sin is inevitable,  
but all shall be well,  
and all shall be well,  
and all manner of things shall be well. "**  
*Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love*

Friends,

By the conclusion of the 8-day CREDO conference I attended in early June, each participant was asked to come up with goals and objectives in the areas of vocation, health, finances, and spirituality. One of my spiritual objectives was to reconnect with some spiritual mentors, including some of the spiritual writers that helped me discern my call to become a pastor. To that end, I plan to begin rereading the works of writers including Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, and Saint Augustine.

First on my list is Julian of Norwich and her wonderful Revelations of Divine Love, an account of sixteen visions she had in May 1373. These visions revealed to her in new and direct ways God's love - for her, and for all God's children.

One of Julian's visions was of a hazelnut in the palm of her hand. God tells her it represents all of creation. Julian marvels that such a small thing can continue to exist, and she is told: "*It exists, both now and for ever, because God loves it.*" In this "little thing" Julian glimpses three truths: that God made it, that God loves it, and that God sustains it. God as Maker, Lover, and Keeper: The Trinity. Three truths; three distinct but related roles.

Julian does not ignore the harsh realities of our world. She experienced her visions after a severe illness in which she was expected to die, and was even given the Last Rites. Yet a strong, unwavering, clear-eyed optimism runs underneath all of Julian's reflections on her visions. She recognizes sin and darkness, but never loses her conviction that God's love will ultimately triumph.

That is why Julian can proclaim, in the most famous passage from her Revelations, that "***all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.***" God has promised good to us, each of us. And God keeps His promises. He loves the world, and us. With God, all things are possible.

Four simple words: "***All shall be well.***" What a powerful reminder of God's divine love and goodness. Reminiscent of those four equally simple and equally powerful words that Jesus spoke again and again: "***Do not be afraid.***"

In the midst of our daily lives, with all their twists and turns, their ups and downs, it is good to be reminded, again and again, of the goodness and love of our God – our Maker, our Lover, our Keeper.

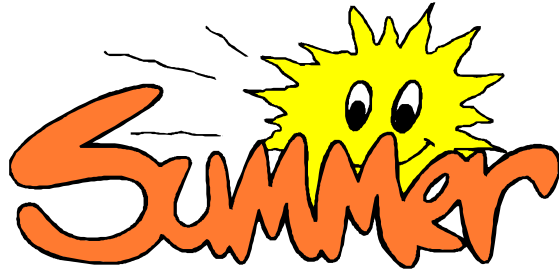
**Do not be afraid. All shall be well.**

Peace,

Pastor Steve

**OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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**OTTAWA, OH 45875-1810**  
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**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>
July 3	Jane Doepker	Kaufman
July 10	Paul Baransy Servers: Paul Baransy, Susan Schroeder, Jean Setser	Parker
July 17	Dee Beckman	Hirzel
July 24	Jean Setser	Bishop
July 31	Paul Baransy	Doepker

**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**