



# *Herald of Good* TIDINGS

*"Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'"*  
~ Isaiah 40:9

## FROM OUR PASTOR

A little girl died in an Auburn foster home. As I write this, we do not know how the girl died. This incident prompted me to write about my experiences with the foster care system. Some of these stories will be hard to read. I was a foster parent for close to a decade when I was in South Dakota. I mostly got middle school boys. Three boys I had for over a year and continued to have on holidays and in the summer until they turned eighteen and left the system. Each of those boys went back to their families when they turned eighteen.

I housed three other boys for over a month and had six others for a night or two on an emergency basis. So altogether I had twelve foster boys in my house, including one Thanksgiving when I had five boys in my house aged eleven-nineteen. That was a loud Thanksgiving. Oh, and my house was supposed to have a maximum of two kids in it.

I do not know what happened to most of my foster kids after they stayed with me. That is because the child welfare system keeps everything they can confidential, a fancy word for secret. I think they keep things secret because if the world knew how we treated foster kids there would be riots.

I think things are kept secret to hide the misdeeds of adults, not to protect the privacy of the kids. Judges drag cases on; lawyers play games. Case workers fail to visit and file paperwork in a timely manner. Instead of putting the needs of children first, too often the adults put their own needs and wants first. I know I did that. I was often the last foster home before a placement, a fancy word for orphanage/counseling center. When a boy got too hard for me to handle, or was hurting my life or job, I would ask for them to be moved out of my house. I agonized over those decisions; would I give up if he was my "real" son? I cannot answer that question. I hope I treated the boys like my "real" sons but I can't be sure. It is the nature of humanity that even those dedicated to doing good can be overcome by the sins of greed, sloth, and selfishness; especially if there is not enough accountability in the system and I do not think there is.

We know the foster system is broken. Every show or movie about the system talks about abuse and neglect in the system. Several movies portray foster kids better off if they run away, *Hotel for Dogs* being one that comes immediately to mind. Even parents that cannot care for or even abuse their children act like the foster care system is bad. Part of that is the delusions these parents live under that they are good parents. For example, I had a parent tell me cigarette burns were good for his son. So burning his son was love, not abuse.

The system is set up so those who work the hardest get paid the least. Foster parents in South Dakota made about \$14 a day per child. A placement cost \$8-10,000 a month, so district managers really wanted me to keep boys in my home whose next stop was a placement, because too many placements ruined the district budget.

Case workers, district managers, lawyers and judges all made good money off the foster care system but foster parents were only "reimbursed" at a rate some bureaucrat decided it cost to care for a child. Well that bureaucrat never factored in that almost every kid came to me with only the clothes on their back. Clothes and shoes were always worn out and/or too small. Every emergency placement I received, first got fed (often they had spent most of the day in DCF offices with no lunch or supper) then it was off to the 24 hour Walmart to buy clothes for the morning. Many foster parents I knew kept dressers full of clothes for all ages, clothes they had picked up at yard sales and thrift stores. All these purchases were over and above what the state "paid" us.

There was only one dentist in South Dakota that would treat foster kids, luckily he was in my town. No other dentist was willing to do the work for the paltry pay from the state.

Time and again, we hear that foster kids are all accounted for. That is true as long as you know "knowing where the kids are" means knowing a lot of teens have run away. My youngest son ran away to Minneapolis and stayed on the streets for over half a year until he turned eighteen. He was on the Minnesota streets for a full winter, but in some bureaucrat's book I am sure his name was marked down as "runaway" so that counted as knowing where he was when, in fact, they had no idea where he had run to.

*Continued on page 10*

Please mark your calendars for **Rally Day** which will take place on **Sunday, September 13th**. Rally Day is the official kick-off of Sunday School. Our Cradle Roll and Sunday School are equipped to meet the needs of newborns up to middle school-aged children. **We look forward to seeing you there!**



I want to thank my whole church family for all the prayers, calls and cards after my recent accident. God willing, I will be attending ENC (Eastern Nazarene College) in the fall with a reduced schedule.

I am very blessed to have such a loving church family to be praying for me.

God Bless you all.

Lilly McPherson

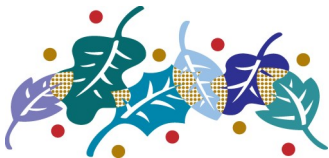
We received the following note from Lorain Johnson.

*Dear Members,*

*I wish to thank the donor of the lovely bouquet and Debbie for bringing them to me and for a nice visit.*

*I think often of the Church and all the friends that I met. Hoping I'll improve and be able to see everyone again.*

*Sincerely,  
Lorain*



**\* \* \* FALL FAIR EXTRAVAGANZA! \* \* \***

The October **Fall Fair** will be held Columbus Day weekend, October 10th and 11th, and we hope to get everyone involved. Thank you to all who have already donated items.



**FALL FAIR WISH LIST:** We still need men's plaid shirts and old pants to make scarecrows. Do you have any scraps of plaid wool? We can use them for various crafts. We continue to need all types of buttons, any kind of decorative hooks and outdoor faucet handles to make coat racks, drawer pulls/cupboard handles, furniture (even if it seems beyond repair), scrap wood, vintage jewelry, accessories such as scarves, small (clutch-type) purses, belts, etc. and don't forget donations to our "attic treasures."

Please scour the newspapers or mail for any coupons for Michaels, A.C. Moore, or Jo-Ann Fabrics. We are running back and forth constantly, sometimes spending outrageous amounts of money, and the coupons would really help.

**ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES/BOARDS:**

Please be thinking about what to include in your baskets that will be sold at the silent auction.

Speaking of the silent auction, please consider what you may have to donate to it. Ideas include: a vacation home that you could offer for a weekend, teen services for fall leaf raking, someone who's a good cook can offer a meal prepared and served at the taker's location. We're only limited by our own creativity! Please call Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416 to obtain more info.

**CRAFT NIGHTS** (held every other Wed.)

The next craft night will be held on Wed., September 2nd, beginning at 6 p.m. (no special skills required).

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, **there is a sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall for working at the fair.** This cannot happen without help from the congregation. Moreover, IT IS SO MUCH FUN, and a great way to get to know your church family.

September Tidings from **Here We Grow** Preschool

As we begin our 26<sup>th</sup> year at **Here We Grow**, I would like to introduce myself and thank the Church and **Here We Grow** for the opportunity to be the new Director. I am excited to work with a wonderful team of teachers and help **Here We Grow** "grow."

Thank you, Denise, for reminding me that "Tidings" was due. At this time we have 4 openings in our 2-day morning sessions, and 12 openings in our 3-day afternoon sessions. I have been providing tours throughout the summer to parents and am confident we will fill those spots.

Our staff for the year 2015-16 is as follows: room 1 is Anne Coyne and Cristi Corey, room 2 is Michele Fuller and Marianne Lavalley, room 3 is Helen Ethier, Patty Bickford, and Michelle Lempicki and room 4 is Lisa Dziemian and Diana Mancini. Here's to a new year, new faces, and new and fresh ideas.

Once again, thanks to Marc for waxing the floors. Sally Gagnon was hired to clean all the classrooms that HWG uses during the school year. Thanks to Bob, Wayne, and Dave for hanging up the new classroom cabinets and to Wayne, Dave, and Stan for taking care of the common spaces shared with HWG and all other groups. A special thank you to Judy Bjork for preparing all the new HWG family handbooks, personnel policies, and papers for the children's files. Thanks to Denise for any and all suggestions and help; I don't know what we would do without her. THANK YOU!!!!

This year the **Here We Grow** Board of Directors will consist of Church representatives: Todd Dube, Wayne Prouty, Melynn Guilford from the Board of Ed, Nick Stockhaus representing the Trustees, Pastor Brian, and four parent representatives.

Gina Basili  
**Here We Grow** Director

*It was such a great surprise and honor to be the recipient of the Warren Scholarship. Please accept my sincere thank you for taking the time to read my application and for having the confidence in my academic future.*

*I am so excited about the next chapter in my life attending the University of New Haven studying Forensic Science. It is a privilege to accept this award in honor of my great-grandfather, but also a wonderful church family. I will do my best to not only be successful, but to set a good example for others that follow.*

*My mom and late father always taught me to be respectful, trust God and do my best and you can achieve anything. That is my goal. Thank you for granting this gracious award.*

*Best Regards,  
Christopher Hanks*

As we begin another very busy church schedule, the Nominating Committee will soon be looking for people to serve on boards and committees. Serve is the word! A quote from the book, *Fresh Start with God*, may help you to realize what will happen when you are involved.

"Serving is one of the best ways to get involved and make the church really feel like your church."

God's blessings,  
The Nominating Committee

Dear Pumpkin Patch Partner,

My name is Harry Descheene. I am the Human Resources Director for Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers. I've been with Pumpkin Patch, off and on, for 22 years. I would like to thank you as Pumpkin Patch Partners for participating in the project and to let you know what your participation helps provide to Native Americans.

I am a Navajo, living on the reservation all of my life (56 years). Pumpkin Patch has been employing Native Americans here on the reservation for over 20 years. Our staff here in New Mexico is 100% Navajo, including all management. During the harvest we also hire Pueblo, both Zuni and Hopi tribes (300 workers). Unemployment on the Navajo reservation is 42%.

My experience as an employee and manager is that Pumpkin Patch goes above and beyond what any organizations of the reservation do to take care of their employees. Pumpkin Patch pays for the transportation of their employees from all of the different reservations, some as far as 4 hours away. Pumpkin Patch also provides residential facilities (dorms), laundry facilities, recreational facilities, an upscale kitchen with a chef and kitchen staff, a huge dining hall, extensive safety orientation before workers actually begin field work. Transportation is also provided to and from the fields. After completion of the harvest season, all workers are provided with transportation back to their communities.

For many of our workers, it's the only opportunity to provide for their families and themselves. The approximately 1.3 million dollars in harvest labor makes a significant difference in the quality of the lives of my people. Opportunities like this are very scarce on our reservations.

I grew up tending livestock on the reservation, went to boarding school and worked in local government as an elected official in the capacity of chapter president for 12 years. My salary and benefits with Pumpkin Patch are substantially above what I might receive from other private enterprises in the Farmington area. I have found that the owners of Pumpkin Patch are extremely concerned with the welfare of all of their employees, both full and part-time.

Another important aspect of Pumpkin Patch is the donations that they make to local organizations. Thousands of school children, senior citizen centers, special education and handicapped facilities, behavioral health facilities, church organizations, government services, correctional youth services and civic groups receive free pumpkins for their causes.

Again, let me say that I cannot understate the value of the service and work provided to the Navajo people by Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers and its non-profit partners.

Thanks,  
Harry



We are saddened by the sudden loss of **Diane M. Knowlton**, 66, who passed away peacefully on June 23, 2015 at Worcester Health Center. Diane was born and raised in Worcester and was the only child of the late Everett and Evelyn (Holden) Knowlton. She graduated from Notre Dame Academy in 1967. She later continued her education at Salter Secretarial School and worked several years as a medical transcriber before retiring. Diane leaves her good friend, Bernie, and several cousins including Dick Wilson, Judy Bjork, Shirley Hill, and Cindy Dube.

Diane was a cat lover and enjoyed playing cards and crocheting. At her request, a private graveside service was held at Hillside Cemetery in Auburn.

Also, please continue to pray for the Clifford Family due to the loss of Lynda's mom, Marguerite, in July.

## 2015 RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate ~ Remember ~ Fight Back

September 11th - 12th (6:00 p.m. Fri. - noon Sat.) at Lemansky Park, Auburn

On September 11th and 12th at Lemansky Park 34 teams of people will walk the track in the annual Central South County Relay For Life. Highlights of this event include the survivor and caretaker walk and the luminaria ceremony. Survivors and their caretakers are invited to attend the opening ceremony and walk the survivor lap and attend the dinner immediately following the lap. There will be many activities throughout the event. For more information contact Shirley Hill, a member of the D.U.C.K.S. team (**D**edicated **U**nited **C**hristian **K**indred **S**pirits).  
You may donate online by going to [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org).

### What is Relay For Life?

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length.

Relay began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt\*, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, Relay has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer, into the world's largest movement to end the disease. Each year, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 19 other countries, gather to take part in this global phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer. Thanks to Relay participants, we are creating a world with more birthdays, a world where cancer can't claim another year of anyone's life. We invite all cancer survivors in the community to attend Relay For Life because they are the reason we Relay.

\*Sadly, Dr. Klatt, 71, died on August 3, 2014 from heart failure after battling stomach cancer.



### JIMMY FUND WALK

I am walking in my 15th Jimmy Fund Walk That is 26.2 mile for 15 years!!! My walk date is September 27. This is the actual date my mom died 17 years ago., which makes it kind of special. I started walking in memory of my mom, and now I do it for everyone else I know/have known that has died or had cancer and beat it. If you can help, please donated online ([www.jimmyfundwalk.org](http://www.jimmyfundwalk.org)) and help me raise money to help find a cure and wipe out cancer. Or you can make out a check made payable to "The Jimmy Fund" and mail it to me at 36 Linda Ave., Millbury, MA 01527. Thank you so much and, as always, please text or call during the day to see how I am doing (508-317-7747).

Thanks in advance,  
Lori Stockhaus

Since its founding in 1948, the Jimmy Fund has supported the fight against cancer in children and adults at Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, helping to raise the chances of survival for cancer patients around the world. ***Because it takes more than courage to beat cancer.***

### FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As summer rapidly draws to a close, activity within our church increases just as rapidly. All too soon October will be upon us and our lawn will be "littered" with pumpkins. What a beautiful sight for all those passing by and such an example of how we all work together to keep our church thriving.

But, not only is it pumpkin time, it is also time for our annual pledge drive. Consecration Sunday will be celebrated on October 18th. As stewards of the church we should keep in mind that we are all entrusted to the careful and responsible care of our church, not only through our time and talents, but treasures. We are blessed to have this place to come to and to be among people who care about one another.



We are part of God's plan, please keep God and your church in your plan, and **"Count yourself blessed."**

Your Stewardship Committee,

Marge Averka, Randy Bohn, Cindy Dube, Linda Hardy, Marilyn Kulesa and Sheila Skog

#### BOOK SALE

The Friends of Goddard Library, Clark University, Worcester, MA will hold its annual book sale from 8 am to 3:30 pm on Thursday, October 1st, and Friday, October 2nd, on the ground floor of the Goddard Library, located near Downing Street where it ends at the Kneller Parking Garage. Visitors can park on the top floor of the garage and the library is just up the hill from the Kneller Center or find street parking. More than 11,000 books will be available priced at one dollar for hard-covers and fifty cents for paperbacks. The only exception is several separated tables with about 500 books individually priced from \$3 and above. On Friday all books are half-price. The sale will include all categories of books that were donated to the Friends.



We recently heard from Linda Graham that her mom, Florence LaPlante, is doing well (as evidenced by her beautiful smile in this picture!).

Florence would love to hear from you. Drop her a line at:

**Florence LaPlante  
Palm Garden of Vero Beach #260W  
1755 37th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960-4812**

There's a bulletin board in her room with tiny clothespins attached to ribbons that Linda uses to display any cards that Florence receives. Linda rotates the cards and reads them to her periodically.

September 2015

It is time for the Church year to start again. Rally Day, the start of Sunday school, will be the 13th of September. The choir will start the same time. We will have our first Church supper on Saturday, September 19th. We will have our first spirit potluck supper in September as well (on the 24th). We are moving the suppers to either Wednesdays or Thursdays this year. Our first book will be the book of the Prophet Hosea.

Hosea is one of the 12 lesser prophets. So called, because they all fit on one scroll; so they are lesser because they are brief. Hosea is 14 chapters and each chapter is about a page. The first verse of the book starts as most books of Jewish prophecy do by setting the dates the prophet lived.

*The word of the LORD that came to Hose'a the son of Be-e'ri, in the days of Uzzi'ah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezeki'ah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jerobo'am the son of Jo'ash, king of Israel.*

Those reigns are 792-722 BC, 722 being about the time the Assyrians conquered the 10 northern tribes of Israel and made them the famous 10 lost tribes of Israel. What caused the loss of the ten tribes? We read it in the very next verse. The main story of Hosea is why it is not read much. The second verse of Hosea talks about how Hosea's marriage troubles mimic God's troubles with being God (husband) to an unfaithful people (bride). So in our first bible reading of the year we will talk about the symbolism of God the husband and the people of God as a wife, a not very loyal and faithful wife at that.

The first Saturday in October (the 3rd) will be busy with the pumpkins due in, our usual sleepover to start Youth on a Mission, and there's a wedding that afternoon.

Once again, the fall gets busy right away.

*On behalf of my mother and me, I would like to thank you all for your prayers, well wishes, and cards.*

*I will try to make a clear description of my mom's health issues. My mother is making a slow recovery. The main issue is her legs and feet are filled with fluid, making it even harder and more painful to walk than normal. She was basically immobile for a month before going into the hospital in late July. This fluid is hard to treat due to her other health problems, including blood clots, leaking heart valves, a new diabetes diagnosis, and severe arthritis.*

*At this writing Mom is home and stable. We are working on getting her into a nursing home because it is hard for her to walk any distance.*

*Pastor Brian*

#### Auburn Walk for Hunger

This year the Auburn Walk for Hunger will be on a different Sunday in October. It is scheduled for the 4th Sunday, October 25th. Registration is at 12:45 and the walk begins at 1. It is 2½ miles and will start and end at Auburn Youth and Family Services and all proceeds will benefit AYFS and Kateri's Kitchen at North American Martyrs. All are welcome to join with the other churches of Auburn and walk with me and I will be the contact person for First Church. Look for more info to follow in October. If you have questions, please feel free to call me at 508-799-2718.

Sue Campbell

## FROM JEAN McPHERSON, OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome Back! I pray you all had a wonderful vacation full of sun and good times. I can't believe that it is September already. First off, I want to let everyone know that this year's Relay For Life will be held September 11-12 at Lemansky park as always. Please come down and see the D.U.C.K.S. We are right next to Gary Mahler's team so it will be fun. Our team this year is small but mighty. Shirley Hill is taking the helm and doing an awesome job at it. If you would like to donate to our team please see Shirley, Bev Scobie, Bessie Morgan or me.

Sunday School will begin on September 13 with Rally Day. All kids will meet downstairs in the vestry for games and ice cream! Please be sure to fill out a registration form for each of your children. Also we are asking each family to commit to assisting in each child's class at least twice; (if you have multiple children once in each class will work).

Our teachers this year will be:

Cradle roll: Randy Bohn with Paris Esposito and Rebecca McPherson assisting

Pre-school and Kindergarten: Teachers - Amanda Carlson and Haydn McPherson

Grades 1 and 2: Teacher - Jean McPherson

Grade 3-5: Teacher - Lori Babcock

Grade 6 - student will assist in classrooms unless someone steps up to teach that age group.

Y.O.M. (Youth On a Mission) is open to anyone in grades 6-12. We will have a get-to-know-you pizza party September 18th. October 2-3 will be our first lock-in (sleepover) and the next day we will help unload the pumpkin truck. Anyone interested in YOM please see me so I can put you on our mailing list to keep you informed.

I hope you all have a great start to the school year and we will see you on September 13!



*I just wanted to thank the Scholarship Committee and the Church for the check that was given to me from the Callan James Scholarship. I really appreciated it. I am very excited to be starting at Framingham State University and your gift will definitely help.*

*Thanks again,*

*Tori Stockhaus*

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped and contributed in any way to our yard sale last June. Although the forecast was gloomy, God blessed us with another beautiful day. All of our "vendors" were pleased, lots of shopping was done, as well as eating. We realized a profit of just over \$2,000 — a great day all around!

Thank you and God bless,  
Cindy Dube

(And our heartfelt thanks to Cindy and her right-hand gal, Judy Murphy, for all of their hard work!)



On June 21st we celebrated the baptism of Michelle Jean Bailey. Michelle is the (now) 7 month old daughter of Michael Bailey and Johanna Monesit. Her proud grandparents are Linda and Dick Graham.

On July 12th we celebrated the baptism of Svea Joy Grady, the (now) 8 month old daughter of Courtney Grady and Jeffrey Erickson. Her proud great-grandmother is Marge Averka.

We pray God's blessings upon these precious little ones and their families.





# Auburn Youth and Family Services, Inc.

21 Pheasant Court, Auburn, MA 01501 • (508) 832-5707 • Fax (508) 832-5708

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August 4, 2015

Jean McPherson  
Director of Christian Ed  
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128 Central St  
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Dear Jean and students,

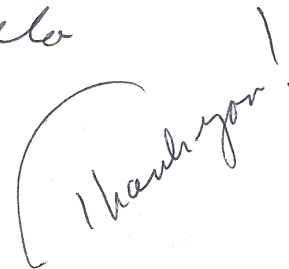
On behalf of our Board of Directors, the staff and most especially the children and families we serve, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$165 to Auburn Youth and Family Services, Inc.

As you know, Auburn Youth and Family Services, Inc., is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit agency. Funds raised throughout the year will be used to support Auburn children, youth, adults and families through counseling, educational and recreational programs and other vital services that Auburn families need.

Thank you once again for your generous donation to benefit AYFS. We are greatly appreciative of your support.

Sincerely,

  
Sally D. D'Arcangelo  
Executive Director



Serving the Auburn Community since 1976

Please note: the donation referenced above was made possible through the Sunday school children's weekly collection.



Choir Practice Resumes

**Choir Practice** will resume beginning **Thursday, September 10th, at 6:00 p.m.** We will be singing during the worship service on **September 13th.** If you're interested in joining the choir, please speak with Heather Moore, our Minister of Music. We are also encouraging any interested children (or a parent) to speak with Ms. Moore if you would like to learn more about **Joyful Noyse**, our children's choir.

*Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Psalm 95:2*

Continued from page 1

The three boys I consider "my" sons all went back to their parents, at least two to be abused as adults. But there is something about family that called them back, and the people who cared or ignored or hurt them as little kids would always be their family. One Friday after Thanksgiving, I drove my oldest son up to his parents' place. My son was eleven and convinced his mom had died because he was not there to turn her over when she passed out drunk. He was eleven and in charge of making sure she did not choke to death. That was normal for him; that was family for him. At age twenty-five now, I am sure he is still trying to keep his mom from drinking herself to death. I just read that Rosie O'Donnell's adopted daughter returned to her birth mom after turning eighteen.

If I could wave a magic wand, I would put group homes on the grounds of prisons. Prisons that would only hold parents who abuse their children. The parents would be locked up, but the kids could see mom or dad anytime they wanted. Time and again, even little preschoolers would worry that mom or dad was hurt. Parole would mean living in a house with 24/7 surveillance and social workers living around the clock with the family.

I would also end confidentiality because it is hurting kids, not helping them. We need a foster care system that can get kids in good families to be good citizens. We need a foster care system that can find abuse before it cripples a child in mind, body, or soul. This is hard to do, but I think that is what we need to strive for.

Foster kids are wards of the state, like Robin was to Batman. They are our kids because we are the state. What would we not do for "our" kids? What would it be like if our foster kids had the same health care, housing, education and money as the sons and daughters of the governors, the senators, and the president?

Pastor Brian

#### SERMON TITLES FOR SEPTEMBER:

9/6 "Labor?"

9/13 "What Is Godly Wisdom and What is Evil?"

9/20 "Be Careful What You Wish For"

9/27 "Cover Sins"

Our monthly children's sermon will be on 9/27.

September Birthdays include:

Pastor Brian - Sept. 6th

Jacob McPherson - Sept. 14th

Laura DuHamel - Sept. 19th

Happy Birthday!



On September 14th Lori & Nick Stockhaus will be celebrating their 24th wedding anniversary -  
Congratulations!

<b>Coffee Hour Hosts:</b>	9/6	Music Committee
	9/13 & 9/20	Historian, Library, Memorial/Scholarship & Nominating Committees
	9/27	Financial Secretaries/Treasurers
	10/4	Personnel Committee



September is National Cholesterol Education Awareness Month, National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, National Preparedness Month, Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month, and National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Please check the Health Table in Fellowship Hall for information on these topics.

The closet at the end of the educational wing has been changing often this summer. Items have been coming and going, which is the purpose of the space. I don't want to store the items, so if people need to borrow, please help yourself. This isn't limited to our church members! We have received items from others and we have helped others.

The widows/widowers' group will resume on Thurs., September 3rd, at 9:30 am. We will meet the first Thursday of the month for about an hour. Refreshments are provided.

Now that the committees will be meeting again, I will put greeting cards in the mail boxes. I just ask that you sign your name and write a note if you wish. The envelope will be addressed and stamped, so if someone would leave it in the mail slot in the door at the end of the educational wing, it can go to one of our members that has moved away.

Have a great month and God bless,

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

P.S. Look in future weekly bulletins for flu shot clinic info and I'm hoping to arrange to have an attorney specializing in elder affairs come to speak with us.

Hi! I want to introduce myself as I am pleased to be serving as your Church World Service contact. I want to thank the church for its generous donations over the years – particularly through CWS Blankets. Your congregation's commitment to provide help and hope to people in need around the world is greatly appreciated.

For more than six decades, Church World Service has been on a mission to end hunger and poverty. Our approach is to work with communities hand in hand, as partners in their development. Our long experience, and a community's own courage and ingenuity, can generate creative, sustainable solutions to end hunger. And, as part of the cooperative ministry of CWS, your congregation has been there with us over the years not only when disaster strikes, but also in this vital work to empower people to realize a food secure future.

**Over the years your congregation has given CWS over \$20,000 - - you have most certainly touched countless lives!**

As your Church World Service contact, I invite you to email or call me at any time with questions and to talk about ways that I can help your congregation continue to be involved in the relief and development programs that are meaningful to you. I look forward to working with you.

In peace,  
Erin

Erin Luchenbill, Associate Community Engagement Specialist, East Area, Church World Service  
Phone: 413-455-0470  
Email: [eluchenbill@cwsglobal.org](mailto:eluchenbill@cwsglobal.org)



### The Pumpkin Patch will be opening soon!

The pumpkins will be arriving at the Church on Oct. 3rd at 9 a.m.

We are hoping for the usual great turnout of people to unload the truck. We will be getting a full truck again this year, so the more people — the faster it will go.

We are under new “management” this year. Diane Moore and Shirley Hill are “retiring” and passing the reins to Sheila Skog, Debbie and Linda Mahler, and Judi Taft. Our heartfelt thanks to Diane and Shirley for all their hard work over the years. Please help us make a smooth transition by planning now to set aside days to help with the patch. Please look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall as October approaches.

We’re all looking forward to another successful pumpkin patch season!

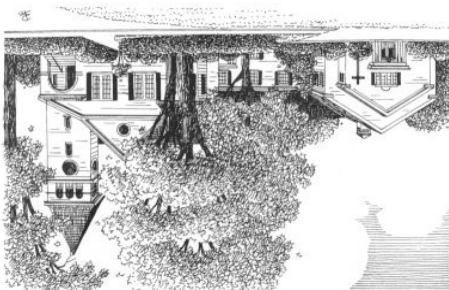
**Thank you!**



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

September 2015						
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