

THE VISITOR

Pilgrim Christian Church

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

October 2008

Writings from the Rev.

A few years ago I wrote a song about prayer. Some of you may remember us singing it during the Vesper Worship at our Rally Day Corn Roast a couple weeks ago. Anyway, the chorus to that song goes like this:

"Say your prayers in the morning, say your prayers at noon, say your prayers in the evening and God will be with you. Yes, God will protect you and help you on your way, God will bring sunshine to the darkness in your day."

Now, if you're not already aware of it, prayer is one of the most important parts of our faith. Simply put, Prayer is communication with God, the opportunity to share our most intimate thoughts and feelings with the Creator who has made us and loves us. Prayer should be as natural and spontaneous as breathing and eating. And what a joy it is when we find ourselves in times like that, when we feel close to God and it's easy to talk and we know we have been heard. But there are times when prayer may seem like work, when the words don't come easily, when we feel that God is distant from our concerns.

In Matthew 7:7-8, Jesus says: ***"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."***

Jesus calls us to prayer because it's the natural thing for us to do, there's a need within us to pray, a searching desire to be in touch with the One who created us and sustains us. And yet sometimes people will go for years without any self-conscious effort to pray. God seems more and more distant, unrelated to everyday events in their lives. Then, in a time of fear or desperation, a person may suddenly blurt out, "O God, help me, I need you!" and once again the door is opened to them. It was spontaneous and it was good, because it reconnected that person with the loving presence of God.

Many people do find it difficult to pray, feeling that somehow they aren't doing it right. But can there ever really be a wrong way to talk with God? Prayer is the way that we continue our relationship with God, and God with us.

What we need to realize about our prayers is that God always listens and strengthens us even when our problems seem to remain unsolved. Yes, our prayers are answered, but sometimes the answer is NO! And when that happens it may cause some to have doubts about God's concern or power in our lives, or worse, that we have somehow failed and that's why God did not respond on cue. Actually we do receive something when we pray, even though it may not be what was requested. In fact, many are the times when someone is surprised by the way God responds, because what had seemed like a rejection actually turns out to be an unexpected benefit.

Prayer, whether for ourselves or on behalf of others, demands faith. Without our faith in God and Christ and the Holy Spirit, why pray at all? We pray because we believe that God does hear us.

Together over the past 22 months you and I as a congregation have been called upon to pray. We've been called upon to pray for the Mission and Ministry of Pilgrim Christian Church and its future, and for God to bring into our midst a leader, guide, and friend as the Settled Pastor. You will be asked to pray that the whole congregation step up to the challenges of supporting this Ministry and its New Minister with your time, talent, and financial support. Also, we have and will continue to pray on behalf of others for some very special needs, some of these people we know well, and some we know very little about. I just want you to know that your prayers have made and will make a difference, for together through our faith we are sharing the light and the love of God, and in so doing we are the Church at work in the world.

UP – BEATS

Is the Lord reaching out to you, inviting you to pitch in? Are you listening, or are you postponing your RSVP? Why not take a couple of minutes to reflect on what He is asking?

We are each a part of the Body of Christ, which is the Christian church. We each have our individual talents and capabilities, and have our unique contributions to be made. (1 Cor. 12:5-6) Talents might be modest, such as pouring a cup of coffee, or offering a smile to brighten another's mood. Any gesture or service that helps another is serving our Lord. It is simply spreading the love that He lavishes on us.

You don't feel loved or lovable? Well, allow us to correct that for one another! Jesus loves EACH OF US. That may seem unbelievable, because we know so many reasons why we are un-deserving. But, He knows those reasons as well as we, yet loves us deeply. Just as we love our children – in spite of their bad behaviors – and just as we want them to love us and love one another, so it is with God and us. (Matt. 22:36-40)

So grab this opportunity to share His love in doing His work. Reach beyond your comfort zone. I'm not urging you to take foolish risks, but to stretch in faith. Try to arrange the time to help as a church officer, giving the long-serving people a respite. They need relief, and you will add vitality in your freshness. Share that love.

Or, be a Sunday School teacher. Our youth need direction, encouragement, and good old Christian Love. Our middle-schoolers, in particular, need activities and focus that help in the growth from childhood to maturity. At this stage, a teacher's profound wisdom may not be so important as his or her being a role model and moral compass. Caring and sharing His love can help strengthen that self-confidence that is now so malleable.

These are just some ways to get involved. Remember, involvement is what we are called to do as lovers and servers of Christ. Meet that challenge. Don't leave it to some other person; to that person, that someone else is YOU. I am confident in assuring you that you can find tremendous satisfaction in serving in Jesus' name.

To paraphrase JFK, "Ask not what your church can do for you, but what can you do for your church." You will be eternally grateful.

In our Lord's love,
Steve Wick, Moderator

THANKS SO MUCH

Dear Pilgrim Christian Family,
A big thank you for everything you do and have done for our family. The service for Mom was beautiful. Rev. Ralph, the singers, our wonderful organ and all the special people who helped in the sanctuary and for bringing and serving the refreshments. The list of caring individuals is endless. Please accept our sincere thank you given with love.

Ron and Connie Hamilton
and family

Dear Members of Pilgrim Christian Church,
Thank you so much for the kindness and welcome you have extended to our group. We have appreciated your support and the lovely meeting space.

God bless,
Cheri Rupnow, Secretary
New Freedom

In case anyone needs us:

New Freedom
150 Court St
Chardon OH 44024
Corner of Washington and Court Streets

Dear Pilgrim Christian Friends,
Thank you for the many expressions of thoughtfulness extended to me during my recent hospital stay and recuperation. Knowing there are caring friends praying for me is a wonderful reassurance.

God bless,
Jay Sage

Dear PCC,
On behalf of DDC Clinic's board of directors and the many families in our community with special needs children, we wish to thank you for your recent donation of \$396.

Sincerely,
Enos Hershberger, Pres.

ADOPT A HOME DELIVERED MEAL ROUTE

The Geauga County Department on Aging is in need of Home Delivered Meal Drivers from our local churches. Parishioners can enjoy the fact that they are helping local seniors, while giving positive exposure to the community. These volunteers, once trained, can deliver meals as little as once a month or as often as they would like. Many churches or civic groups send different individuals from their organization to cover the same route.

Routes usually take between one and one-half to two hours from start to finish. Just think, a couple hours of your time provides a nutritious lunch and a friendly face for 10 to 15 homebound seniors.

Parishioners or staff members who are 18 years of age or older, have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance are needed by the Department on Aging.

To become a Geauga County Department on Aging HDM driver, call (440)279-2130 or 564-7131, 834-1856 ext. 2130 and ask for Bill Phillips.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

We are accepting new orders for Memorial Bricks, to be dedicated on All Saints Sunday, November 2. Please fill out the order form enclosed, exactly with all vital information and return with payment to the office. Call the Church office as soon as possible if you do not receive this information in a timely manner.

NEW WORSHIP TIMES

First Worship: 9 am
Adult Sunday School: 9:15 am
Second Worship: 10:30 am
Adult Sunday School: 10:30 am
Hope to see you at one of these opportunities to worship!!!

SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

Place flowers on the altar table to honor or remember your loved ones or a special day. Cost is \$36 for two vases, or share the Sunday with someone for \$18 each.

TRICK OR TREAT GOODIES

October 30 or 31 we will be having a "Trick or Treat" give-away for the community in front of the church. **WE NEED DONATIONS OF CANDY, CASH OR COMMITMENT** (to stand outside and help pass things out to the little "ghouls" and "goblins"). It is really a fun night and a great way to meet and greet the church's neighbors and the Chardon community. The city is unsure which night it will be (as of the time of this printing) as there may be a high school football game on Friday night at the stadium. Please bring donations to the church by Sunday, October 26. Thanks for making this a great community outreach project.

WAY TO GO BOBBY!!

Through his 4-H involvement, Bobby Campbell was asked to do a community service project. He arranged a square dance as a fundraiser for our Food Cupboard. Each dancer was asked to pay \$5 as an entry fee or the equivalent in food or paper products. Through his efforts Bobby raised between \$170 to \$200 in cash and donations for the Food Cupboard. We are proud of you and your thoughtfulness towards those these fortunate.

GEAUGA CO-OP NEWS

Interested in knowing what our sister churches in the county are doing? Geauga Co-Op now has a website. Go to www.geaugaweb.com and keep up on the happenings. Information can be submitted to the website by going to williambrandes@gmail.com.

Also remember that you can give your old appliances to the Co-Op for distribution to those less fortunate. Minor repairs will be made to them if needed.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Greetings! Thank you for supporting all of our September activities.

- School supplies were delivered to Geauga Jobs and Family Services for local students, to Cleveland Christian Home, and to the West Side Ecumenical Ministry for distribution to inner city children.
- A healthy, yummy meal was delivered to Project Hope for the Homeless.
- The 5th Sunday offering for Church World Service/Blanket Sunday, \$556.
- CROP Walk supporting global and local hunger. Our PCC food cupboard receives funds from this effort. If you were not able to contribute but would still like to, send your donation to church.

Disbursements: \$200 for Rev. Ralph's mission trip.

Opportunities to serve in October:

- Project Hope meal Thursday, October 9.
- The Cell Out, October 22, 12 noon to 6 pm. See article elsewhere in Visitor.
- Join your Mission team. We are always looking for new members and especially need another helper or two for Project Hope on the afternoon of second Thursdays.
- Fall clean up days for senior citizens. The first opportunity helping in August was such a success and felt so good, we are going to do it again! Look for more info as the leaves begin to fall. We will have both a Saturday and Sunday to help and share God's love with our community.

Thank you and God bless you for all you do. Love, peace and blessings,

Your Mission Committee

CELL OUT

The Cell OUT is an organized cell phone usage boycott from 12 pm to 6 pm on October 22 to bring awareness of the Congo conflict over the natural resources, Coltan, used in many electronic devices has caused many Congolese people to be killed since 1996. Coltan is a mineral mined illegally in the Congo by rebel militia and foreign forces then sold to multinational corporations. Watch Sunday's church bulletin for more information.

PRAYER CONCERNS, NEEDS, JOYS AND BLESSINGS

Prayers for Healing

- Dorothy Inghram** is recovering from surgery.
- Gladys Ryan** is at home after a stay at Hospice.
- Wanda Ash** as she will be facing additional shoulder surgery.
- Clarie McClelland** is recovering at home after surgery.
- Bob Eldridge** is recovering from knee replacement.
- Betsy Griffin** as she continues her treatments.
- Olga Minotti**, Lisa Laino's mother, as she recovers from a concussion from a fall.
- Robert Hunter**, Gwen Carlson's father as he continues treatments for Lymphoma.
- Jan Dillon** for complete healing from surgery.
- Bill Boyles** for healing and guidance for future medical procedures.
- Sandy Hedrick**, Eric Hedrick's mother is recovering from surgery.
- Marala Schmucker** as she recovers from major foot surgery.
- Chris Matthews**, Beth Matthews' son, as he recovers from foot surgery.

Special Prayers and Needs

- Clara Rayl** is now living at Altercare of Mentor.
- Margaret Funk**, Carol Penrod's mother, is now living at Briar Hill Residence.
- Ann Ash** continues on Hospice care at home.
- Rev. Ralph** for a safe mission trip.

Prayers of Sympathy

- Geraldine Hamilton**, Ron Hamilton's mother passed away on August 31.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

- Gerry Lancaster** had a successful sky diving jump.
- Lisa Laino** celebrated her fourth anniversary as choir director on September 9.
- Betty Ballantine**, Mazie Smith's mother is back at the Residence and recovering well.
- Brian Kvet** passed his comps and is teaching at Kent.
- David Carlson** had successful cataract surgery.
- Jay Sage** is recovering well.

Prayers for Guidance

- Search Committee of PCC** as they continue their quest to find a pastor.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

(Grades 9 through 12)

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday School - every Sunday, right after the 9 o'clock service. Come, grab some snacks, and study God's Word.

We are studying the book of Nehemiah - a guy who rebuilt a broken down city (Jerusalem), when others laughed and said it couldn't be done. But he had courage, vision, and God on his side. *And he succeeded.* Lets learn from his example, and rebuild our youth group and church.

Regular Scheduled Youth Meetings - The youth group will have meetings as scheduling (your schedule) allows. This is an insanely busy time of the school year. Football, drama, band, cross-country, work, and ..oh yeah .. classes. How do you guys do it all? I'll be in touch with email and phone calls with details on some get togethers.

Remember - Fridays after home games - **5th quarter bonfires** - food, music, and fun. If you need a ride, we'll get you there.

This month's scripture verse -

"Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations;"

Psalm 119: 89-90

Got Tunes? - Hey, why not listen to the good stuff? If you love great music, without lame commercials, then check out Air 1 ; **90.9FM** or listen online at **air1.com**

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

***** Call anytime for help with anything - we are always here for you. *****

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

-continued-

NEED A RIDE? Always a lift available to or from Sunday School or Youth Group. CALL ME!!!

Ray and Lisa Laino: Home 286-1778
Cell 440-223-3637
rlaino@windstream.net

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL CLAM BAKE

**Sunday, October 12 at 3 pm
at Gerry Lancaster's home**

\$15.00 includes 1 dozen clams, sweet potato, corn on the cob, chicken, chowder, beverage and dessert. \$5.00 extra for t-bone steak and \$5.00 extra for additional dozen of clams. Call Bruce Carson, 286-1101 or Ken Temple, 286-4159 for reservations by October 3.

TRIVIA NIGHT (or ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 4TH GRADER)

The Chardon area Kiwanis presents their first Trivia Night on Saturday, November 15 at Pilgrim Christian Church. Bring the entire family for an evening of fun. How many useless facts have you forgotten (or remember)?

The women of the church will provide a roast beef or chicken dinner with all the accompaniments. Cost of the evening is \$25.00 per person for reservations received by November 5; \$30.00 per person for reservations received after November 5.

Prize Raffle, 50/50 Drawing, door prizes and cash prize for the winning team. Team size should be no more than eight players.

The Kiwanis provide scholarships for area students and other community services. Please support them and have a fun evening.

The Visitor October 2008
Pilgrim Christian Church
202 S. Hambden Street
Chardon, OH 44024

Office: 440-285-8791 Fax: 440-285-3116
Web: www.chardonpcc.org.
E-mail: ChardonPCC@windstream.org.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Deacons

Jan Boyles, Captain
Laura Kobuszewski
Judy Hederstrom
Jan Stewart

David Carlson
Mike Kobuszewski
Paul Hederstrom

Elders

Phil King

Trustee of the Month

Ken Temple

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Oct. 2 - Paul Moore, Bill Boyles
Oct. 3 - Larry Curry
Oct. 4 - Terry Tincher
Oct. 5 - Mary Wick
Oct. 6 - Dana Day
Oct. 10 - Lindsay Griffin
Oct. 11 - Taylor Godine
Oct. 13 - Gretchen Hull
Oct. 14 - Jack Bennett
Oct. 15 - Darby Weber, Lyall Huntoon
Oct. 16 - Maria Laino
Oct. 17 - Bunny Nelson
Oct. 19 - Cassidy King
Oct. 20 - Fred Inderlied
Oct. 23 - Robin Smith
Oct. 26 - Brian Wolfe
Oct. 28 - B.J. Penrod and Paul Stefanko
Oct. 31 - Ray Laino



Hope you all have a great birthday! If your name is missing from the birthday list, please call the church office. Thank you.

October

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 PM Elders meeting	2 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 3 pm Men's Fellowship Clambake	6	7 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal	8 7 PM Trustees meeting	9 Project Hope Dinner 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12	13	14 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal	15 6:30 PM Consistory Meeting	16 1 PM Pilgrim Guild Lunch 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19	20 7 PM Friendship Guild meeting in parlor	21 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal	22 4 PM Hot Meals in East Cleveland	23 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26	27	28 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal	29	30 6 PM Brass Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	31 Trick or Treat	

November

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 All Saints Day	3	4 7 pm Handbell Rehearsal	5	6 6 pm Brass Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9	10	11 7 pm Handbell Rehearsal	12 7 pm Elders and Trustees meetings	13 Project Hope Dinner 6 pm Brass Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 6:30 pm Kiwanis Trvia Night in Fellowship Hall
16	17 7 pm Friendship Guild	18 7 pm Handbell Rehearsal	19 7 pm Consistory meeting	20 1 pm Pilgrim Guild Lunch 6 pm Brass Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23	24	25 7 pm Handbell Rehearsal	26 4 pm Hot Meals in East Cleveland	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30						

MEMORIAL BRICKS

Memorial Bricks for our Prayer Garden may be ordered in memory of your loved one(s). These bricks will be dedicated on a date to be determined. Please complete the form below and return to the church office with your check made out to Pilgrim Christian Church. Please decide if you would like your message centered on the brick or lined up on the left. Note: these bricks are for memorial only (no honorary). ****ONE FORM PER BRICK**** Additional forms are available in the church office.

One 4" x 8" standard brick: \$50

15 characters per line (including spaces)

Up to 3 lines per brick

One 8" x 8" larger brick: \$100

15 characters per line (including spaces)

Up to 5 lines per brick

Please print my brick as noted above. I have carefully checked my spelling and spacing.

Name: _____ Phone # _____

(Office Use Only)

Date recd _____ Amount recd \$ _____ Check # _____

To: The Members of Pilgrim Christian Church

From: The 2009 Nominating Committee

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The nominating committee needs suggestions to help them in selecting nominees to fill the slate of officers needed for next year. Each member of the congregation is asked to nominate potential candidates for the upcoming year. Nominees must be a member of the church, but if in doubt, nominate! The nominating committee will verify eligibility. We also urge you to seriously consider holding office. You CAN nominate yourself. Eligible nominees will be contacted for their consent before being put onto the ballot.

The duties of the various offices are detailed in the church constitution. Copies of the constitution (Revised 1992) are available in the Narthex, and in the church office. All of the nominating committee members have held several church offices and would welcome your questions. Please check one or more of the offices below about which you would consider talking to the nominating committee.

_____ Deacon
(2 year term)

_____ Board of Trustees
(3 year term)

_____ Board of Christian Ed.
(3 year term)

_____ Board of Elders
(3 year term)

_____ Board of Christian Ed
(1 year term)

*I would like to suggest the name of _____
for nomination to the office of _____

*I would like to join Pilgrim Christian Church in order to serve _____

The 2009 nominating committee members are:

Deborah Schirm	256-3327	Roz Kvet	286-4497	Jan Stewart	285-9292
Sheri Farrell	286-5606	Charlene Heiden	285-2360	Paul Moore	286-8211
Joan Lawrence	286-4154				

Please return this form by placing it in the collection plate, bringing it to the church office Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., mailing to Pilgrim Christian Church, 202 South Hambden St., Chardon 44024; or emailing to chardonpcc@windstream.net .

WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE BY OCT. 26, 2008.

Your name _____ Phone _____