

Cortland Christian Church

153 Grove Prive Cortland, Ohio

Reverend Donald P. Barnes



Deuteronomy 31:8

It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

Church Bell August 2016



"Follow The Bells"

August 2016

Pastor's Pen

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

Crossed the dam road the other day. I was heading south. Had to give way to three golf carts, a bicycle, and a pickup truck northbound, but my turn came eventually and I safely skirted the 500 feet to the south-side. Patience and neighborliness – the dam road offers an interesting object lesson to the thoughtful among us. Allow me, just for a moment, to don my "teacher hat." About two and a half months ago, Lorra and I purchased a camping trailer. We set it up at Paradise Lake in Bristolville, a convenient 20-minute drive from home. Our camp site is on the north-side of Paradise Lake. The only access is a one-lane, gravel lane across the summit of the dam - the "dam road." A one-lane access road that hosts two-way traffic offers some interesting challenges to the clientele at the camp. Namely, traffic coming from opposing directions must yield in order to allow safe passage from one direction at a time. Sounds tedious, but it actually works out quite well. It requires patience and good manners. Wait your turn, what's the hurry. A friendly wave at your neighbor as you pass one another and you're on your way - no worse for wear, and maybe better off because you had to slow down a bit.

The passage memorialized above is taken from the grandest sermon ever delivered. Jesus is the sermonizer. The lesson is commonly known as the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Quite simply put, the proverbial "ball" required to maintaining a quality and cordial relations with your neighbor is in your "court." Treat the other as you want to be treated. Take the initiative to be polite and friendly. Consider the other above yourself. Practice selflessness rather than selfishness. Make sense? Let me share a simple "object lesson." Let's "drive" out to the dam road. Imagine what Paradise Lake would be like if everyone demanded the right-a-way. Vehicles would meet in the middle, a muddled traffic jam of golf carts, pickup trucks, and SUV's. What a mess - and so unfortunate! Take a word from the pastor: don't let the world be your guide. Yield to the words of Christ. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Sounds tedious, but it actually works out quite well. It requires patience and good manners. Wait your turn, what's the hurry. A friendly wave at your neighbor as you pass one another and you're on your way - no worse for wear, and maybe better off because Part Con

you had to slow down a bit.



Our Worship Assistants

Elders:

August 7 Larry Dix and Justin Klamut
August 14 Amy Seger and John Klamut
August 21 Joyce Seagle and Larry Dix
August 28 John Kloboves and Carol
Robinson

Deacons: Judene Ainsley 330-637-9938 Jeff Byler, Selena Oriti, Brenda Byler, Curtis Bell, Chuck Corbet, Bob Bradford, Joyce Hall

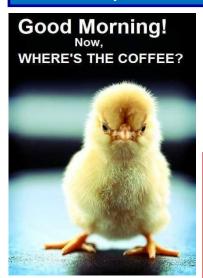
Deaconess: Linda Rogers

CCC Special Accounts Balances Funds Available Accounts 302 Roof Repairs (11,921)303 Sound-Sanctuary (25)401 Memorial-Unspecified (4,817)501 World Outreach (285)502 Mission Trips (2,791)503 Kidz Closet (2,084)504 Good Samaritan (4444)506 Stockings for Troops (5)507 Local Outreach (250)507.1-Church Camp (999)508 Casa Julie (310)

The Church Office will be open on Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:30 am.

Phone: 330-637-4611

Feel free to call or stop in if you have a question or need help



Forgive others
as quickly as
you expect
God to forgive you.



August 7 Judy Kuhmer and Virginia Carr

August 14 Sharon Hopkins and Linda Rogers

August 21 Judene and Friend

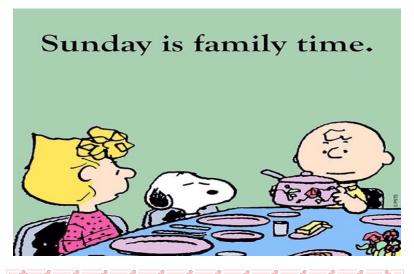
August 28 Roger McCafferty and Priscilla

Thank you all so Very Much

FINANCIAL UPDATE OF CHURCH OPERATING FUNDS

Fund	JULY			Year-to-Date		
	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net
General	9,423	7,819	1,604	60,236	54,732	5,504
Building (Mortgage)	2,083	2,048	35	14,435	14,334	101
Total>>	11,506	9,867	1,639	74,671	69,066	5,605
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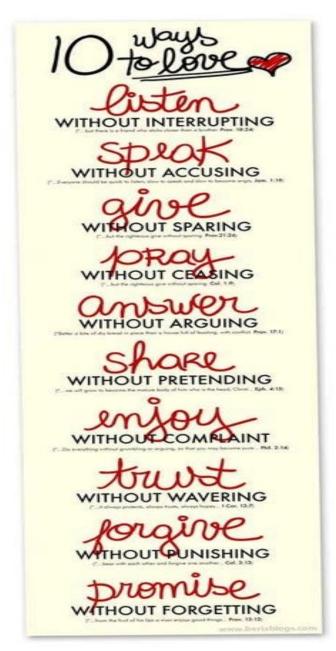
Mortgage Balance: \$119,047



Congratulations" to Ed and Eileen Niemi who celebrated their "63rd " anniversary on July 5th!



- August 2 Charlie Beer
- August 2 Mark Morrison
- August 5 Esther Unger
- August 7 Linda Swauger
- August 14 Preston Polakoff
- August 16 Carol Peterson
- August 17 John Molnar
- August 21 Eileen Niemi
- August 21 Florence King
- August 22 Abbie Ainsley







August 5 Terry and Linda Swauger

August 25 Bob and Mary Jo Johnson

Men And Women Creating Masterpieces

On a warm summer evening in July, members of our church and our teacher, Betty Stanley made 12 arrangements for our tables in the fellowship hall. Some had never done flower arranging before and some were very capable. However, when we were done all the arrangements were beautiful and now they grace our tables.

When we get really comfortable with flower arranging we will attempt to make some for the altar.

In August there will be another flower arranging get together to make fall arrangements, and spruce up some of our present ones that are tired. Hopefully, more of our members will come and try their hand at this craft.

All flowers were furnished by Betty Stanley, including Summer, Fall, Christmas, and Spring Flow-



From L-R around the table—Betty Stanley, Phyllis Hake, Betty Evans, Justin Klamut, Joyce Seagle and Sharon Hopkins, taking the picture ,Joyce Hall.

As you can see, we won't be running out of flowers for a long time.

Thanks, Betty and all of our fine artists...

Go Ahead — Start a Problem!

The good Lord knows that churches of Christ have had problems, most of which have had disastrous results. But some church problems should be energetically sought. What kind? Well......

Consider:

- The problem of not enough parking spaces, class rooms and pews. Wouldn't it great if we ran out of them?
- The problem of requests for so many home Bible studies we can't handle them. What if we had so many people asking us to teach them the word of God we had to put some of them on a waiting list? Would that be great or what!
- The problem of too many members of the church wanting to teach Bible classes. Wouldn't it be awesome if we had to take numbers and wait in line just to get to teach the Bible?
- The problem of so many youngsters who attend Bible classes we need to add on classrooms. We need such a problem now!
- The problem of wanting to support more evangelists than are available to go into hard places to preach. What a lift it would be if we had so much surplus money that we had to seek out men to support.
- The problem of preachers debating the best way to do personal evangelism and convincing sinners to believe in Christ, repent of their sins and be baptized.

You agree these are good problems? You also agree we have had more than enough of the other kind? If you can cause us to have these problems, have at it-

Morning Prayer

You are a Masterpiece, you are hand picked by God, you are loved.

You are a person of extreme value and significance, remember that always..

Scripture defines love for God, not by tears or public testimony or works of service. Jesus says, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" John 14:15 (NASB). 1-Minute Bible Love Notes 1-Minute Bible Love Notes

"Well, God and I are fine, and that's all the matters."

This was one man's response when his group leader kindly, privately confronted him about inappropriate behavior. This individual had undermined the leader's authority, repeatedly complained, and generally ignored directions. Ironically, this same man was known for passionately expressing his love for Christ, often with tears in his eyes.

Sometimes we are so ensnared by the self-love emphasis in our country that we actually believe God isn't concerned when we bend the rules, take advantage of others, undermine leaders, and build ourselves up at others' expense.

But Scripture defines love for God, not by tears or public testimony or works of service. Jesus says, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" John 14:15 (NASB).

Help us, Lord, to truly love You and to show our love through obedience to Your commands.

Got a computer?

Want a quick spiritual stimulation any time of day?

Key into:

www.faithgateway.com/devotionals-daily-sign-up/ and receive by email an outstanding daily devotion.



What if today, we were just grateful for everything?

L.O.A.F. Needs HELP

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship

Saturday August 13, 8am-6pm.



Bring your used, not wanted goods on Friday Aug 12 volunteers for set-up on Friday, Aug 12, Saturday August 13, to help with the sale.

WE need HELP, this is a "community" project. Please volunteer for an hour or two.

"Re-Member Directories"

will be taking pictures our pictures

Cortland Christian
Church Directory
2016



August 12, 2:30-9pm

August 13, 11:00-5pm

You can make an appointment on Sunday before worship with Virginia Carr and Carolyn Sparhawk

Through me

Through me let there be kind words, a warm smile, and a caring heart.

Through me let there be a willingness to listen and a readiness to understand.

Through me let there be dependability, steadfastness, trust and loyalty.

Through me let there be compassion, forgiveness, mercy and love.

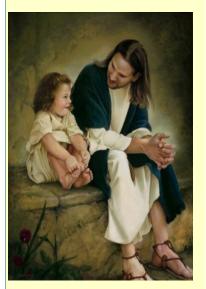
Through me let there be every quality I find, O Lord, in Thee.

-Unknown

August 2016

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 18:10



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	y Thursda	ay Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Joyful noise	4 Aerobics	5	6
7 Service and Fellowship	8 Aerobics	9	Joyful Noise	11	Directory 2:30-9pm	13 Picture Taking 11-5pm
14 Service and Fellowship	15 Aerobics	16	17 Joyful Noise	18 Aerobics	19	20
21 Service and Fellowship	22 School Starts Aerobics		24 Joyful Noise	25 Aerobics	26	27
28 Service and Fellowship	29	30	31 Joyful Noise			

Elders Corner

Did you ever notice what a difference that little threeletter-word "but" can make? Somewhere lately I heard someone—let's see, who was that? I forget.

Anyway, let me go on - someone on TV "quoted" the words of Jesus" an eye for and eye and a tooth for a tooth," therefore, he said, we're instructed to pay back or retaliate when someone wrongs us. He didn't mention that the story started with the words "You have heard it said: an eye for an eye ..." That could have been a rumor He was speaking of. It was certainly not a commandment. And then came that big powerful word: "<u>But</u> I say to you, do not resist him who is evil, <u>but</u> whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also." No retaliation in this passage. As Christians, I believe we should all be most cautious how we disperse the Word of God and in prayer ask God to help us master the resources in 2nd Timothy 3:16-17(NASB): ¹⁶ <u>All</u> Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Let us be that man of God and spread His Word as He desires.

By Joyce Seagle

Froyo Yogurt Shop

How does a color scheme of chartreuse and fuchsia – or is that neon green and hot pink? – Whatever you call them, they make a cheerful and relaxing setting for a frozen yogurt parlor appropriately named *Froyo*. When you walk in, you'll be awed by the colors and the crescent-shaped, self-serve bar where you'll grab a paper bowl and choose from many flavors of frozen yogurt. You might choose several kinds for this delicious treat. You'll proceed to the toppings section, where things like nuts, sprinkles, chocolate chips and such await and then move on to the syrups and fruits and, finally, to the whipped cream to complete your creation. At the check -out station, weigh your sundae and pay by the ounce. Obviously, you're buying your own concoction and, believe me: it is easy to get carried away. If





Torono, Heather and Trent

you're watching your waistline, take into consideration that the bowls hold 16 ounces.

Froyo is located between Panera's and Hot Head Burritos on Youngstown Road near the Eastwood Mall. Hours are: 12pm - 10pm daily. They occasionally may change so you might want to follow them on Facebook @ Hashtag Froyo Niles for all the latest specials and current hours. Did I also say they offer custom cakes with real cake inside?

So, why am I telling you all this? Because *Froyo* is owned, managed and operated by our own <u>Heather and Torono Lowery here at Cortland Christian;</u> just thought you might want to stop in for a treat. Let's all pray that they'll have success and joy in this new endeavor, something they have always wanted to try.

Light Up the Church Building

A little story that illustrates the problem of attendance goes like this:

In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to people in his town. At last he decided to build them a church building.

No one saw the complete plans for the building until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, "But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?" The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a candle which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted, "the nobleman said. "Each time you are not here, that area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark."

Anyone at Cortland Christian Church ready to try saving the electricity we would use on during worship service? Should we start giving out candles next Sunday? This is just a story but it has a stinging point. Those who seldom, if ever, attend worship or Bible study in the evening may be like those of whom it was said: "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up" (Matt. 4:16). That is, if they happened to see the church building in the evening from a distance.

Jesus also said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matt. 5:14-15). Attending all services of the church is letting your light shine -- after all you come to worship God and study His word -- then leave to serve. Maybe it would be good to pray,

"For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness" (Psalm 18:28).

Church Bulletin Humor– Found in bulletins around the country

The sermon this morning: Attend and "Jesus Walks on the Water." you will The sermon tonight: hear an ex-"Searching for Jesus." cellent speaker **Next Thursday** and heave

Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper. Please place your donation in the envelope along with

the deceased

person(s) you want

remembered.

there will be tryouts for the a healthy choir. They need all the help Scouts are saving aluminum they can get.

cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" come early and listen to our choir practice.

next Sunday

Thursday at 5:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the **Little Mothers** Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the Pastor in

his study.

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ Our King.

The pastor would appreci-For those of you who ate it if the ladies of the have children and congregation would lend don't know it, we him their electric girdles have a nursery for the pancake breakfast downstairs.

> Our church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Things Our Mothers Taught

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

2. My mother taught me RELIGION.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me LOGIC. "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, incase you're in an accident."

My mother taught me IRONY.

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

 My mother taught me about WEATHER. "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. "Just wait till we get home."

My mother taught me about RECEIVING. "You are going to get it when you get home!"

My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE. "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to stick that way." My mother taught me ESP.

"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

My mother taught me HUMOR.

"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me.

My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

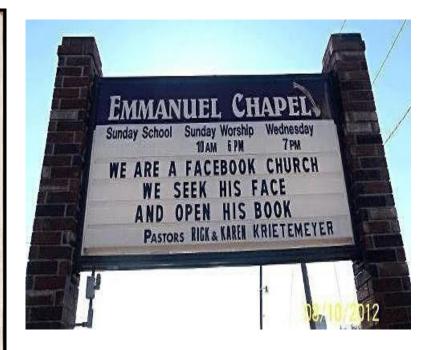
My mother taught me GENETICS. "You're just like your father."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS. "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM.

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

And my favorite: my mother taught me about JUSTICE. "One day you'll have kids and I hope they turn out just like you!"



Changing the World

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family.

Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.

So live each day as though you were walking with Jesus. Our future will be better for it and you WILL make a difference.

Author Unknown

Spaghetti Dinner



September 10th, 2016 4-7 o'clock Cortland Christian Church

> Adults \$10.00 6-12years \$5:00 Under 5 - Free

Sponsored by the

Cortland Christian Church Mission Team

......

Here below are our shut-in members or members of concern, Please!

Drop them a card or a note of encouragement and let them know we care!

Grace Wagner

175 Wall Street Cortland, Ohio 44410 330-637-5957

Vera Kidd

Community Skilled Nursing Room 221 1320 Mahoning Ave.



Phyllis Beer

Lake Vista 41 Heron Circle Cortland, Ohio 44410

Raymond Kline

502 Arcaro Street Cortland, Ohio 44410

Helen Carleton

477 N. High Street

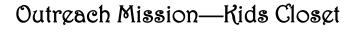
Jean Davis

87 Lake Vista Dr. Cortland, Ohio 44410

Vivian Jensen

Meadowbrook Nursing 3090 Five Points -Hartford Rd Fowler, Ohio 44416

Frank and Gloria Zanin 18170 N.91st Ave. Apt.1210



The Outreach Mission Team has been busy this month as this is the time they hand out new and used clothing to families struggling to get by. At one time this was called Ed Boutique, then the name was changed to Kidz Clothing Closet and now it is simply called Kids Closet, making it easier to understand what is all about.

This is an exciting time for the Outreach Team as they get to shop for pants, shirts, shoes, jackets, school supplies maybe some candy and fun things for these give away bags.

The parents and children can look around at the tables full of used clothing and choose items that may fit any of their children. There are hotdogs, chips, cookies and drink for all.



The pleasure derived in watching these children go though their clothes and school supplies with big smiles on their faces is worth every moment you spend getting ready. Hearing the stories each family has is heartbreaking but at least for a short time that is all forgotten.

There is work in getting this ready but it is so rewarding to see the results.

It was a "Great Day" for all who participated, the children, their families and all of our workers.

"Good Job" Ladies and Gentleman

Workers L-R— Joyce Hall, Chairwoman-Linda Chagnot, Diana Martin, Sharon Hopkins.

Missing from picture— Karen Miller, Phyllis Hake, Judene Ainsley, Sharon Polakoff, Amy Seger, Barb Bradford, Chuck Chagnot



A man was driving his car, when he saw an old lady...

A man was driving his car, when he saw an old lady, stranded on the side of the road. He saw that she needed help. So he stopped his Pontiac near her Mercedes and got out.

He smiled, while he was approaching her, still she was worried, as nobody had stopped for hours. Moreover, he did not look safe, as his appearance was so poor and shabby. He could see, how frightened she was, so he tried to calm her "I'm here to help you, don't worry. My name is Bryan Anderson".



The tire was flat, so he had to crawl under the car. While changing the tire, he got dirty and his hands were hurt.

When the job was done, she asked how much she owed him for his help. Bryan smiled. He said, "If you really want to pay me back, the next time you see someone, who needs help, give that person the needed assistance. And think of me".

At the same evening, the lady stopped by a small cafe. That place looked dingy. Then she saw a waitress, nearly eight months pregnant, wiping her wet hair with a towel. The waitress had a sweet friendly smile, although she had spent on her feet the whole day.

The lady wondered how someone, who has so little, can be so kind and giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan. The lady had finished her meal and paid with a hundred dollar bill. The waitress went to get change and when she came back, the lady was gone. She left a note on the napkin, "You don't owe me anything. Somebody once helped me, just like now I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, do not let this chain of love end with you". The waitress found four more one hundred bills under the napkin.

That night the waitress came home earlier. She was thinking about the lady and the money she left. She was wondering, how the lady could know, how much she and her husband needed it, especially now, when the baby will soon arrive. She knew that her husband worried about that, so she was glad to tell him good news. Then she kissed him and whis-

Take time to smell the flowers and share them with someone. Send a card to someone just because you are thinking of them, or maybe a phone call for the same reason, for a birthday or a troubled day in their lives. How about sharing a dinner you have prepared or a pie you baked. Try to always send a card when someone is ill or in the hospital.



Be a friend to those less fortunate.

We all need these little rays of sunshine.

Things Aren't Always What They Seem

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead, the angels were given a space in the cold basement. As they made their bedroom the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied.... "Things aren't always what they seem."



The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good nights' rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel "How could you have let this happen!? The first man had everything, yet you helped him," she accused. "The second family had so little, but was willing to share everything and you let their cow die."

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave her the cow instead. "Things aren't always what they seem."

Sometimes this is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way you think they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You might not know it until some time later. "Things aren't always what they seem."

What Can I do With WD40 — This is for everyone

- 1. Use WD-40 to protect a bird feeder, spray a generous amount of WD-40 on the top of the feeder. The pesky squirrels will slide right off.
- 2. Separate stuck glassware—spray on edge that is stuck, wait a few minutes and they will come apart. Be sure to wash the glasses after this usage.
- 3. Remove chewing gum from hair.
- 4. Spray window sills with WD-40 to keep spiders and bugs away.
- 5. Remove Tea stains from counter tops spray WD-40 on counter, wait a minute or two and wipe away the stain.
- 6. Clean away lime and gunk from your toilet bowl, Spray-wait a minute of so and swish with a nylon bowl brush.
- 7. Waterproof boots for winter and also wipe away salt stains with WD-40
- 8. Remove Doggie-Doo from your shoes. Spray bottom of sneakers with WD-40, use an old toothbrush and rinse with water. Next time watch where you walk.
- 9. Loosen stuck zippers.
- 10. Keep wooden tool handles splinter free. Spray generously with WD-40. **REVERENDEUN.COM COPYRIGHT GU. INC.**
- 11. Degrease your hands.
- 12. Remove old decals and stickers from glass.
- 13. Remove marker and crayon marks.
- 14. You can increase the catch on your next fishing trip by bringing a can of WD-40 along with you and spraying it on your lures or live bait before you cast.
- 15. Clean and protect golf clubs.
- 16. Keep shovel snow free in winter. Spray generously with WD-40
- 17. Hides small scratches on woodwork.
- 18. Lubricates and protects latches and hinges.
- 19. Cleans spray paint nozzles.



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

Edwin Niemi

Retired, engineer for Wean Engineering and owner of three Dairy Queens.

Lives in Cortland, Ohio

Served in the military as a Merchant Marine, Navy

Military Honors: Korean War Service Medal from the Korean government: National Defense Medal; Bronze Star Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

Married for 63 years to Eileen Niemi:

Children, Anthony Niemi, Dr. Tim Niemi,



In 1948, Ed graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy with a degree in engineering. He joined the Navy in 1952, becoming the chief engineer aboard the attack transport ship USS Calvert in Korea. He entered the service only after World War II ended, that is when he saw the devastation of war across the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

He worked on transport ships, deploying and retrieving soldiers. "You can't believe how bad it was." he said.

During his service years, he traveled on tankers and transport ships to Arabia, Europe and eastern Asia, enduring harrowing weather. He participated in secret missions in Korea.

He will tell you that his experience was nothing compared

He returned home to Eileen in 1954 whom he had married in 1953. He joined Wean Engineering but soon he returned to Europe for 10 years to help carry out the U.S.'s European recovery, the Marshall Plan.

Later they lived in Germany, Spain and Wales, they learned Spanish, German and with his first language being Finnish, he picked up the German language quickly,

When they were back in the states, he owned three Dairy Queens, He tries to keep in touch with fellow officers and soldiers he once knew.

For more of this story check the bulletin board.



What's Going On, God?

During our first two years of church planting, our church office was in the spare bedroom in our home. It was an awfully convenient commute, but it eventually became a huge inconvenience when our daughter, Summer, was born. Our spare bedroom turned into her bedroom by night and my office by day. I would set up her porta-crib at night and tear it down in the morning. That got real old real fast, so we started looking for office space.

After a few months of searching, I finally found a row house in the 400 block of F Street NE that we could convert into offices. It was perfectly situated halfway between our home and Union Station, and it had the ideal floor plan. We prayed that God would give us that contract, but when we presented the offer the next morning, we discovered that someone beat us to the punch the night before. It felt like a sucker punch that knocks the wind out of you. I was sure that this row house was the answer we were looking for, so it was both confusing and frustrating.

It took a few days to recuperate from that disappointment, but we resumed our search. A few weeks later, we found a row home in the 600 block of 3rd Street NE, just two blocks from Union Station. It was even more perfect than the previous place, so we prayed even harder. Once again, when we presented the offer the next morning, we discovered that someone got in ahead of us the night before. It felt like a second sucker punch that knocked the faith out of us.

After this bitter disappointment, I threw my arms up in the air. It was one of those "What's going on, God?" moments. Not only was God not answering our prayers; it felt like He was opposing our efforts. It felt like God was actually getting in the way.

And He was.. ... And I'm glad He was.

The Greatest Answers

Two weeks later, this unanswered prayer happened, I was walking home from Union Station. As I passed by 205 F Street, the Holy Spirit jogged my memory, and a name surfaced out of the deep recesses of my long-term memory. I had met the owner a year before, but I'm not very good at remembering names. I honestly wondered if it really was Robert Thomas. But one way or another, I felt prompted to call him.

There was no For Sale sign on the property, but I knew I needed to obey that prayer prompting, so I looked up his name in the Yellow Pages and found several listings for Robert Thomas. I made an educated guess and dialed the number.

When he answered, I said, "Hi, this is Mark Batterson. I don't know if you remember me, but — " He didn't even let me finish my sentence. He interrupted me. "I was just thinking about you. I'm thinking about selling 205 F Street, and I wanted to know if you want to buy it before I put it on the market."

That row home became our first office, but even more significant than its function was its location. 205 F Street abuts 201 F Street. We started laying hands on those abutting walls and asking God to give us the old crack house next door. I refused to believe that it was coincidental. I chose to believe it was providential. And it was.

If God had answered our prayers for the row homes in the 400 Block of F or 600 Block of 3rd, He would have given us second or third best. I was frustrated and confused because they seemed like good options, but they weren't the best option. And God doesn't settle for what is good. In His providence, God knew that we needed 205 F Street if we were going to eventually get 201 F Street. Because of construction and zoning complications, it would have been impossible for us to build our coffeehouse at 201 F Street if we hadn't owned 205 F Street.

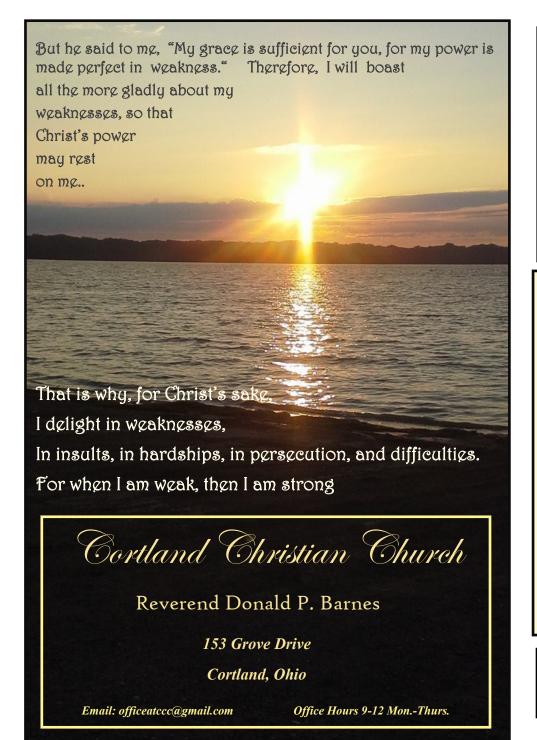


Thank God for unanswered prayers!

Our heavenly Father is far too wise and loves us far too much to give us everything we ask for.

Someday we'll thank God for the prayers He didn't answer as much or more than the ones He did. Our frustration will turn to celebration if we patiently and persistently pray through. It may not make sense for a few years. In fact, it may never make sense on this side of eternity.

But I've learned a valuable lesson about unanswered prayer: Sometimes God gets in the way to show us the way.



This is The bulletin cover for July 31,2016

Photo posted by

Kimberly Joebon on Facebook.

Taken at Mosquito Lake on July 16, 2016

Sit back a Look for the Cross

The 3 Heavens

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. KJV says that God created "the heavens"—plural. The <u>first heaven</u> is the atmosphere around the earth.

The <u>second heaven</u> is commonly referred to as "outer space."

Exodus 32:13 heavens, with all their hosts [the planets and stars]."

A "third heaven" is mentioned in

<u>2 Corinthians 12:1-4</u>. Paul also called it "Paradise" in verse 4. That word is from the Greek word for park or garden—not just any park or garden, but a magnificent one.

Pastors Sermon for this day was on 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Thoughts For the Day

If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

Anything worth taking seriously is worth making fun of.

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

Stress is when you wake up screaming and you realize you haven't fallen asleep yet.

I started out with nothing, and still have most of it left