



PRESBYTERIAN TIDBITS

The Newsletter of Ottawa Presbyterian Church

150 N. Oak St., Ottawa, OH 45875-1810 ♦ (419) 523-3694

Reverend Ben Shaw ♦ ottawapresby.org

Andrea Morman, *Secretary* ♦ 9:00 am Breakfast ♦ 9:45 am Worship

August 2017

Friends,

One of the things you'll find about me as your pastor is that I like to go to new places. This year my big destination was Washington State, where I spent ten days in early July.

For whatever reason, Princeton Seminary—in New Jersey—gets a ton of students from Washington. And Washingtonians *love* Washington. I spent three years of my life hearing about how great the *coffee* is. How great the *scenery* is. How great the *produce* is. The *culture*. The *food*. The *music*. I've nodded politely through a lot of conversations about the Northwest.

But one thing Washingtonians rave about that I never understood was *The Mountain*. “I feel disoriented when I can't see the mountain”, people would say. “How do people in the East know which direction is which without the mountain?”

They were talking about Mount Rainier—a 14,000-foot volcano that, it turns out, you can see basically all the time in Washington. I saw it from an airplane half an hour before landing, and I saw it every day of the trip.

Except one.

We visited Mount Rainier on the one cloudy day of my trip. The mountain, which, again, you can always see, was hidden from view the one day we went there. The only day of my trip where I never saw the mountain was the day I was halfway up it.

I think sometimes when it comes to our relationship with God, we expect church to be our time on the mountain. We think, “what better place to experience God than in church?” And sometimes, the music, the message, and the fellowship get us there, and from halfway up the mountain we can see the peak and we know which direction is which.

And other days, we get here, but we can't see what we came for. Sometimes the hymns aren't our favorites, the sermon doesn't speak to us, and the people can be cold. Sometimes it makes seeing God harder.

There will always be cloudy days on the mountain, and Sundays when church doesn't really do it for us. That's okay. But it works best when the rest of your days, whatever you're doing, you can see the mountain in the distance and let it guide you.

I was disappointed about my day on Mount Rainier. But it turns out that everyone was right about Washington—it really is great. So whether I was drinking coffee, roaming around a farmer's market, hiking through the woods, or just spending needed time with old friends, I knew I could see the mountain. And I was oriented.

Let your relationship with God be like this—something that orients you all seven days of the week. You'll barely notice the cloudy Sundays.

Blessings for August,

Ben

Approaching Stewardship from a Place of Abundance

The very title of this article – taken from the workshop which this writer attended as part of the Maumee Valley Presbytery – sponsored Stewardship event this past spring – provides a ‘reality check’ concerning our stewardship efforts as: individuals; members of Ottawa Presbyterian Church; and members of the ‘wider church’ (Maumee Valley Presbytery etc.)

As presenter Dan Sauder, third generation member and Executive Vice President of Engineering and New Markets for Sauder Woodworking, emphasized, *“Each of us is blest by our God in ways which tangibly demonstrate His love for us. The decisions we make in the area of personal giving are about far more than annual church budgets or even dollars and cents. They should reflect how we demonstrate our gratitude for the love and care God shows to us each and every day of our lives. Our gratitude should focus on four key areas: acknowledgement of and respect for the value of our faith; the significance of putting our spiritual integrity into action; the importance of stewardship in the life of the church we cherish; and the lasting value of our resources as a tool for serving others.*

Participants were reminded that ‘stewardship’ itself is a broader concept than most people may consider. It encompasses three elements including the giving of our: time, talents, and financial resources.

Though we may focus congregational stewardship efforts primarily on the needed financial resources, each of these elements has a place of importance in God’s eyes. The blending of our commitment to include them all is the best way to express our love for God and His Son.

Adopting a *practical* approach to stewardship is important if we are to assist members and friends of our congregations in their understanding and response. As an example, ideas for *creative stewardship* are to be encouraged. While weekly giving remains at the heart of congregational stewardship, we need to remain open to other avenues which are equally meaningful to God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gillian Holzhauser-Graber

Financial Report

Reports concerning our finances are available in the church office or in the hard copy versions of the newsletter.



Prayer Concerns

Please pray for those with **health concerns** no matter what their stage of life.

Please pray for those undergoing **Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Rehab Therapy.**

Please pray for those **serving in the military**, both at home and overseas, as well as the families who watch and wait for them.

Please pray for **those receiving hospice care** as well as for their families and their caregivers.

Please pray for residents of **nursing homes** and **children’s hospitals** and also **those who are returning to their homes** after hospital or nursing home stays.

Please pray for those who are either waiting for or who have received **organ transplants** and the families who face difficult decisions.

Please pray for those with **employment issues.**

You’re Invited!!!!

Deloris M (Lynne H's mom) will be hosting an open house at her new home on Sunday, August 6, from 2 to 4 PM. Please feel free to stop by and see her home! The address is available in the office or from Lynne H. Please do not bring any gifts!!

**Next Session Meeting will be
held on Thurs., Aug. 17 at 7 pm.**

OTTAWA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Reverend Ben Shaw can be reached via email at revben@ottawapresby.org or phone
740-972-1606.

Andrea Morman, secretary, is usually here Tuesday & Thursday.

Our website is ottawapresby.org

Breakfast – 9 am/Worship – 9:45 am

The **Prayer Circle** is a group willing to confidentially pray for your joys and concerns.

Please contact prayercircle@ottawapresby.org.

DATE	ELDERS IN CHARGE	FLOWERS
August 6	Chas M.	Doepker
August 13	Jeff R. Communion Prep: Diane B. Servers: Diane B., Jane D.	Beckman
August 20	Diane B.	Kaufman
August 27	Jane D.	Miller

Session:

Class of 2017: **Chas Myers, Jeff Remaklus**

Class of 2018: **Lynne Hirzel, Becky Riepenhoff**

Class of 2019: **Diane Bishop, Jane Doepker**