



# PRESBYTERIAN TIDBITS

The Newsletter of Ottawa Presbyterian Church

150 N. Oak St.

Rev. Steve Elderbrock, *Pastor*

ottawapresby.org

Ottawa, OH 45875-1810

Andrea Morman, *Secretary*

9:30 am Sunday School ♦ 10:45 am Worship

(419) 523.3694

## November 2011



### Stewardship Sunday – November 13



Our 2012 pledges will be received during worship. Every member is invited to make a financial commitment to our church. Thank you for giving prayerful consideration to this aspect of stewardship.

#### Potluck Following Worship

Please bring table service and a dish to share. Come, relax, enjoy great food, fellowship and a good time on November 13..



### Congregational Meeting – November 20

The purpose of this meeting is to elect new elders, to review the 2012 budget, vote on Pastor Steve's terms of call, and consider changes to the church by-laws.



Following the congregational meeting, the Fellowship Committee will provide soup and salad for everyone to enjoy. *That means food after church—two weeks in a row!*



### Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

New Creation Lutheran Church will host the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service on **Tuesday, November 22, at 7:30 pm.** Everyone is invited to join with friends, neighbors, and people from across the Ottawa community in thanksgiving for the many gifts and blessings we have received over the past year. Pastor Steve will be preaching, and a free-will offering will be taken up to benefit the Salvation Army. You are invited to bring a food item for our local food pantry as well.





## Investing for Time & Eternity

The Lord Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

As managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to us, we have a responsibility to manage well what rightfully belongs to God. By storing up treasures in heaven, we safeguard that which we value. There, our treasures are not subject to destruction, damage or even inflation. Nor are they subject to theft since God provides the universe’s greatest security system!

There’s nothing wrong with saving or investing here on earth. In fact, Jesus gave a commendation to faithful stewards for that very action. But the primary place to invest is in what might be called “God’s Eternal Bank.” There are many ways to invest in that special “bank.” When given in the name of the Lord Jesus and for His sake, even a cup of water can be an investment in God’s Eternal Bank. Our financial resources can also be used in this way. Each time we give our tithes and offerings at Ottawa Presbyterian Church for the glory of God, we are storing up treasure in heaven, “investing for time and eternity.”

The universal principle of giving is found in 2 Corinthians 9:7 – We are to give as we have decided in our hearts to give. In other words, giving (including when to give and how much to give) is a matter of the heart. It is the same principle Moses expressed in Exodus 25:2 – We are to give willingly from the heart.

Dr. George W. Truett was invited to dinner in the home of a very wealthy man in

his congregation. After the meal, the host led him to a place where they could get a good view of the surrounding area. Pointing to the oil wells punctuating the landscape, he boasted, “Twenty-five years ago I had nothing. Now, as far as you can see, it’s all mine.”

Looking in the opposite direction at his sprawling fields of grain, he said, “That’s all mine.” Turning east toward huge herds of cattle, he bragged, “They’re all mine.” Then pointing to the west and a beautiful forest, he exclaimed, “That, too, is all mine.”

Dr. Truett simply placed one hand on the man’s shoulder and pointed heavenward with the other. “How much do you have in that direction?” he asked.

That’s a good question, isn’t it? No matter what our wealth and financial holdings here on earth may be, what really counts is what we have in store in heaven.

As you consider our annual stewardship emphasis, “Investing for Time and Eternity,” and as you consider how God has blessed your life, to use Dr. Truett’s question, “How much do you have in that direction?” And perhaps even more importantly, as you consider the year which lies ahead and your commitment to the Lord to give to this ministry, what will you – by faith – promise to give in the coming year?

Please plan to be present on “Harvest Celebration Sunday,” November 13, 2011, as we offer our Estimate of Giving Cards in thanksgiving for God’s blessings in the past and in anticipation of God’s provisions in the future.

“...the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

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## Prayer Requests

For those with *health concerns*  
 For *favorable weather*,  
 For all affected by *natural disasters*,  
 For those with *employment concerns*,  
 For *military personnel serving around the world and their families*,  
 ...and *Joy for prayers answered*

## Sunday Scripture Readings

### November 7

Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25  
 Matthew 25:1-13

### November 13

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
 Matthew 25:14-30

### November 20

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
 Matthew 25:31-46

### November 27 – Advent

1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Mark 13:24-37



## Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 pm  
 (Putnam Acres)

**November 2:** *Revelation 11:1-19*

**November 9:** *Revelation 12:1-17*

**November 16:** *Revelation 13:1-18*

**November 23:** *No Bible Study*

**November 30:** *Revelation 14:1-20*



## Ecumenical Christmas School

Classes will be held Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2011. There, 3-5 year olds of all faiths sing songs, do crafts, and learn together about Baby Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church has offered the use of its facilities for this worthwhile program.

Adult volunteers, both young and old, are always needed to lead a group, to be classroom helpers, or to play the piano for our Friday programs. If you are interested in helping, contact Pastor Lynda at 419.523.6496. Registration forms can be found on the church bulletin board. **Registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 14.**



## Breakfast Meetings

The Women's Breakfast Meeting will be held on Sat. November, 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 am here at the church. Devotions will be by Andee Parker and the hostesses will be Janie Font and Janice Gordon.

The Men's Breakfast will be held Sat. November, 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at the Schnipke Inn.

**Next Session meeting**  
**Thursday, November 17 at 7 pm**



Dear OPC,

I am writing to express Kirkmont Center's gratitude for your generous donation of \$5,500 in September. We are most grateful.

This summer we had 450 campers in our church camp program. Our goal for 2012 is to have 900 campers! Your support this fall is helping us with the significant work required to expand our camping program. Some of the things we are doing include:

\*Setting up a system for online registration. In just a few short weeks, campers will be able to register for summer camp online. We had lots of requests for this and are excited about the benefit it will be. Registering for camp will be possible at any time of day, with instant confirmation.

\*Improving Facilities. Campers will come to see and experience a refreshed Goodrich Lodge, the central gathering place for summer camp meals. We are replacing the freezer/refrigerator, addressing drainage problems, and refreshing the interior and exterior of the building.

\*Adding new programs. We will have new opportunities in 2012 for kids and families to experience Kirkmont.

Financial challenges have been significant for Kirkmont in the past. We are working diligently to achieve a position of sustainability for the future. In the mean time, as we work to get to the point where we are stronger, I cannot tell you how much we appreciate your grace and partnership. We are thankful each day for you and your prayers for

Kirkmont, and for your generous support.

I welcome any input you may have about Kirkmont and will keep you posted as we move along.

Thank you again for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Rev. Diane Ziegler  
Interim Executive Director

**Pastor Steve,**

**The funds from the Sewell Estate is the largest donation to date our rescue has received. This is a truly wonderful gift that will be used as you stated. This will help with so much! If dogs could say "Thank You", they would be barking all day!**

- **Angel Agner,**  
**Treasurer, Putnam Pet Pals**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$4,500 to Habitat for Humanity International. This gift will help us assist more families all around the world who are in desperate need of affordable and adequate shelter.



*During my travels, I often encounter people living in such dire conditions that it breaks my heart. Now, more than ever, as the world's economies struggle to rebound, families are hurting and desperately seeking a hand up to a better life. Habitat for Humanity's goal is to serve 100,000 such families annually by 2013. The generosity of our supporters will help us steadily continue toward that goal.*

*A Habitat house is life-changing. Because of your support, many children of our partner families are sleeping for the first time in a comfortable bed in a safe and nurturing environment. Families living in Habitat homes are also much healthier and better able to focus on other dreams, such as furthering their education and gaining better employment.*

*On behalf of all Habitat for Humanity families, thank you for helping us carry out our mission. Together we are building homes, communities and hope.*

*-In grateful partnership,*

*Jonathan T.M. Reckford  
Chief Executive Officer*

**THANK  
YOU**

*Dear Steve,*

*On behalf of the Hunger, Health and Housing Ministry Team and the Presbytery, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the family of John and Jean Sewell and the Session and Mission and Outreach Committee of the Ottawa Church for the very generous bequest to the Mobile Health Fairs Follow-up Care Fund. If we limit the gift's distribution of the Putnam County Health Fair referral expenses, I'm sure it will last for quite a few years. We never know from year to year what those expenses will amount to, but we will try to send a report each year detailing the total current year's expenditures.*

*If you think it would be consistent with the donor's wishes, we could also just allocate a percentage of the gift to health fairs follow-up care expenses each year, making sure that Putnam County expenses are covered first, with any balance being used for other referral expenses.*

*Again, many thanks for your encouragement and support.*

*Your companion in discipleship,*

*Clair H. Brewer  
Hunger, Health and Housing  
Coordinator*



## **“Nothing so needs reforming as other people’s habits”**

*- Mark Twain -*

Friends,

I recently watched the latest Ken Burns documentary, **Prohibition**, on PBS. It tells the story of the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment to our Constitution, ratified on January 16, 1919, which prohibited the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States”.

The story of Prohibition is a fascinating and complex one, full of good intentions, base hypocrisy, unintended consequences, and above all the age-old lesson that telling human beings what they cannot do is a sure way to get them to want to do it. The story remains highly relevant, involving such current issues as the attempt to legislate morality, the mistrust and discrimination against immigrants, divisions between rich and poor, and the battle over states’ rights.

One of the most interesting aspects of the history of Prohibition is the religious dimension. The idea of prohibiting liquor grew out of the 19<sup>th</sup> century moral impulse to fight the scourge of drunkenness and immorality associated with the consumption and overuse of alcohol. Initially the thrust of that movement was towards temperance, the moderation of rather than the abstinence from the use of alcohol. This was often something a person pledged to do in their own lives. But by the 20<sup>th</sup> century, that self-imposed ideal had grown into the larger political idea of prohibiting other people from using alcohol. That’s where the problems began.

Once the amendment went into effect, bootlegging, the speakeasy, and other forms of illegal activity skyrocketed. Al Capone and other gangsters flourished during this period. Initially the use of alcohol did decline, but gradually more and more people, especially women, took up the habit with its lure of illegality. With the onset of the Great Depression, Prohibition seemed increasingly unfair and irrelevant, and in 1933 the 21<sup>st</sup> amendment, repealing Prohibition, was passed.

Prohibition offers a cautionary tale about hypocrisy (practicing what we preach), about the danger of trying to impose one’s own moral beliefs on other people, and of trying to legislate morality. Good lessons to be reminded of, especially for us Christians.

Peace, Pastor Steve

**OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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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)

**Sunday School-9:30 am, Worship-10:45 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>
November 6	Jean Setser	Font
November 13	Andee Parker	Kaufman
November 20	Paul Baransy Servers: Jane Doepker, Jean Setser	Doepker
November 27	Susan Schroeder	Basinger

**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**