

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

October 2015



*“Reaching God through:
Enrichment, Education and Extending Our Hands”*

Venice Presbyterian Church

4244 Layhigh Road

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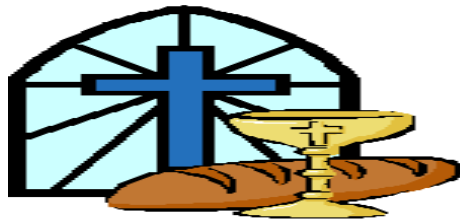
Pastor Janet Dillaman

Adult Sunday School 9:15a

Worship Service - 10:30a

Junior Church - during worship service

Youth Group Sundays: 12-TBD

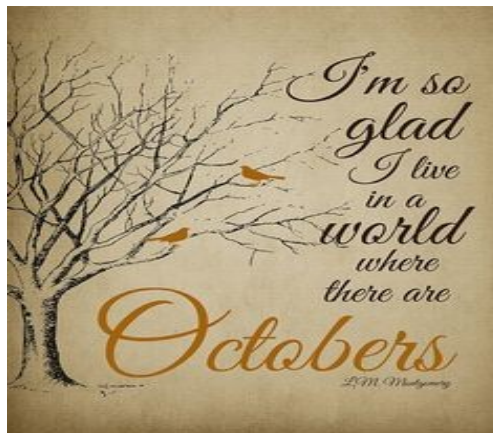


The
Sacrament of Holy Communion
 will be celebrated
 on
Sunday, October 4, 2015

<i>Inside this issue . . .</i>	
Important Info	2
Dear Friends.....	3-4
Boards/Events.....	5-21
Calendar.....	22-23

Attendance

July	August
5.....54	2.....67
12.....85	9.....59
19.....50	16.....59
26.....47	23.....66
	30.....55



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STAFF

Pastor

Janet Dillaman
 Cell (513-477-7746)

Administrative Assistant

Debbie Schwab

Music Director

Kwi-im Kim

Nursery Attendants

Nancy Renner
 Julia Dillaman

Youth & Young Adult Director

James Dillaman

Custodian

Patty Jackson

Venice View is published monthly. Information for the next publication is due on or before the third Monday of every month. The newsletter staff reserves the right to edit articles for space and content.

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, October 11 we will gather after worship for a **Chili Luncheon sponsored by the Presbyterian Women**. We will also take a few moments to begin our conversation on the finances and responsibilities for the gifts we give back to God. In Deuteronomy 26 Moses tells us of God's desire: "When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the **first of all that fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land** that the LORD is giving you, and you shall **put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name**. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, '**Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.**' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before that altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: **A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.** You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house. (Deut. 26: 1-11)

My own little garden has been very bountiful with beans and tomatoes that we have canned to enjoy until the next harvest comes in 2016. Each time we open a mason jar filled with tomatoes, we will remember the BLTs that were so amazing that we enjoyed as our dinner. We delight in the taste of green and wax beans that the seeds sown have given for us to share in our meals. While there were the days of weeding, watering, and sweat, we only consider the joy of the harvest around the table. My little garden provides just enough for my household, but the gift is witness to how sufficient is God's care.

Continued on next page

The time of harvest includes our financial offerings. We are asked to bring just a basket, **a tenth or TITHE off the top**, and give back to share with others the blessings that have come to each household.

As you consider your financial sharing within the dwelling of God we call Venice Presbyterian, we appreciate the many generous ways of giving within the church family. The realities of an aging congregation also brings us into focus of why it is imperative to tell the Story of Salvation and Grace to our neighbors (aliens among us) and our generations who are growing up within the Christian circle. Our giving is that witness of our complete understanding that in all we are, all we have, and all we strive for, **we belong to God**.

Our current income is \$1,000 to \$2,000 short of monthly projected budget needs. The Session has transferred \$18,000 from investments so far this year to cover and tithe from the funds above principle to sustain the budget. Expenses have been under budget and there is little room to cut except to begin cutting staff and programs.

We actively need your questions and ideas on how we most effectively and efficiently can be obedient to God within our giving of personal harvests. Current pledging units will receive a letter in the mail and pledge cards will be available after the presentation. A pledge is a projection, not a contract, of what you bring within your personal basket. This information is strictly confidential to our Financial Secretary, Kathy Mienheartt. The purpose is to assist the budget team, investment team and ultimately, our Session as we project a 2016 Venice Operating Budget.

We will also be communicating more effectively our financial position and decisions so we can truly celebrate and plant our seeds for 2016 together.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Jan

**Gospel Sing at Collinsville Presbyterian Church
Sunday, October 18th, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Spaghetti Dinner - 4:00pm-6:00pm
Adults \$8.00 Children 10 & under \$4.00**

Groups or individuals wishing to participate, please call Don at 513-292-0157 or 513-726-4801. Join us for an evening of fellowship, food, and fun.

NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

It's an exciting time for our music program as **Kwi-im Kim** joins our staff as the new Director of Music. Introduce yourself and help Ms. Kim feel welcome.





It's "CHILLY" outside
& "CHILI" inside

Chili Lunch After Church
October 11th
Chili, hot dogs & drinks!

Free will offering to benefit
Women's Association

RAMM

Dare to Care Food/Fundraiser

Sat. Oct. 24th - 10:00am-2:00pm

Brown's Farm

Events

Zombie Corn Maze Challenge - running every 30 minutes
(includes a chance to win a goodie basket!)

Bounce House and Face Painting

Girl Scouts will be providing games

Zombie FEED ME fund a meal monies

Zombie SNUGGLE ME fund shelter monies

Trunk or Treat Area

Brown's Farm Activities

If you are unable to attend this event, please give to the food pantry or consider a financial gift to RAMM. Send to: PO Box 64, Ross OH 45061
All proceeds benefit local families by providing assistance with rent, utilities, food, and other basic necessities.

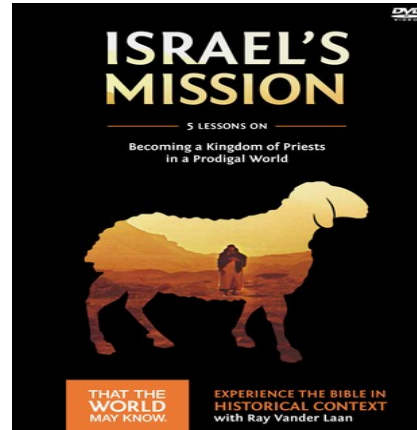
We are in need of **candy and individually wrapped/single serve food items** to hand out during the trunk or treat. We have a bin outside the Sanctuary. We also need (2) people to hand out these items from their decorated car trunk or truck bed. Please contact the church office, or Pastor Jan if you are able to help out with this event.



Christian Education

Kim Young has begun Bible School once again on Sunday's, at 9:15am in the manse.

The first series is a new Ray Vander Laan video, "Israel's Mission: Becoming a Kingdom of Priests in a Prodigal World". The lessons will last 5 weeks, skipping the week of October 4th, due to the teacher being out of town.

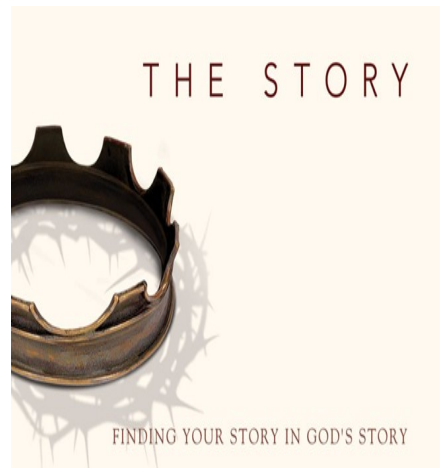


GOING DEEPER IN THE STORY

WEDNESDAYS 6:00pm

Youth Room in Annex

Materials Needed:



**NIV The Story Bible
and
Participant's Guide**

**Available online or at
Lifeway Bookstore on
Winton Rd.**



Junior Church

Junior church will be focusing on Old Testament Bible stories about Moses and Joshua this quarter. The lessons combine the Old Testament stories with scripture from the New Testament teachings of Jesus. The lessons teach students that God is with us, that we should honor Him and that His power works for good. They also teach the children that we can have faith that God can use each of us to big things for Him.

During the month of September, the music for the Christmas program was given out to the kids to begin learning the songs. We will plan to start practicing at the end of October and beginning of November.

Please see **Gayla Young**, if you would like to participate in the Christmas program.



Preschool News

Venice Preschool News

Fall is here and we have one month of school completed!

The children have transitioned very well and are starting to feel comfortable with us. We want to express our appreciation to the parents for being so understanding and patient with the parking lot situation with the sewer being tapped into and work being done to prepare the parking lot for new pavement. Also, a big thank you to all involved with planning for the sewer work. We were able to operate without any interruptions to our use of the restrooms.

The month of October brings some excitement with school pictures and a Halloween Party. We will be learning the letters D, E, and F, the numbers 4, 5, and 6, the colors orange and black and the triangle. Our Bible story this month is Daniel and the Lions Den. Daniel prayed to God every day and God protected Daniel in the lions' den. God always listens to your prayers!

We can be reached in the following ways: 513-738-0158,
vpcpreschool@thevenicechurch.com, www.venicepreschool.com.

Congregational Survey

There were 41 completed surveys returned, and we have now compiled the results. The first question dealt with the qualities you feel are important in a pastor. There were 21 qualities listed, and we asked that you rate each one based on their importance with #1 being most important, #2 of medium importance and #3 for least important.

The second question dealt with our church's current strengths and weaknesses. 13 areas were listed, and you were asked to rate each one as either a current strength or weakness. While most people feel we have many strengths, there are a few areas that need to be addressed – primarily communication. We will be working on addressing these areas.

The third question was about what makes up a healthy congregation. There were 14 areas, and you were asked to determine whether or not you felt each was important. While many of the areas are seen as highly important, some of the highest ranking deal with youth (youth program, junior church, Vacation Bible School.)

The fourth question asked where you would like to see our church in five years. Outreach to fill membership and outreach/mission work rank the highest.

The following is a summary of all the results. These survey responses will be used by our church leadership and the Mission Study Team to move toward the pastoral nominating process and our church's future.

Kathy Mienheartt, Sue Toler, Donna Marsh, Dan Young

<u>What qualities do you feel are important in a pastor?</u>	Most Important
Experience	19%
Spirituality	74%
Preaches and lives the Bible	86%
Knows and teaches scripture with interesting sermons	89%
Combines history of the Bible with application to today's world	80%
Dedicated leader	86%
Morale builder with a healing patient personality	57%
Resolves conflicts calmly and efficiently	57%
Caring, compassionate	72%
Good listener	82%
Friendly	72%
Sense of humor	39%
Communicates well with church boards	75%
Communicates well with congregation	86%
Works well with church staff	77%
Reaches out to the ill, shut-ins, those in need	81%
Supports the Preschool	50%
Reaches out and becomes involved in the community	50%
Creates and encourages group Bible study	47%
Encourages congregational feedback and participation	69%

int	Medium Importance	Least Important
	50%	31%
	20%	6%
	14%	0%
	11%	0%
	17%	3%
	11%	3%
	29%	14%
	40%	3%
	28%	0%
	18%	0%
	25%	3%
	47%	14%
	19%	6%
	14%	0%
	17%	6%
	19%	0%
	44%	6%
	44%	6%
	44%	8%
	31%	0%

What do you see as strengths/weaknesses of our church?

	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Weakness</u>
Pastoral leadership	74%	26%
Historic congregation & building	95%	5%
Friendly congregation	87%	13%
Strong music department	92%	8%
Christian Education	63%	37%
Preschool	100%	0%
Community outreach	62%	38%
Youth Group	84%	16%
Communication among boards	21%	79%
Communication between boards & congregation	22%	78%
Communication between pastor & boards	55%	45%
Financially sound/debt reduction	54%	46%
Use of facility for outreach groups	91%	9%

What do you feel is important for a healthy congregation?

% of respondents selecting item as important

Pastoral leadership between boards & members	88%
Youth group program and leaders	100%
Healthy music department	83%
Preschool program	75%
Outreach to the community-evangelism-programs such as RAMM, Back to School Picnic, Choice Pantry	96%
Junior Church, Sunday School	100%
Friendly, welcoming church family	100%
Fellowship-family nights, picnics, coffee hour, Gotta Eat Club	79%
Vacation Bible School	96%
Facilities	50%
Mission outreach to the community	92%
Bible study -day & evening classes	50%
Congregational growth	88%
Address financial issues	75%

What would you like to see for our church five years from now?

% of respondents selecting item as important

Outreach to fill membership goals	92%
Community meeting place for organizations	61%
Multipurpose center to encourage awareness of our church -	
Meeting place for seniors, singles, sporting activities	50%
Multi services	19%
Outreach/Mission work	81%

In response to requests from the survey for more information on Church Board communication, we have begun that process this month beginning with the Deacon's report. Reports from the Trustees and Session will be included in next month's newsletter.

Deacons Activity for August

Sunshine – Shirley Hamilton sent out 16 Thinking of You, Sympathy and Get Well cards to members of our congregation. Judy Bohne sent Flowers to one church family.

Ushers/Greeters – Deacon members served as ushers/greeters the first Sunday of the month. Carole Wheat solicited other church members to fill the slots the rest of the Sundays.

Coffee Hour – Deacon members supplied goodies the first Sunday of the month. Martha Young solicited other church members to bring in snacks the rest of the Sundays.

Community Needs – Dave Wheat served three Ross families with food from our Food Pantry.

Nominating – Three Deacon's terms expire at the end of 2015 – Judy Bohne, Nancy Renner, and Dave Wheat. Nancy Renner will work to fill the slots with new members if any of these three decide not to renew their term.



3- Roxy Callan
6 - Matt Brandenburg
6 - Denny Thompson
6 - Mary Unwin
10 - Rebecca Asher
11 - Wilma Butterfield
12 - Audrey Boehringer
12 - Carole Reppart
13 - Kathy Mienheartt
18 - Grace Lee
22 - Diane McBreen
28 - Will Lee
28 - Bryan Lutterbie
29 - Jennifer Schwab

6 - Richard and Judy Bohne

6 - Stan and Evie Schaber

10 - Kirk and Shirley Hamilton

14 - Bob and Martha Young

23 - Dale and Melanie Hanson

29 - John and Jennifer Strube

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please notify the office.



Stewardship Campaign for 2016 Kicks Off:

The 2016 Stewardship Campaign kicks off during the month of October. The following will be sequence of events:

First week of October – mailing to VPC pledging units kicking off campaign

October 11 - Chili luncheon sponsored by Presbyterian Women after Sunday Service and presentation of proposed 2016 budget

November 1 – All pledges to be turned in for Stewardship Campaign

November 8 - Completion of any follow up for pledging

If you have any questions, please contact me or Pastor Jan.

Dale Hanson

Treasurer

Please join us after service on Sunday, October 25th for:

Bob Young Appreciation Day!

We want to show Bob how much we appreciate his many years of service to Venice Church!



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH!

Upcoming Women's Meetings:	
Dorcas Circle	October 15, Thursday, 7:00 at the home of Donna Marsh
Togetherness Circle	October 27, Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. at Church Annex
New members are always invited to attend Women's events!	

With fall comes the startup of women's activities at the church. Church women of Venice Presbyterian Church are invited to any of our circle meetings or women's events. Throughout the year, we strive to reach our goal of reaching out to the needy with the help of our fundraisers and volunteer events. We hope you will join us for Christian fellowship and devotions.

Community Meal Center

ONE LAST TIME FOR THE YEAR 2015!

October 23, 2015 is the last 4th Friday this year that we will be volunteering to feed those less fortunate at the Community Meals Center. We do it on the even numbered months during the year and there will be no meal served on the 4th Friday of December as we would usually do because it falls on December 25th, so October is our last one for this calendar year. I need at least two more volunteers for that month. Then we will start over and begin again in February 2016.

We can't do this worthwhile outreach without your help. Just a couple of hours once in a while to give someone a nice hot meal that wouldn't necessarily otherwise get one. Just try volunteering once at CMC and you'll be back.....I guarantee it! Thanks in advance. Questions?

Ask **Sharon Thompson 742-9292**





Please keep the following people in your prayers. Let them know we are thinking of them by sending a card, making a phone call, or a visit.

Please keep **Ray and Mildred Miller** in your thoughts and prayers. Millie is continuing to improve. Send a note to: PO Box 172, Ross, OH 45061 or give Ray a call at 738-2248.

Russell "Gene" Oder has been at Doverwood for some time now, let him know we are thinking of him. Doverwood Village, Russell Oder, Room 16 4195 Hamilton Mason Rd, Fairfield Township OH 45011

Keep **Harlan O'Connor** in your prayers. He has been diagnosed with Lymphoma. Send cards to: 2440 Ross Hanover, Hamilton, OH 45013

Please keep **Ray and Audrey Boehringer** in your thoughts and prayers. Audrey is caring for Ray at home with help from hospice. Send a note or a call: - Ph. 738-1985, 3440 Hamilton New London Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013

Clydene Spangler is recovering from heart valve surgery. Let's keep praying for her and send a note or make a call to:
2256 Bella Vista Dr, Fairfield, OH 45014 - Ph. 967-1269

Please keep **Jean Wagonfield** in your prayers. She has had multiple health concerns since March. She is currently at Bradford Place in Hamilton. Please send a card to: PO Box 703, Ross OH 45061.

Please keep **Greg and Kim Young** in your thoughts and prayers. Send a note or card to: 3908 Ficus Ct, Hamilton OH 45013

Gary Butterfield, nephew of Wilma Butterfield, and a Ross Schools alumni, could use prayers as he battles multiple health issues. Send a note to: 7452 New York Way, Dayton, OH 45414

Please keep **Jean Metzger Berard**, daughter of Carroll and Lois Metzger, in your prayers as she recovers from multiple surgeries. Please send a card to: 5826 Dickinson Trail, Liberty Township, OH 45011

Please keep **Viola Powell**, Aunt of Debbie Kuhlenbeck, in your prayers. Her health has declined, and now requires full time care. Please send a note or card to: 2135 Noble Ave, Hamilton, OH 45015



Food Pantry Donations Needed

The following items are needed for the Church's pantry to provide families in need for Thanksgiving. We appreciate any donations you can make.

OCTOBER 25: Vegetables/Fruit

NOVEMBER 1: Breakfast Food

NOVEMBER 8: Canned Meats/Stews

NOVEMBER 15: Peanut Butter and Jelly

NOVEMBER 22: Pasta/Dried Meals

Thank you in advance for your support!

Preschool Opening - Administrator

Jennifer Strube (our current administrator) has informed the Preschool Board of her plans to retire at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

College courses in early childhood development with either a certificate or a degree are required. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, please contact the Preschool Board through the Church office or any of the following members: **Donna Marsh, Sue Toler, Eunice Maynard, Martha Young, or Bob Young**