



The Pastor's Study

My favorite color is green. Oh, I know, you will often hear me say it is purple, and I do love all the beautiful shades of purple and lavender, from deep and rich to light and ethereal, especially the soft hyacinth shade that graces my bedroom walls. But really, green is my favorite, and truth be told, I think it may be God's favorite too! How could it not be! Have you ever noticed the trees and bushes along the sides of the road as you drive along, especially when you are driving in the mountains or through farm land or as you make your way up north as I have been privileged to do in the past few weeks in my trip to the Upper Peninsula and to the Kettunen Center in Tustin for The Gathering. The shades of green that you can see all in one place are just far too many to count, light and dark and every shade in between, blue-green and yellow-green and green-green all layered upon one another until you don't know where one begins and the other leaves (pun intended!) off. It is a mystery and a sight to behold, God's glorious mystery of creation! Oh, I know there are perfectly good scientific reasons why there are so many shades of green in the natural world, but to me science and God are not mutually exclusive, nor is one always able to explain the other, nor should it. For those who have difficulty finding God in Science, I might suggest you are letting the tail wag the dog - that it is in the mystery of God, that we discover science, not the other way around. And that brings us back to our imperfectly human misunderstanding of mystery. We are conditioned in our culture, to solve mysteries, but the mystery that is God is far beyond our human capacity to solve. Some mysteries just have to be embraced and enjoyed.

At the UCC Women of Michigan Gathering last week, where the theme was "Rejoice," our Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Judith Youngman spoke about God as the Dancer who choreographs and dances the glorious dance of Creation. For those of you who meet God's spirit in nature, this will make perfect sense. For those of you who struggle to feel God's everyday presence in your lives, it is my hope and prayer that as you embrace this "mystery" you may feel your toe begin to tap, and you may feel the beat of God in your very soul. As you drive along the roads of summer, may you join in spirit with the dance of green that prances by your window and that you may lose yourself in the creative mystery of the Still-Speaking and Always-Dancing Spirit of God!

*So dance with Joy, with hands upraised.
Greet each new day as the holiest of days,
and to your God sing great songs of praise.
To your God sing praise!¹*

With love in Christ,

Pastor Terri



Notes from the Consistory President

¹ Carol Ann Camp © 1994, 2009 *Sing! Prayer and Praise*. The Pilgrim Press: Cleveland



Please help us keep our records up to date, with new numbers, e-mail addresses etc.

**Thank you
Valerie**



Food
Pantry
Ministry

Thank you for supplying food to our food pantry. We could use the following:

- Canned vegetables, fruit
- Cereal
- Ravioli
- Soups-reg. and chunky
- Spaghetios
- Spaghetti sauce
- Toilet Paper
- Tuna

Any type of microwaveable food items (non-frozen) since some people live in motels and have access to a microwave more so than a stove.

Please give food that you would eat, any items that do not move will be sent to a local food pantry.

Please **no more milk products**, anything with powdered milk in it expires way before it is taken.

Thank you.



OCWM

We are going to continue to collect items for Tabita Project (JOY BOXES) please bring in one or two items from the list found on the black counter top.

Ronald Coutts
32304 Bunert
Warren 48093

Marilyn Dopp
5859 West Maple Rd.
West Bloomfield 48322

Esther Hornyak
8050 Menge
Centerline 48015

Margaret Kelly
6071 York Blvd.
Los Angeles CA 90042

Mae St. Clair
42250 Hayes #1008
Clinton Township 48038

Susan Schlemmer
17727 Millar
Clinton Township 48036

Irene Stricker
Martha T. Berry Medical Care Center
43533 Elizabeth
Mt. Clemens 48043

Barbara Tefft
33433 Schoenherr
Sterling Heights 48312

Dorothy Zink
Independence Village of Grand Ledge
4775 Village Dr. Apt 220
Grand Ledge 48837



When bringing items in for the rummage sales, please call the church office to be sure someone is here.

Please do not leave rummage on the front porch or by the back door!

Thank you

Congratulations to Ben Paczkowski, the son of Mary Ellen and Mark Paczkowski, who graduated from Fraser High School. He returned to Germany to graduate from the International Academy in Frankfort. He will attend Wayne State University in the fall.

Congratulations to Kristopher Gorlitz, son of Judy Hamilton and Frank Gorlitz, who graduated from Stevenson High School and will be attending Macomb Community College.



BAT CONTROL

Three pastors were having lunch in a diner. One said "You know, ever since summer started, I've been having trouble with bats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything--noise, spray, cats--nothing seems to scare them away!" Another said "Yeah, me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry and in the narthex attic. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away!" The third said, "I baptized all mine and made them members of the church... Haven't seen one back since!"



MALAWI MOMENT

What do pencils, Frisbees, pins, needles, aspirin and washcloths have in common? They are all items that we take for granted daily, and yet they are all objects that can be packed in a joy box for the mission in Malawi. It is sometimes hard for us to realize how much joy an "everyday" item can bring to our friends through the Tabita Project, but these objects can brighten the day of children and adults who have very little.

Sometimes it is so easy to get bogged down in our own daily life, with money concerns, job worries, health questions and even worries about more global issues, like the oil spill in the Gulf. These are certainly worthy concerns, but as I write this Rev. Smart and his mission, which feeds 200 orphans and accomplishes so much more than that, is "making do" with a budget of nearly \$14,000 a month in expenses and income of just of \$1400. Yes, you read that correctly. Clearly, there are no "extra" funds in the Tabita Project for those things which can make life easier and more fun. So, while Rev. Smart tries to stretch money to cover the huge need, won't you consider contributing something to the joy box initiative for OCWM this summer? Our children couldn't have a better object lesson than this when they pack the joy boxes to send to Malawi during Vacation Bible School.

There is a full list of joy box items on the black counter in the educational wing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Pyciak (586-264-3666) or Gail Popyk (586-254-1532), and have a joyous July!



Second Sunday: The Thoughtful Christian Adult Forum (11:30-12:30)

Please join us on the second Sunday of July and August for a thoughtful discussion about how contemporary issues of today may be informed by our faith. There will be a few extra goodies at Coffee hour to keep the hungry horrors away, so grab a bite and bring it to the library to enjoy during our hour long discussion.

On July 11th, we will examine the various elements of patriotism, including its noble and potentially dangerous aspects. We will address the question: What is Christian patriotism? If patriotism requires absolute loyalty to one particular country, does it conflict with a religious vision that includes compassion for all humanity? Perhaps we can find a middle way...a way to be both Christian and patriotic. Come join what promises to be a lively (and friendly!) discussion.

On August 8th, we will explore end-of-life matters. As technology advances, we are faced with so many more options than simply whether we live or die. Have you thought about what you want to happen to you if you are in an accident and wind up in a persistent vegetative state? Or if you have an illness and are placed on a respirator and are unable to live without it? Do you want to remain alive no matter what the cost? In case of death, do your loved ones know what your will is regarding burial and funeral? Have you filed an advance directive? This forum will give you some practical information to think about in order to prepare for end-of-life matters whenever they occur.



“Learn & Serve” Bus Trip: *a volunteer work group experience* October 25 – 29, 2010

Join our own Anne Pyciak in a hands-on experience volunteering at the Serrv International Gift Shop Warehouse and the Service Center where CWS Blankets, CWS Kits (Hygiene, School, and Baby) and CWS Emergency Clean-up Buckets are collected, packed, and shipped for use around the world, including the U.S. The \$410.00 cost of the trip includes round trip travel, 4 nights dbl lodging and all meals while in New Windsor, plus a one day sight-seeing tour of Gettysburg, PA.

The Learn & Serve bus trip is being sponsored by Michigan Church World service to help people gain a better understanding of the CWS Kit and CWS Blankets+ Programs. Participants are encouraged to bring along one box of Kits, allowing our congregation to follow CWS Kits from their creation to preparation for shipment. In addition to processing CWS Kits for shipment, each person will also have the opportunity to volunteer at the SERRV International Gift Shop Warehouse.