

MAY & JUNE
2018



THE CLARION



Our purpose: To love the Lord, love one another, and make disciples for Jesus

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

John 17:3-4

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
NKJV

As you know, one of the servants of God I truly love is Evangelist Billy Graham. I never got to attend his crusades, but through the years I have found myself glued to the television listening to every word. I have in the past watched and listened as he gave the invitation, the old hymn *Just as I am* would open the flood gate of joyful tears as hearts surrendered to Christ.

As I think about my ministry, I dare not make a comparison to the work of Billy Graham. However, he taught me several key things that directed my thoughts and ministry. One: there is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun. Only two ways, and we all must choose one direction or the other. Two: It is only through the preaching of the Cross that men will be saved. Three: We must be born again of the Spirit. The old nature must die; we must live in accordance with **God's Word**, the Bible.

Billy has gone on to His reward in heaven, but his sermons live on through the hearts and lives of those who responded to the invitation. The reason is that his words were directly from God's Word and therefore they are eternal and everlasting.

I pray that as I prepare for retirement that the words of my mouth have had eternal consequences for the people under my charge. With all the blatant attacks on the Bible and its truth I still stand upon God's Holy Word. *Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God will stand forever.* We are watching our culture overshadow the larger church, we are seeing and hearing things we never thought we would experience. But be assured the message of the Cross, *Jesus virgin birth, death and resurrection* is still the one and only way!

I am excited about the appointment of Rev. Randy Weaver to Christ Church. He and his wife Candy come ready to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. As you welcome them into the Christ Church Family, commit now to lift them in prayer as you have done for me and Shirley. Each one of us passes through seasons of ministry standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

I have stood on the shoulders of R.C. Long, F.H. Lemasters, A. Williams, R. Mattern, K. Mansfield, and many others who have faithfully served here to share the gospel. Rev Randy will stand on our shoulders and someday others will stand on his as well. Always remember it is God's work—He gets all the Glory!

There will be a temporary parting of the ways here on earth. But look up, for the time is coming when all the Saints of the ages will be reunited in heaven where we will never part again. And we will be in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Until then Love Him, serve Him and live for Him every day.

We love you all,
Sturman and Shirley

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

Our area team has adopted Matthew 28:19 as our scripture for 2018. "Go ye therefore unto all the nations and make disciples; baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

As you are aware, these shoeboxes go to all Nations that we are allowed to ship to. Many families find Jesus because YOU care.

Figures for 2017:

Rolling Plains, National Collection Center:	9,977 (decrease)
CUMC Drop-Off Location:	1,684 we were the leader in our area
CUMC Congregation	137 (increase)
Nationwide	11,000,000 (decrease)

Our numbers unfortunately were down everywhere due to Hurricanes Harvey, Maria and probably the rise in shipping costs. Which is still a bargain when you think about it. I was told that those extra two dollars can be absorbed because now we can't send toothpaste or candy. So, that money can be applied to shipping. (Food for thought) Pun intended!

I would like to add that if you would like to pack a shoebox and can't afford the \$9 for shipping, please don't allow that to stop you. God will make a way.

For those who like to keep up with the figures:

CUMC DOL	2014 - 1,071 2015 - 1,425 2016 - 1,630 2017 - 1,684
GOAL	2018 - 1,685 or more
Collection Center	2014 - 8,564 2015 - 10,298 2016 - 10,993 2017 - 9,977
GOAL	2018 - 12,500

Nationwide	2014 - 8,765,637 2015 - 11,200,000 2016 - 11,485,662 2017 - 11,000,000
GOAL	2018 - 12,000,000

That's a lofty goal but we don't want to put God in a box. Think of it as 12,000,000 children given the opportunity to hear the gospel and feel loved.

Our "local" region increased from five counties to seven this year. They are: Muskingum, Guernsey, Morgan, Noble, Washington, Perry and Athens. And soon to add Nelsonville. Corporate evidently sees the mission mindedness of SouthEastern Ohio and is putting us to the test. Can we do it? Yes, we can!!

Reminder: You can and should begin early. If you haven't already started buying, do so now. Include family, friends and children. If you belong to an organization, school or sports team, get them involved. Most groups enjoy a project, some are even required. If you need any information or supplies, please let me know. I have boxes and lists, plus ideas to begin.

Note: We like to pray over each group of boxes that are dropped off along with their leader(s). Sometimes things get so hectic that individual prayers get ignored. That's how these items you pack get to the right person who needs each item. It's no mistake. If you would like to volunteer one of the eight days we collect boxes in November to be on hand to simply pray, please contact me personally. We ask that you will and have been praying for this ministry all along. It is a yearly ministry. Collection Week doesn't just begin each November.

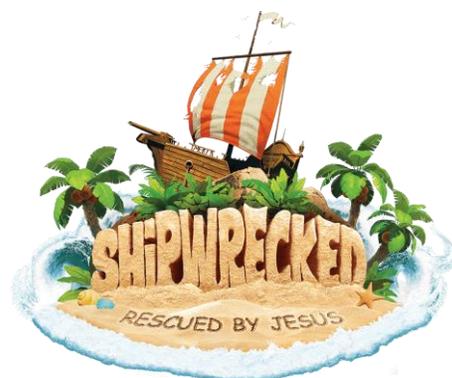
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LOVING THESE KIDS. GOD BLESS!

Teena Vigus, Project Leader

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

VBS is almost here! "Shipwrecked" is this year's VBS theme scheduled for **June 18th - 22nd, 6 to 8:15 P.M.** each evening.

The VBS program will be **Sunday, June 24th at 6 P.M.** We are still in need of some Peters to step out of the boat & join the VBS ship crew. Please contact BJ or Bev if you are available to walk on water at 740-801-0583 or 740-680-6687.



FINANCE CENTS

Here is a look at how our church finances look for the first quarter of 2018:
We began the year with a balance of \$57,268.23.

January income:	\$32,401.65	January expenses:	\$34,540.69
February income:	\$22,519.90	February expenses:	\$25,932.04
March income:	\$32,195.96	March expenses:	\$28,101.63

Balance as of March 31 st :	\$55,811.38
Subtraction of designated monies:	- <u>\$41,017.85</u>
Actual General Fund balance:	\$14,793.53

\$41,017.85 of our total balance of \$55,811.38 is designated for specific ministries, which means it can only be used for the specified designation. The remaining \$14,793.53 is in the general fund, which is where the majority of the church's expenditures are paid (utilities, etc). This General Fund balance is roughly half of our \$28,273.74 monthly operating budget. We would like to have at least one month of expenses as a safe guard in that account at all times, and we would like to ask that you prayerfully consider giving more of your contribution to the General Fund so we can build up our reserve balance.

If you have any questions concerning this article or any other finance questions, please contact me at 740-517-5250. I welcome and look forward to them.

Cinda Starr, Finance Chair.



CUMC YOUTH GROUP

Some of the youth from our Youth Group and the leaders recently visited the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. We are all grateful for the support of the church in making it possible for us to have this experience.

Thank you!

Donna Gotschall,
Youth Director





BIRTHDAYS
&
ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary!

May 18 Scott & Jan Walsh
May 23 Dave & Sandy Black
May 24 Bob & Eileen Jones

Happy Birthday!

May 1	Levi Angel	May 15	Ella Cropper
May 2	Lucinda Starr		Dale Huston
May 4	Amy Harper	May 16	Ellie Milner
	Zach Riley	May 17	John Neff
	Isabelle Starr	May 18	Amber Gilcher
May 5	Sandy Black	May 19	Gene Burris
	Amber Smith	May 20	Nettie Love
	Mary Hall	May 21	Joyce Moore
	Ursula Young	May 23	Victoria Scheffer
May 6	Vicki Cox	May 26	Guido Orellana
May 8	Mark Slay		Carol Ratliff
May 11	Rebekah Dodd	May 27	Connor Riley
May 12	Joyce Combs	May 29	Maxine Poole
May 13	Derek Conrad		Cal Rice
May 14	Kim Conrad		

BIRTHDAYS
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Happy Anniversary!

June 4	Gary & Gretta Parrish	June 19	Mike & Lisa Neilson
June 8	Bill & Sharon Cassler		Ken & Nancy Mansfield
	Heath & Aimee Hayes	June 21	Matt & Crystal Wilson
June 10	Aaron & Bridget Todd	June 24	Charles & Brenda Hutchison
June 11	Jim & Ella Cropper	June 26	James & Faith Dodd
June 14	Jim & Bella Dodd	June 28	Don & Diane Wilson

Happy Birthday!

June 1	Nancy Faykus	June 16	Leigh McCauley
	Mike House	June 17	Jan Walsh
June 2	Vickie Lyons	June 18	Wanda Hill
June 5	Thomas Brill	June 23	Evan Todd
	Gene Hutchison	June 24	Sandra Tittle
June 7	Gretta Parrish		Rebekah Zaleski
	Christa Riley	June 25	Tim Todd
June 8	Brian McGaha	June 26	Shelley Kirkbride
June 10	Betty Dodd	June 27	Madyson DeLong
June 11	Jim Dodd	June 28	Cameron House
	Cindy Scheffer		Allyson Johnston
June 12	Bob Wheatley	June 29	Joshua Neff

THE SHEPHERD'S GUIDE

David Ratliff: **Rustic Log Furniture.** Tables, beds, etc. 740-255-4409

Angela: **Stella & Dot Representative.** Stella & Dot offers women's and girls' accessories and their products make great gifts. www.stelladot.com/sites/AMH or 740-680-1170 and amhouserph@yahoo.com

David Kissinger: Energy Consultant – save money on gas and electric bills. 740-630-5605

Tyler & Katie Warne: **Car detailing, washing, waxing, oil change, small engine repairs.** ~ 630-3809

Tim Todd: **Wanted to buy:** old toys, wooden skateboards, and slot cars. ~ 432-5896

Gary Parrish: Need a great gift idea **Design Wood Crafts:** Crosses, trivets wildlife designs. ~ 740-381-5032

Lisa Zaleski & Carolyn Walton: **Mary Kay Representative & Touch of Romance** - Floral arrangements and decorating for weddings, receptions, parties & more. References avail. 432-8669 (Lisa) or 679-2613 (Carolyn).

Mike Warne Jr: **Computer repairs:** 630-6614

Joyce Bates: **Notary Public** ~ 740-255-5402

Cindy Scheffer: **Heaven Scent Confections** ~ 740-439-2062, Baking from home with Love; cookies, brownies, pies, cupcakes, buckeyes, etc. Baking 2 days weekly; taking orders of 1 dozen to ????. Delivery to shut-ins.

Amanda Cox: **Nothing But Chocolate** ~ Specialize in handmade chocolates including Buckeyes, Gourmet Apples and Gourmet Pretzel Rods. 439-5754 www.nothingbutchocolate.com

Aaron Todd: **Vocal Lessons** ~ call Aaron @ 439-9700 if you are interested in taking vocal music lessons.

Penny Warne: **Penny-Mama's Daycare** ~ 630-5547 Twenty+ years of loving your kids while you are at work.

Dale Huston: **Self Defense ~ Kachido Aikijitsu** ~ Classes every Tuesday & Thursday @ The Fieldhouse in Zanesville. Self Defense classes for Children ages 7-12 from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Adult classes ages 13 & up from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. For more information call: 740-704-7409

Kim Conrad: **Tupperware Representative** ~ Call Kim @ 432-3408 or 630-5714 for your Tupperware needs.

If you would like your name added to our list, please contact the church office at 435-1060.
All articles for the July/August edition of The Clarion are due to the office **by 9 am on June 26th.**