



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

September 2011

Want to Learn More about God & the Bible?



Sunday school starts back up on Sunday, September 11. We have classes for all ages, from Pre-School through Adult. Starting on September 11, everyone will gather in the Fellowship Hall for the Opening of the day at 9:30, and then go to their respective classrooms. Worship begins at 10:45.

Thanks to all those who have volunteered to be teachers (some returning for the umpteenth time!) Teaching takes time, energy, and, at least for some of the classes, patience! But it is an essential part of the life of our congregation, and a crucial ministry of our church as well. So we salute those who will be teaching this year:

Preschool: Jane D.

Primary (grades 2-6): Carrie J., Nancy K.

Middle school/Confirmation (grades 7-9): Becky R., Pastor Steve

Senior High (grades 10-12): Vickie B., Mike K.

Postschool: Paul B.

Please plan to attend Sunday school – it is a time of fellowship and fun, AND you just might learn something! And none of us is ever too old or too young to keep learning about God and about the Bible!



Wednesday Evening Bible Study



Please join us on **Wednesday evenings** from **6:00-7:00 pm** for Bible study at **Putnam Acres Care Center** – we meet in the sunroom at the end of the building, just down the hall from Agnes R's room. You can find each week's reading listed in the bulletin announcements each week.

Right now we are reading and discussing the **Book of Revelation**, which is one of the most misunderstood books in Scripture – if you have ever wondered about Revelation - what it says, what it “means” – please join us. Attendance is not mandatory, we are very informal, and all questions are welcome! ***We pray, we laugh, we reflect, and we enjoy fellowship as we learn about the Bible. This Bible study is open to ALL!!!***

For more information, see Pastor Steve.



Applying Bible Principles

Dr. M.R. DeHaan, physician and founder of the Radio Bible Class, had a small sign on his desk. The sign had only two words: “Perhaps Today.” Those who knew Dr. DeHaan and worked closely with him recall that hardly a day passed that he did not consider those words. Each day as he entered his office, that little sign, “Perhaps Today,” provided a fresh reminder to him that the Lord Jesus Christ could come that very day.

That sense of heightened expectation certainly characterized believers in New Testament times. They were looking for Jesus to return at any moment, something that might be described as the “imminent return of Christ.” Like Abraham, they viewed themselves as strangers and pilgrims, “. . .looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God” (Heb.11:10). As a result, their interest in things of this world took second place to spiritual priorities. They saw money and material possessions primarily as instruments by which they could advance the kingdom of God and through which they could fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20).

Sad to say, most Christians today do not share their expectation concerning Christ’s return. Certainly most Christians would not have a sign on their desk as did Dr. DeHaan: “Perhaps Today.” Let’s face it, most present-day Christians are not anticipating or looking for Christ’s return.

And this has affected how people view money and material possessions. Instead of seeing them as the means to fulfilling the Great Commission and as tools to further the kingdom of God, they see them as goods to be hoarded or spent on passing pleasures. Instead of “laying up treasures in heaven” through giving here on

earth as the Lord Jesus instructed, most people lay up treasures only in mutual funds, CDs or money market accounts.

John Piper wrote these thought-provoking words: God is not glorified when we keep for ourselves (no matter how thankfully) what we ought to be using to alleviate the misery of unevangelized, uneducated, unmedicated and unfed millions. The evidence that many professing Christians have been deceived by this doctrine is how little they give and how much they own. God has prospered them.

And by an almost irresistible law of consumer culture (baptized by a doctrine of health, wealth and prosperity), they have bought bigger (and more) houses, newer (and more) cars, fancier (and more) clothes, better (and more) meat, and all manner of trinkets and gadgets and containers and devices and equipment to make life more fun. They will object: Does not the Old Testament promise that God will prosper His people? Indeed! God increases our yield so that by giving, we can prove our yield is not our god. . . .God prospers a business so that. . .unreached peoples can be reached with the Gospel.

Dr. DeHaan was right, you know. Jesus is coming again, “Perhaps Today.” In light of His return, will you live and give here at Ottawa Presbyterian Church so that others may hear the good news of salvation, so that others may experience the life-changing grace of the Gospel?

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I am in the process of looking to buy a treadmill and wondered if anyone has one they want to sell or know of anyone that wants to sell one. Feel free to contact me here at the church via phone or email.

Thanks! Andrea



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 Joy for prayers answered

Sunday Scripture Readings

September 4

Psalms 149

Romans 13:8-14

September 11

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 18

Exodus 16:2-15

Matthew 20:1-16

September 25

Matthew 21:23-32

Philippians 2:1-13



Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 pm
(Putnam Acres)

September 7: *No Bible Study*

September 14: *Revelation 5:1-14*

September 21: *No Bible Study*

September 28: *Revelation 6:1-17*

New Books in the Library

Keeping the Faith and Never Give Up are the newest books in the Tales from Grace Chapel Inn series published by Guideposts. These are adventures of the Howard sisters and their inn in Acorn Hill.

The One Who Waits for Me tells of the intersecting lives of three young women at the end of the Civil War and their challenge and gift of believing in God's promise of a future and a hope.

To Win Her Heart is a story of a spinster librarian and a recently released convict in Texas. Do they have a fighting chance at love?

The Help takes place in Jackson, Mississippi in 1962. This is a story about black maids raising the children of white families. Upon graduation from college, one of the white "children" sets out to write a book on the lives of the black maids. They all work together with the hopes for a better day. There will be a sign up sheet on the library bulletin board for this book. Cross your name off and give it to the next person when you are done. Be sure to sign the card.



Sanctuary Renovation Update

The polls are still open if you want to make your preferences known regarding the arrangement of and the general design of the new pews we will be ordering from Sauder's as part of our sanctuary renovation next spring.

On the small table at the bottom of the steps to the sanctuary you will find 2 pages – one with 2 pew arrangements and one with 2 pew designs on it. Circle the ones you prefer, write your name on the ballots, and give them to Pastor Steve or Mike K. or put them in the folder on Andrea's desk. Voting will end on Sunday, September 11, after which the results will be compiled and passed along to the task force (headed by Mike K.) overseeing the pews and woodworking in the sanctuary.

“The thickets of the forest shall be hacked away with iron...”

- Isaiah 10:34 -

Friends,

Isaiah is writing about God defeating Israel’s enemies, but any amateur golfer will wince at those prophetic words, remembering times they have hacked away in the thickets alongside the fairway with an iron.

I have written before about what baseball has to teach us about the spiritual life, but as I was out walking the golf course recently on a beautiful Monday morning (Mark Twain is reputed to have said that *“golf is a good walk spoiled”*) it occurred to me that golf, too, might have some lessons for our spiritual lives.

Golf is a mental game, not just a physical one. If I have discovered any “secret” to playing well (which is, admittedly, a relative term when it comes to my golf game), it is to relax, to stop thinking, to “be” in the moment, focused only on that tiny white ball. There is almost a Zen quality to golf, as it encourages the player to focus and shut out the distractions and wandering thoughts and worries of our minds, at least for a moment. At its best moments, golf can be a bit like prayer. That is why I often play golf on my Sabbath Mondays – I enjoy simply being outside, noticing the clouds and the trees and the breeze and all the wonders of the day God has created. For me, golf is a good walk enhanced. It reminds me of God’s goodness...at its best.

Yet golf can also be one of the most frustrating activities I know. Consistency seems almost impossible (at least for me). I’ll hit great shots on one hole, and hack them all over the place the next (my golf shots especially love water – they are drawn to it like a magnet). And I have no earthly idea what I am doing differently to create such diverse results. One of the workers at Pike Run always asks the same thing when he sees me out on the course: *“Hi Rev, how’re you playing?”*

My answer is always the same: *“Up and down, but I’m hitting just enough good shots to keep me coming back.”*

Such is the life of faith – up one day, down the next. We may have no idea why. The “secret” is to not get too concerned about individual shots, to try to relax and enjoy the journey and the day and keep coming back. And to remember that no matter how often we may find ourselves in the rough or the water or the sand trap, God’s love remains constant.

Peace,

Pastor Steve

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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

Sept. 11 – Fall Schedule Begins: 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).

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
September 4	Rick Barteck	Riepenhoff
September 11	Dee Beckman Servers: Jane Doepker, Jean Setser	Agnes Rice
September 18	Paul Baransy	Barteck
September 25	Jane Doepker	Myers

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**