

THE VISITOR

Pilgrim Christian Church

Rev. Ralph S. Wearstler, Interim Minister Mary Carson, Editor, 286-1101
August 2008

Writings from the Rev.

Those who know me well, know that I have a thing for Rainbows. One of my tea mugs at home has a rainbow on it. I have a couple of T-shirt with a rainbow on them. I even have a belt-buckle with the scene of a rainbow. Sometime if someone remembers they will send me a birthday card or a get well card with a rainbow on it, which I probably have still stashed away in one of the dresser drawers. I will always stop and ponder for a few moments whenever I come across a picture of a rainbow in a magazine, a book, or on the Internet. I even wrote a song about the rainbow and what it means to me.

However, what really excites me is seeing a real rainbow after a rain storm. Just after it rains and the sun breaks out, if I'm at home or at the office, I will go from window to window looking in the hope of seeing one, or stepping outside and looking around. It just doesn't happen as often as I'd like, but when I does I'm usually on the phone calling my family to say, "Did you see it, did you see the rainbow?"

Besides all of its beauty, there is something very Biblical and very Spiritual about rainbows for me. Biblically, the rainbow is only talked about in the Bible in two places: Genesis and Revelation, the beginning and end of the Holy Scripture. In Revelation it is talked about as an object seen in a picture. But in Genesis it is talked about as a sign, a sign of God's Promise.

It comes at the end of the story about Noah and the Ark. After it rains for 40 days and 40 nights, and flood waters destroy all life, except those on the Ark, God makes a promise with Noah and uses the Rainbow as a sign of that promise. God says that whenever you see the rainbow in the sky you will remember that I made a promise to you, but even more so, I will remember the promise I made to you.

I don't know about you, but this has way more to do than just God promising never to flood the earth and destroying all life. The big deal is that God, Almighty, Powerful God, made a promise to little old us. And the rainbow is a symbol of that promise that is kept to this day.

So, when I see a rainbow it represents the reality of God. It is one more way that I know that God is real in my life.

It's been a long dry spell for me since I've seen a rainbow. That doesn't means that I haven't experience the reality of God in my life, I have, and in many different ways. But seeing a rainbow for me is just icing on the cake. And it's not that I haven't been looking either, I have.

Then it happened, just a few weeks ago, I was blessed with a rainbow, and it was seen at one of my favorite places: "Camp Christian." There it was bright and early on Monday morning, a rainbow streaming right over the small lake in the middle of the campus. One of the other Assistant Directors grabbed his camera and captured it.

It was a joy to behold because, at least for me, it was another sign that God was present in this very special place. I sent a copy of the picture home to my wife, Terri, and to Diane in the Church Office, and she in turn e-mailed it to others in our Church Family. Terri now has it on her computer screen in our home office.

What was even more amazing was that we were blessed again on Thursday afternoon with another rainbow. (I'd be happy to share that picture as well.)

For me the rainbow is a sign of Hope. It gives substance to the Scripture found in Hebrews 11:1 which says, "***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***"

When I am blessed with seeing a rainbow it brings me hope, hope not just in the promise made to Noah and earth, but hope in all the promises made, most importantly the one made by God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is my hope and prayer that you too will have many rainbow sightings, and that you will remember that God is real.

Look to the rainbow, it's a sign of God's Love.

UP BEATS

Do you remember having one of those days when everything just falls together? You hit all the green lights? The people you stop to see are in, have time, and seem happy to spend some with you? You stop at a store and find just what you're looking for, maybe even discounted? The sun is shining, people are friendly, and so are you?

That happens occasionally, and it is an occurrence to be savored.

I had such a day recently, and it was conspicuous. I remember thinking that if I were ever to win at the Lottery, this would be the day! The more I thought about it, the stronger the feeling got, and I felt a distinct urging to purchase a ticket at a particular store – one that I did not patronize because it seemed contrary to my idea of economy and good sense. In addition, my one encounter with the proprietor made me think he was surly.

But this urging was so persistent, I felt that it should not be ignored. Have you ever felt that way? Well, I went somewhat out of my way to stop at this store before my luck changed!

I went in and – interrupting his smoke break – I confessed that I had not purchased a Lottery ticket in decades and had no ideas how it's done these days. I told him of my optimism and asked his advice. What type of ticket, of the multitude of options, would be the most likely to make me a winner?

He looked at me a moment, then said, "Your best bet is to leave your money in your pocket. The only winners are the guys who run the show." That was not what I expected to hear, especially from someone with a lighted Lottery sign in his window. After we shared a few more relevant comments, I thanked him for his time, and left.

Though my attentions were fairly focused that morning, I am not sure how prayerful my thoughts were.

I felt a definite urging to take action, with typical expectations under the circumstances. The winnings of my "Lottery purchase" were not what I anticipated or hoped for, but I realized that they were, in fact, of true value. As in real and deliberate prayer, one has to be prepared to recognize an answer for what it is. This may not be consistent with our "wisdom" or our wishes. But, at least with prayer, we can be assured that the answer will be in our best interest.

An immediate test of this proposition would be in applying it to Pilgrim's search for a new minister. Undoubtedly, we each have logical solutions to our need, so let's be done with it, already! Yet, let's look back at the past months and what has transpired. Looking carefully, we can see that each diversion and setback has yielded new perspectives and revealed new opportunities. The answers to our prayers on this subject are not necessarily non-existent, but under-recognized. We at P.C.C. have come a long, long way toward understanding what is important to us as a church. We've tried new things and spread our wings over these unsettled waters.

We must continue to pray – intimately and fervently and persistently – for our Search Committee, our Church, and ourselves. Pray for wisdom on all fronts. Pray for expedience, but in God's time. But, especially, pray for patience and sensitivity, that we will recognize and embrace His answers, knowing that we are part of His master plan and that it is good. We can be assured that it is going to be "one of those days." He has never given us evidence to the contrary.

In His love,
Steve Wick, Moderator

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Karen Godine, RN with Lake Hospital System, Ambulatory Services/Home Health was recently recognized with the Clinical Excellence in Nursing Award for projecting a positive image of nursing to their patients.

PRAYER CONCERNS, NEEDS, JOYS AND BLESSINGS

Prayers of Sympathy

Stanley Strong, **Flora Tincher's** brother from Columbus, recently went home to God.

Tim Cosimano's mother, Mildred B. Cosimano, went home to God on May 16.

Robert Wheeler passed away.

Prayers for healing

Floyd "Toad" Leyde, continues to improve at Blossom Hill.

Wanda Ash had surgery at Geauga and is recovering.

Ralph Combs for health concerns.

Bill Hanna is recovering at his daughter's home in Texas.

Gwen Carlson's father, Robert Hunter is in treatment for lymphoma.

Flora Tincher's grandson-in-law, Philip Martin has serious health concerns.

Eva Smith is back at Chardon Healthcare after her treatment at Geauga. Hopes to soon be at The Residence.

Vickie Hess had gall bladder surgery and is recovering.

Betsey Griffin is continuing her treatments.

Jan Stewart's parents need continued prayers for healing and strength.

Debbie Greathouse is recovering from surgery at Hillcrest.

Joan Lawrence is recovering at home from foot surgery.

Sandy Germaine and **Carol Wolfe** both had cataract surgery and are doing well.

Bob Clark is doing well after knee surgery.

Special Prayers

Ann Ash is in Hospice care. Prayers of comfort, patience and peace are needed.

Mitch and Sue Pike's son-in-law, Dan Christy, is in Iraq.

For our **Search and Call Committee**.

Congratulations

Kathy Cosimano. June 12 marked the completion of Kathy's ninth year as our organist.

Mike and Holly Hummel are the proud parents of an adopted baby boy.

Tim Laino has successfully completed his bicycle trip to Oregon.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Greetings!

Thank you, dear hearts, for your continuing generosity in helping others. Because of you, we are able to feed 40 homeless folks at Project Hope in Painesville the second Thursday of each month. It tugs at the heart to see children among the clients when we deliver the food.

The 5th Sunday Offering for the DDC (Das Duetsch Clinic for our Amish neighbors) was well over \$200. The money will go into the Children's Fund to help families who cannot pay for their child's treatment, thanks to you.

Ten percent of collected pledged money is the Mission's budget. One-third goes to the mission's work of each denomination and one-third is left for the Mission Board to disburse for local needs or as seen fit. Disbursements were recently made as follows:

Project Hope for the Homeless - \$150

Hot Meals in East Cleveland - \$150

PCC Food Cupboard - \$150

American Red Cross for disaster/flooding relief in Midwest - \$200

Littlest Heroes (local group working with families of children with cancer) - \$200 for gas cards to help parents with transportation to hospitals, and for baby items for a 17 year old with leukemia and her newborn with cystic fibrosis.

LOOKING AHEAD:

August has five Sundays. Our special offering will be for Church World Service for blankets and disaster relief.

School begins! We will once again be collecting school supplies for three agencies: Geauga Jobs and Family Services, Cleveland Christian Home, WestSide Ecumenical Ministry. A box will be in Fellowship Hall beneath the Mission bulletin board.

Thank you to the good fairy who fixed up our Mission's bulletin board. It has never looked so good!

Thank you for helping us show God's love through service to those in need. Love, peace and blessings from your,

Mission Committee

THANKS SO MUCH

To my dear sisters of Friendship Guild,
Many thanks for changing the day of our meetings so that I could continue to attend another meeting and still be with you. I am so touched that you considered this after meeting all these years on the same day. There is such a bond of love, support, friendship and fun, helping one another through the ups and downs of life. Friendship Guild is open to all women. Won't you consider meeting with us on the **third** Monday of each month? We'd love to have more sisters.

Love, peace, joy, blessings,
Roz Kvet

Dear Friends,
You can't imagine my surprise when I received your beautiful shawl. I attend a great church here and have met so many special people, but have accepted it will never be my PCC. Thanks to everyone who helped me keep our Holy Father in my life.

Kathryn Cooper

Dear PCC members and friends,
I think I have been very lax in making my thank yous known. First to the ladies who were so kind as to provide and serve the luncheon at the Hambden Fire Station after Wally's funeral. I also want to thank the Friendship Guild for all their cards and get well and condolence wishes. Steve, Paul and Mariah Moore brought me flowers from the altar twice and I got a poinsettia plant at Christmas. Bruce and Mary Carson came a few months ago and brought me flowers and a lovely prayer shawl which I just love. Please see to it my sincere thank you gets to the right people.

Yours in Christ,
Joan Grant

Dear PCC Family,
What a nice surprise it was to celebrate nine years of being PCC's organist. The certificate and thoughtful (and timely) gift is truly appreciated. Each Sunday I am blessed to share God's gift with my church family.

In Christ,
Kathy Cosimano

Dear Friends,
On behalf of Project Hope for the Homeless, I would like to thank you for steadfast donations of meals for homeless persons at Project Hope. Your time and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Melissa Knight

Robert, Ken, Charley and I would like to thank Mary Carson and Men's Fellowship for making the arrangements to send Robert to camp. Thank you Ray Laino for getting Charley sitters lined up. Thanks to Ray Laino, Bruce Carson, and Rev. Ralph for Charley sitting. Thank you Rev. Ralph for the letter to Robert. Thank you Steve Moore for bringing Robert home. You all contributed to make a 13-year old boy very happy and made his summer extra special. God bless you all and thanks so much. The Campbells

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,
We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your extended UCC family through your 2007 contribution to Our church's Wider Mission Basic Support in the amount of \$1,955.07. These contributions make it possible for your ministry to reach out into our association, conference and the national setting.

Curtis Ackley and Jill Harkins Goodman

Dear Friends at Pilgrim,
Project Hope for the Homeless sincerely thanks you for your contribution of \$150 received July 21. Your donation helps to sustain this vital ministry of shelter and support services to the homeless in Lake County.

Kathy Sneary

To PCC,
Thank you for your kindness and cards. It means a lot to me.
With love, Mildred Andler

IT'S BARBEQUE TIME

Summer's in full swing, and our backyard barbecues are getting fired up about fellowship! We've added a couple of dates, and made a couple of changes. Please take a look, and call me (Deb Schirm 440-256-3327) or reply to this e-mail to say YES to a time of food and fun with your church family. I'll keep the lists updated, and let the hosts know how many to expect. If you would like to bring a dish, call the host directly to let them know. Any questions, call Deb Schirm 440-256-3327 or the church office 440-285-8791. We still have room for adding more dates, if you would like to host on any date convenient for you, give me a call.

Thanks, Deb Schirm

July 25, Friday, Deb & Gordon Schirm's 6:30 pm

August 16th, Saturday, Bunny Nelson's 6:30 pm

August 17th, Sunday, Kenny and Donna Temple's 12:30 pm

August 24th, Sunday, Paul and Judy Hederstrom's 12:30 pm

YOUTH GROUP NEWS (Grades 9 - 12)

Regular Scheduled Meetings - The youth group will begin regular meetings in the fall.

We do have some special events planned, so check your e-mail for news.

Upcoming Special Events - call for more details!

Sept 11th - MUSIC BUILDS TOUR - benefit concert for Habitat for Humanity. *Outdoor* concert featuring Switchfoot, Third Day, and Jars of Clay. Rock out on the lawn at Blossom Music Center (Pavillion seats are for wimps!)
More details to follow.

This months scripture verse -

" My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken ."

Psalm 62 verses 1,2

Got Ears? - Hey, what's your favorite radio station? Check out Air 1 ; **90.9FM** or listen online at air1.com

******* Please give me your email address so you know about events *******

NOTE TO PARENTS - All youth meetings/events are always supervised by at least two adults.

NEED A RIDE? - Always a lift available to or from Church or Youth Group - call me

Ray and Lisa Laino - 286.1778 (Home)
440.223.3637 (Cell)
rlaino@pkfamily.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The joint summer worship service led by the Geauga Cooperative Ministries will be Sunday, August 10 at Centruy Village in Burton. We will gather at 10:00 am.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Flora Mae Tincher reminisced about working at the dinners in the old Christian Church basement on South Street. The work was exhausting, but led to happy memories of cherished friendships. The Strong family attended church regularly, and Flora became a member as soon as she was old enough. The Christian Church merged with the Congregational Church in 1950 and Flora continued working on dinners. She served on the Search Committee that hired Rev. Strong (no relation), the first pastor of PCC.

Flora Mae Strong was born on August 1, 1920 in the Fifth Avenue home where she now lives. The youngest of four children, she attended Chardon School on the Square all twelve years, graduating in 1938. She excelled in basketball and softball and enjoyed Campfire Girls. With savings from her first job at Snapout Forms, she bought a bicycle and rode all over Geauga County.

On Memorial Day, 1942, Flora married David Tincher and moved to Cleveland. Chardon lured them back. Son Terry, arrived and daughter Debbie was born seven years later. Both became part of the PCC family. Flora worked for Chardon Savings Bank, retiring in 1983. She has three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

"Serve one another in love, Carry each others burdens and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 5:13,6:2

May God continue to bless the Tincher family.

YOU ARE INVITED!!

Burton Congregational Church, UCC 200th Anniversary

Friday, Aug. 22, 5:30 - Steak Fry and Ice Cream Social, \$20, adults; \$10, 10 years and under

Saturday, Aug. 23, 7 pm - Music Festival and reception

Sunday, Aug. 24, 10 - Special Worship & Luncheon

August

2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----|--|-----------------------------------|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Deacons BBQ at Hederstroms after worship | 4 | 5 | 6 7 PM Elders meeting | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Geauga Coop Worship at Burton Century Village | 11 | 12 | 13 7 PM Trustees meeting | 14 Project Hope Dinner | 15 | 16 Backyard BBQ at Bunny Nelsons at 6:30 pm |
| 17 Backyard BBQ at Temple's at 12:30 pm | 18 7 PM Friendship Guild | 19 | 20 6:30 PM Consistory meeting | 21 1 PM Pilgrim Guild Lunch | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Backyard BBQ at Hederstroms at 12:30 | 25 | 26 | 27 4 PM Hot Meals in East Cleveland | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | Friendship Guild will begin meeting on the 3rd Monday starting in August. Please join us! | | | | | |

September

2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 7 PM Elders meeting | 4 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 7 PM Handbell rehearsal begins | 10 7 PM Trustees meeting | 11 Project Hope Dinner 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Rally Day | 15 7 PM Friendship Guild | 16 7 PM Handbell rehearsal | 17 6:30 pm Consistory meeting | 18 1 PM Pilgrim Guild Lunch 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 7 PM Handbell rehearsal | 24 4 PM Hot Meals in East Cleveland | 25 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 7 PM Handbell rehearsal | | | | |
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August 2008

Pilgrim Christian Church
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Web: www.chardonpcc.org.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Deacons

Linda Arotin, Captain
Ken Campbell
Holly Hummel
Olive Schultz

Bill Arotin
Kathie Cseplo
Beth Craig

Trustees of the Month

Jim Rayl and Terry Calabrese

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



August 1 - Larry Baker, Flora Tincher
August 2 - Mykaela Penrod-Smith
August 3 - Joan Grant, Andrew Kobuszewski
August 6 - Mary Fran Bennett
August 9 - Ann Doersam
August 12 - Deborah Downs, Jim Osborne
August 13 - Tom & Bill Noyes
August 14 - Judy Tincher
August 20 - George Dauler, Ken Temple, Ruth
Lawrence, Rev. Ralph Wearstler
August 21 - Ron Godine
August 23 - Paul Carlson
August 25 - Gordon Schirm
August 27 - Georgiann Farinacci, Drew Griffin

LETTERS FROM CAMP

My name is Robert A. Campbell. From July 6 to July 12, I was at Camp Christian. At 7:30 am, taps (music to wake people) would go off. After 15 minutes, those in our cabin would get in a circle around an altar and one would start morning prayers. After that, we had five to ten minutes before breakfast. At the dining hall we had table groups. Then, we would clean our cabins and do our capers (capers: cleaning certain spots in camp). Once the cabin was clean, inspectors would come to see if it was clean. Then campers would grab their Chi-Rho books and Bibles, and go to the gym to be called to our Quest Group leader. At Quest Group, we studied God. Then, after a five minute break, we would finish Quest and go to lunch. After lunch, the camp counselors had a meeting, so campers had 20 minutes of free time. At free time, we could go to the rec hall to play ping pong or carpetball or go fishing, boating, play basketball or dodgeball. Then, we had structured free time. Structured free time is where campers go to not waste time. There is hiking, fishing, boating, basketball, dodgeball, softball, the game Uno, and choir. There is also fingernail painting and drama group. Then free time for at least two hours and an assembly. After that, we had cabin meetings and then dinner. After dinner we had free time before we go to the Vespers area for evening prayers. Then, we had a cabin meeting. Then, we had activities in the gym. Finally, before we got ready for bedtime taps, we went to a spot where a torch burned and made a symbol of the Chi-Rho cross out of people. The Director of the camp said a few words and we went to bed.

First, I want to thank the Men's Fellowship for giving money for me to go to camp. I also thank my grandma for helping me too and my parents for helping me also. I thank Mr. Moore for bringing me home at the end of the week.

LETTERS FROM CAMP continued

Going to Camp Christian was a life changing experience. I met so many great people. Camp Christian is a great place to meet new people, have a great time and is also a nice place to get closer to God.

Camp Christian was so much fun! I am so glad I went. I would not have been able to go if Rev. Ralph had not mentioned the opportunity, for that I am thankful.

There was so much to do at Camp. The first day we all got together and played kickball. That was a lot of fun! There was also swimming, fishing, boating and a lot more.

Although we did have tons of fun, we did have our serious times. When we had to sit and learn about God, and read from the Bible. It really wasn't bad though. It was interesting.

While at Camp Christian, you really have to take it all in to realize how lucky you are to be at such a wonderful place, where God's love is in everyone.

Mariah Moore