As we come into September, these words are on the post-it notes that cover my mind’s refrigerator. They stir my imagination, and remind me of what is important:

‘gospel fluency’ - That’s a phrase coined by Jeff Vanderstelt, who wrote, “A person is gospel fluent when the gospel becomes their ‘mother tongue’. They see the world through that filter, they hear the world through that filter, and they know how to soak the truths of the gospel – the truths of Jesus – into the everyday stuff of life.” His words set before us yet another way to know what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, and the whole life perspective it brings for our work and homes, congregation and communities.

‘hospitality’ - Waynesburg University students are back, and we have renewed opportunities to become gospel fluent as we share Christ’s love through our hospitality: welcome and conversations on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights... sharing our vocational and life experiences... opening our homes for meal-sharing, clothes-washing, and Steeler watching – the everyday stuff of life.

‘encouraging’ – Becky’s column describes the kick-off of our fall GROW time on Sunday, September 10, at 9:00 am. We are beginning with 6 Steps to Encouragement, a course that “teaches every Christian how to make one simple and foundational contribution to church life—encouraging other people.” On that same morning, I will begin a series of sermons from the New Testament book of Acts that will follow in the footsteps of Barnabas—the “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36). His trail will lead us to Jesus, and show us the joys and struggles of becoming more fluent in the truths of the gospel as we soak in God’s word.

‘belonging’ - On September 24, we will be offering “How Do I Belong?” This is a single morning gathering that explains the purpose, process, and plan of our congregation. It describes “how to belong” to First Presbyterian Church (FPC), and is designed for anyone who is interested in discovering more about us, and/or becoming a covenant partner of our congregation. Any current covenant partners are welcome to attend as well. We will begin promptly at 8:30 am and conclude by 10:15 am, in time for morning worship.

‘move right, reach left’ – Jesus rescues us from darkness and brings us into his light and life. We move right as we learn to “love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength’. We reach left to bring others with us; it is learning to ‘love our neighbors as ourselves’. Move right, reach left – footsteps of followers of Jesus.
Six Steps to Encouragement

This fall starting, on September 10th our adult GROW class will go through a 6-week curriculum that explains what it looks like to encourage others with God’s Word. Our GROW hour begins at 9 AM on Sunday mornings.

God has given every Christian an enormous privilege and gift: the power to speak his life-changing word into the lives of other people. There's no reason at all for there to be 'passengers' in a church. Every Christian can change the lives of those around them through knowing and telling the message of God's grace, whether in front of a group, in a handwritten note, in a one-to-one conversation over morning tea, or in a thousand other ways. Every Christian can be a channel of encouragement.

In Six Steps to Encouragement you'll learn the why and how of personal encouragement. Through video input, Bible study, practical examples, discussions and hands-on exercises, you'll discover how to bring life, hope and strength to those around you by bringing the powerful word of God to them. You'll also work through practical case studies such as welcoming newcomers, listening, rebuking, and dealing with suffering.

Contact Becky Juliano beckyannjuliano@gmail.com, 518-788-8768) if you have any questions.

Women in the Woods Retreat
Pine Springs Camp

WHEN: Friday, October 6 – Saturday, October 7

COST: $70 (or $60 if 5 or more women from First Pres attend)

Women in the Woods is a retreat designed to be physically and spiritually refreshing for women of all ages.

The teaching is incredible, and the retreat is packed with great singing, fun, laughter and adventure.

The retreat runs from Friday evening through Saturday dinner.

Contact Becky Juliano
If you need more details or if you are interested in going.
beckyannjuliano@gmail.com, 518-788-8768

Wednesday Night Dinners @ First Pres

Everyone is invited!

Our regular Night Dinners start on September 6th. The dinners are a great opportunities to spend time with your First Pres. friends and family.

The meal is served at 5:30 PM. If you have children in Pathways, (our after school program), your whole family is welcome to stay. Come enjoy a delicious meal. You can take the night off from cooking!

$3/person
$2/child
$10 family max
University students are $1, if able.

September Menu
(subject to change):

Sept. 6: Pulled Pork, Baked Beans & Slaw
Sept. 13: Taco Bar
Sept.20: Anniversary Chicken, Rice & Veggies
Sept 27: Mac & Cheese Bar with Hot Dogs
Fall Kick Off

Wednesday, September 6th at 5:30 PM

Bring your whole family and invite your friends to this great event on Wednesday, September 6th at 5:30 PM. We’ll gather on the lawn (weather permitting) for good food and an opportunity to enjoy conversations around the tables.

On the menu for the evening is pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw & tossed salad, chips, applesauce, and dessert. If you’d like to volunteer at the event and make an amazing success, please contact Becky Juliano beckyannjuliano@gmail.com 518-788-8768.

Stewardship

By Ben McCracken

In a sermon given several years ago, Rev. Tom Ribar described the act of worship as dangerous - one that requires listening to what God is saying to each of us as we worship Him. Because of the awe of God, we should realize the significance that any vows made require effort on our part – the danger. One of the biggest challenges we face (at least mentally) is giving. However, Scripture clearly guides us on the issue of being a steward. There is a personal reward of trusting in God’s promises when giving……Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38 RSV.

As we honor God in our giving, our church is blessed: with excellent staffing, music, ministries, and facilities to nourish fellowship and personal growth. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it”. (Malachi 3:10)

Financial update...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>7/31/17</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>total income</td>
<td>$194,516</td>
<td>$328,655</td>
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Giving reminds us that God is the owner of all that we have, and we have been entrusted to manage it on His behalf (Psalms 50:10…for the world is mine and all that is in it). Giving to God reminds us who He is; who we are, and what our relationship should be to the things He has allowed us to manage in his name.

Your prayers and support in meeting the financial needs of our church are making a difference

Ben McCracken
Stewardship
GROW CLASS FOR KIDS
9:00 AM Sunday Mornings

MUSIC ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS BEGIN
*Youth Choir (Pre-K - 8th)
Sunday, September 10, 10:00 AM
*Youth Handbell Choir
Sunday September 10, immediately following Worship
*Adult Handbell Choir
Thursday, September 7, 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS PLAY
Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 pm
All kids Pre-K through 8th grade
To participate, a signed permission slip must be returned to by Wednesday, October 11
Christmas Play Permission Slip:
https://form.jotform.us/72354547484161
FMI:
Tomē Custer, Director of Children’s Ministry
724-998-3382
tomelodies@gmail.com

Fall Pathways Kick-off
Wednesday, September 6
3:15-5:30 PM
Join us for our special fall festival, “MakerFest”, as we kick off Pathways for the 2017-2018 school year.

Pathways 228 is for children K-5th, meeting Wednesdays 3:15-5:30pm.
September 6, 2017-December 13, 2017
Pathways 228 corresponds to the school calendar in regard to cancellations and closings.
Each week includes time for snacks, homework, Bible/worship, and games.
IMPORTANT: Parents must arrive at the church no later than 5:30 to meet their children.

**To attend Pathways
All Children must have:

1. A signed 2017-2018 Pathways Reg Form:
https://form.jotform.us/72353743684160

2. Permission Slip to ride the WCES bus.
https://form.jotform.us/72353977884171
FMI:
Tomē Custer, Director of Children’s Ministry
724-998-3382
tomelodies@gmail.com

Look what's happening at First Pres. this fall... just for kids!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
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<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>9:30 am Table Talk &amp; GROW</td>
<td>Soup Lunch After Church</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Crossroads Fall Kick off 6:00-8:30 pm</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>New GROW Class 9:00-10:00 pm University Student Bible Study</td>
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<td>9:00-10:00 pm</td>
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<td>6:30 pm Stewardship</td>
<td>6:30 pm Mission Team</td>
<td>9:30 am Life Group</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9:30 am Life Group</td>
<td>6:30 pm Property Session</td>
<td>7:00 pm Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 to 5:30 pm Pathways Dinner</td>
<td>5:30 pm Pathways Night Dinner</td>
<td>3:15 to 5:30 pm Pathways Dinner</td>
<td>3:15 to 5:30 pm Pathways Dinner</td>
<td>3:15 to 5:30 pm Pathways Dinner</td>
<td>7:00 pm Auditions for Mystery Theatre</td>
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<td>6:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir</td>
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<td>6:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir</td>
<td>6:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir</td>
<td>7:00 pm Session</td>
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<td>5:00 pm Good Neighbor Dinner</td>
<td>8:30 am to 10:15 am “How Do I Belong?” Class</td>
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It’s not just you, summer really did just fly right by! Hopefully, you allowed yourself to slow down enough to enjoy the sunshine, submerge yourself in some sort of body of water, and build memorable moments with your family.

It was a busy summer for Crossroads. I loaded up our calendar with a variety of events to keep our students engaged and connected. We experienced trips that had a profound impact on us and won’t be easy to forget. It was a wonderful summer.

A new school year is upon us and we return to our regularly scheduled programming—with a few changes. For starters:

**Crossroads**  
**Sundays**  
6:00–8:00 pm  
*for all grades (6-12).*  
*Small groups will take place midweek.*

I’m also very excited to announce renovations to our youth room. The decision to make these changes was not easy, but ultimately I feel that they will facilitate our objective and vision that Crossroads should be all about relationships and walking through life together. Primarily, our relationship to the Father, our Savior Jesus Christ, and our counselor the Holy Spirit; and consequentially, our relationship to each other. Simply put, to love God and love people.

I welcome any questions you may have about these changes or the upcoming year at Crossroads. There are still more exciting developments to be revealed in the near future.

I urge you to contact me about ensuring that you are a part of our mailing list and are connected to all of our social media platforms so you can stay abreast of all of our updates.

I hope that you will join us in spreading the word and inviting students to our kickoff celebration on Sunday, September 10, 6:00–8:30 PM.

The theme is “Welcome to the Funderdome” and it will be a night of fun and competition unlike any you’ve ever seen!

Juan Gallo
Pray for the following service personnel:

Casey Parsons, Jason Cowart, Edward Wagner, Jake Wilson, Brandon Brown, Daniel Calvario, Andrew Cowell, David Calcek, Drew McConville, Ryan McGrath

Pray for these friends and loved ones

Chera Baird  Marie Simmons
Connie Teagarden  Mary Louise & John Rice
Lyrik Roberts  Bill Thomas
Ruth Mitchell  Jim Burns
Ron Snyder

September Dates to Remember

3 Auditions for Mystery Theatre
5 Stewardship, Property & Session
6 Pathways Begins!
6 Wednesday Night Dinners Begin!
7 Auditions for Mystery Theatre
10 New GROW class Begins!
10 Crossroads Begins!
13 Pathways & Wed. Dinner
17 Soup Lunch after Worship
19 Deacons Meeting
20 Pathways & Wed. Dinner
24 “How Do I Belong Class “
26 Mission Team Meeting
27 Pathways Wed. Dinner
29 Good Neighbor Dinner

Nursery Helpers
3 Nathan Baily
10 Caleb Blair
17 Eleanor Cerra
24 Levi Cerra

Ushers
Katy Shultz
Dave Pollock
Lois Riggs
Carolyn McGrath

September Birthdays

Dave Calvario  09/01
Michael Juliano  09/03
Joyce M. Winters  09/03
Dawn Hanko Pell  09/06
Peyton Chambers  09/07
Kari Fox  09/07
John I. Hook  09/07
Addie Pazzynski  09/07
Kaley Pell  09/07
Jessica Cari Baily  09/10
Christina Giles  09/12
Jacob Rockwell  09/12
Elliott John Wentzel  09/15
Karen P. Eisiminger  09/16
Judith P. Gardner  09/16
J. William Hook  09/17
Oliver Lee Knight  09/17
Simon Lee Knight  09/17
Emma Robinson  09/17
Warren Hlafcsak  09/24
Mark Christner  09/25
Jonathan Baily  09/27
Heather Rockwell  09/27
Nathan Robert Blair  09/28
Lindsay Vinay  09/28
John Cole  09/29
Steven A. Mariner  09/29
Juan Gallo  09/30

Gifts received in memory of:

Don Teagarden from Patty Baily
Dotty DeWeese from Linus & Sharon Fenicle
Eric Epstein
Joan Huffman
Tim & Mary Fox & family
Paul & Rachel Lesako
Bonnie Baily
Patty Baily

We rejoice
In the baptism
of Hayden Jo Heethuis
August 13, 2017
The daughter
of Brad & Laura

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:
the Teagarden Family on the death of Don Teagarden.
Don passed away on August 15, 2017;
and Shrader family on the death of Dave Shrader.
Dave passed away on August 14, 2017.
Crossroads Sr. High Mission trip to Chicago, photo taken on the way to a men’s homeless shelter.
L to R: Rachel Calvario, Catherine Thompson, Tomé Custer, Hannah Kalsey, Juan Gallo, Nate Baily, Bailey Fudala, Jonathan Baily.

Bill Sukolsky  
Pastor  
bsukolsky@hotmail.com  
412-913-9851  

Becky Juliano  
Dir. of Discipleship & Ministry  
beckyannjuliano@gmail.com  
518-788-8768  

Sara Christner  
Pianist  

Nelson Fox  
Organist  

Ben R. McCracken  
Treasurer

Juan Gallo  
Dir. of Student Ministries  
jsgallo19@gmail.com  
954-696-5178

Tomé Custer  
Dir. of Music & Children’s Ministries  
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Maribeth Coote  
Administrative Assistant  
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724-627-6006

Patrecia Baily  
Financial Secretary  
Vicki Cline  
Custodian