



Cornerstone

. . . building ministry with children,
youth and families so that our
community may flourish.

July 2018

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

EQUIPPED AND EQUIPPING

*May the God of peace... equip you with every-
thing good for doing his will. (Hebrews 13:20-
21)*

God gives us everything we need to suc-
ceed in our Jesus-life. The writer of Hebrews
refers to this as equipping and it is similar to
providing a sports team with the necessary
training and equipment to succeed.

Reading the Bible we learn that God will
not just provide us with material things we
need; God will also become our strength,
our wisdom, and our guidance. God will
open doors of support and close doors that
will take us in the wrong direction.

God Equips Us Through Others. One
way God will equip us is through family,
friends, and co-workers. There are many
ways they can support us, but the most im-
portant thing they can do is model a Jesus-
life for us and help us bring our fears, con-
cerns, and struggles into the light, so God
can move us into a faith that abandons all

fears.

God equips others through us. The Jesus-
life in us can help others see God as an en-
courager and a supporter, and Jesus as a lov-
ing 'friend who sticks closer than a broth-
er' (Proverbs 18:24)

Who is equipping us? Who are we equip-
ping to grow in their Jesus-life; in their spiritual
lives?

Peace, Pastor Chip



Life at the Table

I have found that this life is short enough and long enough
to laugh at honest clowns and to weep at requiem
To break bread with a beggar and to accept a gift from a king,
To walk with a child at her pace and to stretch to the step of the wise.

This life with all its graces is a table spread for feasting
A Host who asks our presence has meat and bread and brimming cup we can never taste
until we take them into ourselves with costly pledge.
Some look through the window and walk by, while life is at the table.

-William Hogg



News and Notes

To our Church Family: Where do I start to say thanks? I think with the love of the church family which you have showered upon us so generously during John's illness. That love just never stopped giving – cards, prayers, visits, whatever we needed, we were never alone.

Thanks to those who served during the time of visitation and the funeral – with lights, audio, video, cookies, punch-everything we needed. I didn't ask. It was already there. You are wonderful. God bless.

Ann, Johnny and Tammy, Rick, Jim and Elena, Debbie and Jay, Jan and Mike Bless you for your expression of sympathy. It brought so much comfort.

John Hileman Family
p.s. I appreciate the KJV Bible, too.

A Great Purpose

There is no circumstance, no trouble, no testing, that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ, right through to me.

If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose, which I may not understand at the moment. But I refuse to become panicky, as I lift up my eyes to him and accept it as coming from the throne of God for some great purpose of blessing to my own heart.

-Alan Redpath

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Scriptures and Messages for July 2018

July 1, 2018-Communion

Scripture Reading—Genesis 25:19-34
Message—'True Value'

July 8, 2018

Scripture reading—Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Message—'Jealousy'

July 15, 2018

Sr. High Lakeside Institute

July 22, 2018

Scripture reading—Genesis 45:1-5
Message—'Reconciliation'

July 29, 2018

Scripture readings—Romans 12:9-18,
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18, Mathew 18:15-22, 1Peter 4:8-11
Message—'Characteristics of Godly Relationships'

UMW & HSP & Food Pantry

The Rockford UM Women met on June 20, 2018 with 11 members present. President Nita Habegger presided over the meeting.

In Nancy's absence, Dee VanTilburg had the Prayer, Care and Share. Dee shared a couple reading from Mae Thomas' book: "In the Garden" and "God's Way". Dee asked for prayer concerns: Tom Stephenson, Judy Stephenson, Eric Stephenson, Ruth Myers, Lou Ann Sigler, family of Elsie and Lowell Beougher. She offered prayer for all concerns.

The Secretary report was read and approved. Treasurers report was given. We have \$4,629.97 in the treasury. Thank you notes were received and read from Challenger Baseball, Fisher Nightingale House for our donations and one from John Hileman family. Ann gave a very generous donation to the group.

The Ice Cream Social was discussed. Ann Hileman will ask for ice cream makers, Barb Sidenbender and Jean Henkle will be making the potato salad, Ann will solicit for pies and cakes. Joan Fox will get help set up for day of the social along with preparing other food items. Refreshments of sherbet, ice cream and fixings for sundaes, wafers and punch were served by Marlene Roebuck and Joan Fox.

Attending the meeting were Barb Sidenbender, Martha Sidenbender, Marlene Roebuck, Nita and Taya Habegger, Neva Ransbottom, Dee VanTilburg, Janet Steffy, Karen Nuttle, Ann Hileman and Joan Fox.

Parkway Local Food Pantry

A ministry to our area communities facilitated by the Rockford United Methodist Church

LOCATION: East Columbia Street OPEN: Fourth Saturday of each month from 9-11 am
Rockford OH 45882

The current needs for the Parkway Local Food Pantry are: cans of baked beans, cans of fruit and peanut butter. Items can be placed in the plastic bin under the mailboxes outside the church Sanctuary. Thank you! The Parkway Local Food Pantry, located next to Helping Hands on East Columbia Street, is available to anyone living within the Parkway School District. It is open to distribute food boxes the 4th Saturday of each month.

The Henderson Settlement Project (HSP) Mission Team will once again travel to Bell County, Kentucky in July. Part of our mission the past few years has been to donate food and toiletry items to their food pantry and personal care closet. If you would like to help the HSP Team with these donations, we will collect specific items each month from March until July 17th. A bin labeled "Henderson Settlement Donations" is located under the mailboxes outside the Sanctuary. The following items are being collected:

June/July: baking mix (ex. Jiffy, 40 oz. box); cornmeal

If you have questions, please contact Karla Butler.

Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life;
and to say a man lives a life of faith and yet lives a prayerless life
is every whit as inconsistent and incredible as to say that a man lives without breathing.

He that lives a prayerless life lives without God in the world.

How can you expect to dwell with God forever if you so neglect and forsake him here?



Adage from Ann

Almost a full month has passed since John died, and it has been an entirely new walk for me. In preparing for one of our class's Sunday School lessons I read about widows and how the children were required to care for their parents, and it was kind of a shaky moment when I realized that I was a widow now. Then I thought with gratitude how comfortably I am situated in my own house with two freezers full of food, and how my son-in law Jay suggests I work at getting it down to one freezer full of food. He is right, of course.

This morning I have decided that the flower arrangement from the funeral that had the slate piece with the picture of John and the farm tractor in it must go. The dried wheat in it is entirely appropriate, but the dried carnations and roses need to be disposed of. This past weekend was our annual family reunion, and my son Jim, Elena, Santiago, and Marina stayed with me. I saw Marina stop by the arrangement with the picture of John and just look at it for a minute or two before quietly walking away. I had heard Jim telling someone that Santiago had understood the meaning of his grandfather's death, but Marina was still trying to assimilate it.

It was a bittersweet weekend for all of us. Elena had been in Spain when John passed, and he of course was gone when she arrived, and that made her tearful, and add to that her father, Juan Antonio, has lung cancer, and has just finished the chemo part. She received word over the weekend that he was starting to run a fever. He is scheduled to start radiation soon, so she is worried about him. If that wasn't enough, my son-in-law, Mike Stephenson's mother, Anna Lee, passed away, and her funeral was on Sunday. However, we are a family of believers and we know that this is the process by which God takes his children to be with Himself, and in God's time we

will join them.

I think the one thing above all else that I would want everyone to know is that God answers prayer. Then we might ask, Why wasn't John healed? Prayers we know were offered from Europe to California, and from Venezuela to Canada. What happened? God in His mercy decided that it worked better in His plan to take John home. I, of course, wish it wouldn't have had to be that way. BUT when I think of all the possible problems John was dealing with, starting with the possible mental problems—then I remember Romans 8:28 "All things work together for the good of those who love God and are according to His purpose." Well, they have worked together for John's good that is for certain; how about mine?

I can truly say that God has been faithful to me. From the moment that we decided to remove life support from John, He has given me an abundance of grace to lift and carry me each day. God is who He says He is. The overwhelming pain that you would expect is not there because God takes it away from me. That is my testimony. There are some pitfalls, though. I do not dare look very far into the future because it is fearful for me, overwhelming and bleak. God gives me abundant grace, but only for today—one day at a time. I think that has something to do with having faith.

Another thing that I have found is that I am open to Satan's jabs. An example was this past weekend. I had done some laundry which included John's clothes. It seemed logical that I give them away instead of putting them in the closet, and I got out his summer shirts besides. I could almost hear John's voice saying, "couldn't you even wait until I was gone a month to get rid of my clothing?" I knew I was doing the reasonable thing, but it hurt anyway; then I remembered, and I

said, "Get thee behind me, Satan, and take all your fears and doubts with you because I am a child of God." The first part is repeating what Jesus said to Satan, and to repeat Jesus words is always appropriate. The rest is my words, and are not necessarily appropriate. Nevertheless, the results are always the same: instantly the jab/pain is gone and even the thought of what ran through my mind. So there is no doubt of where the problem came; and please learn to stop this problem quickly, or he will make your life a misery if you are a Christian.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who participated in John's visitation and funeral. I am so grateful that it could be in the church. John and I had discussed this quite a while ago and decided that it was our choice. What we had not considered was how much extra work it was going to cause everyone, but no one complained; in fact everyone was so loving. The church was so full of love. You could feel it, both during the visitation and during the funeral, and during the luncheon. Thank you to all who made it a perfect day, with the sound system, computer system, Janice, Chip, Susan, Kara, Joan and all the UMW ladies, Marcia, to all those I have forgotten, and most of all praise and thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who hovered over us and blest us on that day.

Grace be unto you, too, and Peace from the Lord Jesus Christ now and forever.

Ann

The Faith We Sing

In the week of June 17 four of us took three days vacation to travel to Strasburg, PA, just south of Lancaster, PA to the Sight & Sound Theater. If you have never heard of it, following is some info.

The Sight & Sound Theater building is very large and sits on beautifully landscaped acreage. Inside the building is a 180 degree panoramic stage that presents musical epic Bible stories.

Sight & Sound Theater is the nation's largest Christian theater company and one of the highest attended theaters. We had heard it seats 2000 people but someone this time said that the theater seats 3500 guests. While we were there every seat was filled, and when you consider that they perform two to three times per day, that is amazing. For this reason there are several rotating casts. In addition to the cast, live trained animals are used throughout the performance, along with many specialized backdrops, (ex. the Sea of Galilee) and each set of scenery is stunning as it moves and changes on the stage for each scene. It is difficult to explain how extensive this presentation is, I'll just say, "You have to see it to believe it."

Whenever I mention this theater to someone, it amazes me that so many have not heard of it, but Sight & Sound for four decades has brought the Bible to life on stage. We first heard of it through a friend. We have enjoyed each presentation so much that we have gone back through the years and seen the following: Noah, Samson, Joseph, Moses, Jonah, In The Beginning (Adam and Eve's story) and now Jesus.

"Jesus" has been four years in the making. Act 1 included "The Boys of Galilee," (the disciples) "The Docks of Capernaum," "Miraculous Catch," (Jesus filling

the nets with fish) "Sermon on the Mount," "Pilgrimage to Jerusalem," "Martha's House," "The Temple," "Nicodemus," "Boat Ride to Gadarenes," "Magdala," and "Walking on Water."

Act 2 was "Lazarus," "Triumphal Entry," "Pharisees Plot," "Judas' Betrayal," "The Last Supper," "Garden of Gethsemane," "The Capture, Trial & Crucifixion," "Joseph's Tomb," "Resurrection," "Pentecost," and the finale was "Peter's Sermon." "Jesus" lasted 2 1/2 hours with a 15 minute intermission.

There is a Sight & Sound Theater in Branson, Missouri but the one in PA is the original. When each presentation ends, the show is taken to Branson in 37 semi trucks. Lancaster and Branson alternate the productions back and forth. We like going to PA, even if it is further to drive, because it is located in Amish country and there are many other things to do and see. An hour southwest is Gettysburg to visit if that is a planned part of the trip. The Flight 93 Memorial is near to the area. Also Hershey, PA, if you like chocolate!!!

If you have never gone to Sight & Sound Theater, plan to go, it is well worth your time. Ticket prices and more info can be found on the internet by entering Sight & Sound Theaters. If for some reason you order tickets and then cannot go when planned, you receive credit for a later time. And if you are a veteran there is a discount on the ticket price. For an additional price a backstage tour can be had, (which we did another time) and it is also very informative.

Since we saw "Jesus" I chose to write of the hymn HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS. It is not a familiar hymn but some of the lyrics

speak of how the name of Jesus soothes sorrows, heals wounds, calms our troubles, and is manna to the hungry soul. The name of Jesus is rest to the weary, our shield, and treasure. Jesus is our Shepherd, brother, friend, prophet, King, Lord, life, our way and end and HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS in a believer's ear!

John Newton was 80, quite deaf and almost blind, but he still continued to preach. For his final sermon, he brought an aide to read and during the reading of Newton's message, Newton kept repeating loudly, "Jesus Christ is precious." The aide reminded Newton that he had already said that several times, to which Newton replied this time with a shout, "Yes, I said it and I'll say it again! Jesus Christ is precious." Then he asked the congregation to sing a hymn he had written years before, HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS. Newton died not that day, but very shortly after,

Philippians 2:9-10a
 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . ."

Janice



Administrative Board—June 19, 2018

Casey Nuttle, Chairman called the meeting to order. Prayer concerns: Tom Stephenson, Judy Stephenson and son Eric, LouAnn Sigler Cleveland for tests and for traveling mercies, Ruth Myers will be having surgery next month. A praise: Joe Nuttle and Dean Ulrey are doing better. Casey prayed the Building Team Prayer.

Secretary Report – The minutes from the May meeting were distributed to members. John Butler moved to approve minutes and Misty Bolenbaugh seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Fisher gave the treasurer's report highlighting the beginning balance, itemized expenditures and ending balance. Steve plans to send in another \$3000 towards Conference Apportionments. Karen Nuttle moved to approve report and Ann Hileman seconded. Passed.

Focus in Ministry – Pastor Chip – Thursday night Craig Miller of Horizons Stewardship will give a presentation of potential and possibility of a Capital Campaign to Ad Board members and any member of the Building Team at 7 pm. Craig will give another presentation at 8 pm for Trustees.

Lay Leadership – Pastor Chip – They will meet in August and will begin to identify leadership in 2019.

Multi-media – John Butler – nothing to report.

Pastor Parish Relations – Eric Schwieterman – They will meet in June and will be working on evaluations of the other members of the staff.

HSP – Loren Shindeldecker – They will be going to Henderson on July 22 and returning July 28.

Audio – Mike Pedroza – nothing to report.

Computer Systems – Casey Nuttle and John Butler – They need to do some updates and

John Butler will look into this.

Video – Tom Ransbottom – no report.

Video Ministries – Barb Pedroza – all is going good.

Worship – Paula Linn – July 15 the youth will share their Lakeside experience. On August 12, the singing auctioneer, Dane Bailey, will be in both services. August 19, annual conference and HSP will give their report.

Christian Education Team – Nathan Rupp – nothing to report.

Missions – Karen Nuttle – The bikers (18) will be coming on June 29 and 30. They plan to arrive around 5 pm on June 29.

UM Women – Ann Hileman – Women will meet on Wednesday and discuss the Ice Cream Social scheduled for July 29.

Kids Club – Nathan Rupp – no report.

Jr. High/Sr High Youth – Nathan Rupp – We had a good Lock-in on June 8. Leaving for Lakeside on June 23 at noon. We have 2 youth going to Henderson in July. Lakeside Sunday is July 15. We have 1 youth, Tazmin Archer, going to Camp Wesley. VBS went well with average daily attendance of 160. We will host VBS at our church next June. Having second taco and movie night tonight. Our next taco and movie night is July 10. We plan on going laser tagging July 11.

Thank you for continued prayers and support of the youth.

Scouting/Camping – Steve Fisher – Nothing new to report.

Camping – Deb Call – Nothing to report.

Memorial – The Memorial Fund is in a savings account

Outreach Committee – Nothing to report.

Building Team – Matt Fisher – Will meet on Thursday night.

Small Group Coordinator – Kevin Browning – no report.

Director of Print communications

– **Tina Waltmire** – nothing to report.

Finance – Steve Fisher – Steve presented the report and next month he will give a report through the first 6 months of the year.

Trustees – John Butler – We have been having some air conditioning issues.

We have installed some security measures. All doors of the church will be locked. We are working to get an AED for the church. The fire drill for both services was successful. Pastor Chip will be gone July 15 and will be on vacation a week in August.

John Butler moved to adjourn the meeting and Misty Bolenbaugh seconded. Passed. Pastor Chip closed with prayer. Those attending were Casey Nuttle, Karen Nuttle, Misty Bolenbaugh, Pastor Chip, Dick Sherrick, John Butler, Steve Fisher, Ann Hileman and Joan Fox.



Happy 4th of July!

Notes from Nathan

Security Team News –

The Team has met and begun the process of making our church more safe and secure for everyone.

On June 17, we practiced a fire drill. 8:30 service attenders were out of the building in 1:08; 10:30 service attenders were out of the building in 1:34. There were things which went well. There are also things that need work. Thanks to all who were attentive and responsive to the need for this practice.

Video doorbells have been installed at the front ramp door and at the south glass hallway door. All doors to the church will be locked during business hours, Monday through Friday, to protect church staff. Access for those who have keys will not change, but anyone entering through those 2 doors will be video recorded. Entry through those doors for those without keys may be possible by ringing the doorbell. Office staff will respond as quickly as possible to open the door. The door at the east end of the building will always be locked to protect those in the nursery and Jr. Church. Two-way radios are available for communication from remote locations in the building to an usher during worship services.

Security team members are Darrell Sheppard, Mike Pedroza, Ron Waltmire, Kara Rupp, Dean Ulrey, Steve Fisher, Norm Pankop, Pastor Chip. Many thanks to Police Chief Paul May who has offered much assistance and advice to make our building more safe.

Youth

As June is wrapping up the Sr. High youth will be coming back from Lakeside. June has been a busy time with our game night lock in, our taco movie Tuesday kick off, and VBS. Our taco and movie night has been good we have had 2 in June and will have 2 more in July. We watched War Room and The Case For Christ and have discussed them during youth group.

VBS went really well and we averaged 160 each day! VBS is a great time for kids to connect with Christ as they hear and experience the love of Christ through the lessons and leaders. Next year will be our turn to host. We will need your help when that time comes!

Our Lakeside participants this year were Treya Conn, Sydney Waters, Bailey Strickler, Jordan Feldes, Trey Ransbottom, Preston Browning, Abi Browning, Bea Salway, Kevin Browning, Nathan, Kara, and as house parents Chris and Kristen McDorman and family. It has been nice to have house parents to keep the house in order.

Also, while the Sr. High youth were at Lakeside Tazmin Archer was also at Camp Wesley for a survival camp.

We have many more things in July for the youth and also Jordan Feldes and Tina Lane will be going on the Henderson Mission trip.

Thank you for keeping the youth in your prayers!

Acts 5:29

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer will be presenting 'I Believe in the Church' throughout the West Ohio Conference in September and October.

The closest location to RUMC is at Kenton First UMC in Kenton on October 8, 2018.

This is an evening of inspiration, worship, testimony and sharing.

All West Ohio United Methodists are encouraged to attend.

More details to come.



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8:30 am TRADITIONS Worship and Praise
Education Classes for all ages—9:30 am
10:30 am ENGAGE Worship and Praise

To build community by knowing Christ, grow-

Ice Cream

Social

Sunday, July 29, 2018

Featuring homemade ice cream

Served from 4:30-6:30 pm

Rockford UM Church Social Room