

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

275 Years of Serving God

On Sunday, July 12, we began our celebration of our 275th anniversary. I chose to preach on the feeding of the 5000 from Mark 6:30-44. In the Story, Jesus provides for the needs of the people even though his resources were inadequate for the task. As I read the story I was reminded of the many times in our history as a congregation that God has provided for and sustained us, even though the resources we had seemed inadequate. We'll remember some of those challenges in the weeks and months ahead.

As I reflected on this, I was reminded of the challenges we face today with an aging, mainline congregation situated in an aging, rural community, where many of our young people have to leave in order to find work. Our resources seem inadequate for such challenges. And yet... God has faithfully provided for and sustained us for 275 years. Can we trust him to provide for us today and in the future? I believe we can. And I hope you'll use the occasion of this anniversary to recommit yourself to Jesus Christ and to serving him in this church, watching to see what God will do!

Pastor Dave

July 30, 2015

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Happy Birthday to...

August 1
 Marjorie Benson
 Brody Fake
 Judith Morris
August 2
 Tyler Grim
 John Warcup
August 3
 Soo Reber
 Rebecca Sayres
August 4
 Ken Ball
August 5
 Pam Fake
 Jacob Hiller
 Erica Hoover
 Rebekah Small
 Kyle Smarsh
August 6
 Emily Delacruz
 Elinor Hueston
 Phil Hunt
 Liam Mosser
 Nicholas Shpak
 Carolyn Warcup

August 7
 Aaron Brownley
 John Kuhn
 Carolyn Westfall
August 8
 Jordan Garrett
 Liam Palmer
August 9
 Wayne Conover
 Ron Knutson
 Stephanie Rathgeber
August 11
 Emma Bahm
 Ronald Clark
August 12
 Alan Moyer
August 13
 Ayden Dillon
 Elizabeth Fake
August 14
 Joan Chandon
 Grant Doehring
 Margaret Doehring
 Sam Doehring

August 15
 Elsie Dillman
 Dan Ecker
 Megan Gochenauer
 Scott Hartwig
 Jennifer Tindall
August 17
 Patty Ann Welles
August 18
 Ron Jones
 Lois Kime
August 19
 Gabriel Contreras
August 21
 Beverley Bigham
 Charles Fatzinger
 Mark Grim
 John Peterson
 Samantha Sites
 Yancy Unger
August 22
 Patricia Smith

August 23
 Ann Cowden
 Niles Grimm
 Betsy Illick
 Scott Keller
 Marilyn McQuaide
August 24
 Kathleen Faloon
 Cheryl Wagner
 Travis Whitney
August 25
 Marie Duncan
 Jane Gwyn
 John Horner
August 26
 Harry Small
 Samuel Tomassini
August 27
 Elaine King
 Lionel Wells

August 28
 Eliza Dreves
 Les Heggan
 Evan Snyder
 Sean Snyder
 Connor Weikert
August 29
 Emma Adams
 Dylan McQuaide
 Randy Parmentier
 Ken VanHoutte
August 30
 Naomi Peirce
 Deborah Wolf
August 31
 Betty Brownley
 Alisa Carbaugh
 Cody Kiefer
 Scott Snyder



We would like to thank the following people for helping to clean up the vans after the South Dakota Mission trip: Barry Breighner, Amy Deitch and Ralph Lambert.

We would like to thank our church family for the numerous cards, prayers and expressions of sympathy we received in regard to the death of our beloved grandson, Jake. Thanks to pastors Dave, Lou and Harry for their contacts with us during this difficult time. We are fortunate to be part of such a loving congregation.

Carolyn and Ron Hankey

THANK YOU!!

I want to thank Maureen Johnson, Sheryl Suplee, Kay Knox, and Bonnie Wright for helping in the church office during the South Dakota mission trip. It's a blessing to be able to go away and know that things are well taken care of.

— Penny

We give thanks to our Gettysburg Presbyterian Church family who supported us with cards, letters, and prayers during my dad's hospitalization and passing. We want to especially thank all who helped out on the day of his memorial service. You truly helped make it a day of celebration and honor for my dad and for God. We received many comments from friends and family how wonderful the service and reception was and how the love and compassion of Christ was evident and alive in the Church.

Sincerely,
 Bruce Rowland and The Rowland Family

Thanks for Helping to Load the Tractor Trailer for South Dakota

Many hands make light work, as the saying goes. Well, it certainly wasn't light work, but many hands accomplished the task of loading the huge truck for our mission trip to the Cheyenne River Lakota Sioux Reservation. Thanks to the following for all their efforts:

Fairfield High School Football Team
Ken Elledge
Bruce & Pam Rowland
Sam Tomassini
Kevin Hollowell
Lucy Breighner
Amy Deitch
Benjy Conover
Alex Cluck
Tracey Stone

Fairfield High School Football Coaches
Carrie, Audrey, & Tessa Trax
Garret Kolmer
Leon, Lisa, Jonah & Savannah Graybill
Marion Lambert
Steve Kinsey
Robert Smith
Kyle, Drew & Lori May
Jessee Crawford
Jess Whitmore

Dave Conklin
Susan Kolmer
Phyllis Dowd
Kathy Kircher
Barry Breighner
John & Pam Musselman
Steve Redding
Chelsea Hollowell
Austin Rucker
Pat Bentzel

Thank you to Cherie Black and her daughter Savannah Waligore for portraying Martha and Agnes Bigham at our 275th Anniversary celebration kick off. Martha and Agnes, her daughter, are ancestors of our own Bob Bigham.

For those of you who missed their historical vignette, we are including the script in this Grapevine (see below). Look for more historical characters to step out of history during the year. They will catch you up on personalities and events that shaped the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church of today.

Vignette: Martha Bigham (wife of Hugh Bigham) and Agnes Bigham (age 5 years) exchange conversation

Agnes: Why did we have to move from Ireland?

Agnes: What is father doing with all those other men all the time? And why do they keep talking about building a meeting house?

Martha: You mean Misters McPherson, McClellan, McConaughy, McKean, Gettys, and Black?

Agnes: Yes.

Martha: They are our neighbors and friends. We all loved worshipping in Ireland and Scotland, and now in this new land your father and the other men are organizing a church so that we can worship together. Right now we are meeting in everyone's homes much like early Christians, but your father and the other men have a plan to acquire land with a spring near Robert McPherson's property. Rev. Samuel Caven will be our supply preacher. He has been pastoring in Chambersburg for six years and will help us get started. They will be building a small, long, plain log building with double-sashed windows and they are going to call it Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. It will feel very fine and give us room to join with others in worship and prayer.

Agnes: I get scared when the Indians come around.

Martha: It is a very hard life. Certainly very different from Ireland. The Indians are just trying to protect their land, but it can be very scary. And it is certainly hard - laboring to fell trees, digging out stumps and rocks, gathering brush to burn, and beginning cultivation. Living in a log cabin with dirt floors and no windows is also hard, but that helps protect us as well.

Agnes: Why do the men seem to argue so much?

Martha: Sometimes they are questioning each other's faith; sometimes they are arguing about decisions too great for little one's heads. Sometime they are just frustrated with how hard our lives are here. I don't think any of us really know what to expect.

Agnes: Are we going to stay here? Will it ever get easier?

Martha: I hope so. Certainly a preacher and a place to worship will help to calm everyone, and God's presence in our lives will grow as we continue to support and care for one another. And perhaps someday, far in the future, our families will have made peace with the Indians and we will be here for generations. At least I hope so. Now it's time for you to get ready for church. Run along, and don't forget to pick some daisies along the way. (Agnes exits.)

Martha: I must remember Ephesians 2:19. ***Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;***

Martha talking to the congregation: I really do hope we stay here forever. When the weather is good and the Indians are not around, I feel so at peace here. It is such a lovely place.

“Calendar of Giving”

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations.

Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization.

For the month of:

August

We are collecting items for
“Operation Move Out”

Household Supplies – non-scratch scrub pads, disinfecting wipes, dish soap, dishwasher detergent, mops (traditional or Swiffer” type), toilet paper, toilet bowl cleaner, first aid kits, shampoo, body wash, laundry detergent, air mattress (single or double), bakeware/cookware sets.

Gettysburg College’s First-Year Walk

Gettysburg College’s First-Year Walk which includes the incoming class of students recreating the 1863 walk to hear the *Gettysburg Address* will process past our church.

The Welcome and Outreach Team needs your help in greeting students **Thursday, August 27th at 6:30 PM** as they pass GPC. With signs of encouragement and candy informing them of our worship times we fulfill one of GPC’s missions to “invite people to faith in Jesus Christ”. Please contact Peter North if interested.

Class of 2015

If you or your child graduated from high school in 2015 we need to know their post-high school address. We wish to keep in touch with them periodically throughout the year(s) following graduation from high school. We need your help to do this by providing us with their post-high school contact information. Please complete the contact card below and return to Rev. Lou Nyiri at the church office (208 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg) or email (gpcloou@embarqmail.com).

2015 Post-High School Graduate Contact Information

Name of Graduate: _____

Postal Mail Address 1: _____

What months is graduate at this address? _____

Postal Mail Address 2: _____

What months is graduate at this address? _____

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone (optional): _____

Going on a Family Road Trip?

Does your family plan to travel this summer? The Christian Education Family Ministry would like to help families nurture their children's faith while on the road. **"Family Faith Bags"** will be available at the Christian Education table for checkout. These bags will be filled with Bible travel games and activities, as well as family discussion cards. Plan to stop by and get yourself a bag. Please stop by the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to "pin" your destination on our map so that your GPC family may pray for you. Then pick up your Family Faith Bag to take on your journey!

HYMN SING

August 30

11:30 - Noon



There will be a hymn sing

Sunday, August 30 from 11:30 - noon

Come, join in singing some of your favorite hymns and learn one or two new ones.

We'd like to hear from you! In August our pastors will be hosting a "sermon talk-back" time after the 10:30AM service each week. We'll meet in Eisenhower Lounge.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED welcomes all local church women to a 1 1/2 hour (\$3) lunch meeting on **Wednesday, August 5, at 11:30 a.m. at the Gettysburg Church of the Brethren, 1710 Biglerville Rd.** Following lunch, our guest speakers Jim & Kate Smith will be sharing about Camp Victory, "A Special Camp for Special Kids." Newcomers are always welcome to join in this ecumenical fellowship. No reservations are needed. For more information, contact Cheryl Potter at 337-2938.

CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Al Moyer on the recent death of his mother.

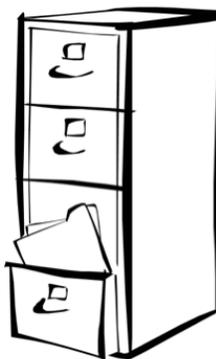
Marge Benson on the recent death of her husband, Rush.

The Hollister family on the recent death of Doris Hollister.

HELP!

Seeking a FIREPROOF and WATER RESISTANT FILE CABINET

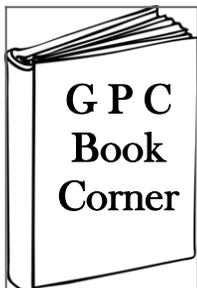
During the 275th Anniversary year we are planning to fully organize and ensure the safety of our archival documents. To that end we need to acquire a very substantial four drawer, locking, waterproof and fire proof file cabinet. If you are downsizing and have such a cabinet (or more than one or smaller ones), please call the church office (334-1235).



NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you. We are only a phone call away. The transportation Deacon for August is Dave Boyer at 528-8676.





I have chosen a book this week that is very interesting, sad, honest, and thoughtful and one that deserves discussion. Being Mortal by Dr. Atul Gawande is a hot book at the moment. My Thursday evening book club has chosen it for discussion in September. I heard about it through Jim. He had watched a documentary on TV about two months ago concerning Dr. Gawande and his research into aging and what most individuals are looking for at the end of their life.

If you aren't familiar with this book, it is about aging and death and the quality of life that we want to continue in our "golden years". We will probably face it with parents and other loved ones at some time in our lifetime. He attempts to provide us with information about how to accept this process on our own terms.

Dr. Gawande has been doing research on death and the aging and has come to some very interesting conclusions. Most of us, as we age, begin to realize what we want our quality of life to be. Do we want DNR (Do Not Resuscitate); do we want to be in a nursing home, what type of care suits our need, etc? Dr. Gawande says that most of us relegate this chore to our children and we give up our freedom to choose what is best for us.

Dr. Gawande writes that medical care has progressed very fast since World War II because of two things, World War II trauma care and Medicare. World War II made it possible to save more lives with surgery and all types of antibiotics and other medicines. Medicare enabled families to look to other types of care for their senior family member, such as nursing homes, etc. But is that the quality of life that you want or need? These topics are what you can find discussed in his book.

There are two types of medical care that doctors can give to aging patients. The most recognizable type of treatment is called curative. This is obviously the area most doctors are familiar and comfortable with. It is the plan by which they instruct the patient what is the best treatment for their recovery or their hope to recover. The second type of treatment is called palliative care and focuses on improving your quality of life, but not just on the body, but mind and spirit also. It is based on your needs and should be introduced to terminally ill patients when there is really no hope of survival.

Most doctors aren't proficient in this area, as stated by Dr. Gawande in his book. His main point is you, the patient, need to tell your family and doctors what you want and need during this time of serious illnesses. That is a very difficult position to be in when you are aging and ill. As human beings we struggle from early adolescence to be independent. Why should it be any different when we age? We don't want to give up friends, routines, food, etc. He gives examples of different ways to achieve this.

Like I said, this is a different mentality than what our culture has demanded from us in recent years. But it is something to think and talk about with your family, your doctor and your pastor. Aging should be a beautiful time to be with family and friends, to relax, and do the things you weren't able to do when you were so busy raising a family and work. He gives some good advice and food for thought.

I will have a copy in the library for you all to take a look at and see what you think. It brought me to tears several times and I can count on one hand the number of books that have done that to me.

I have also placed some new books (fiction) in the library and on the book mobile. There is a new Nora Roberts, Mary Higgins Clark and Dorothea Benton Frank for you to peruse. The book mobile has been rearranged, so take a look.

Enjoy your summer and keep on reading!!
Cathy



Professional Educators, Principals, Superintendents

Sunday, August 23rd we will be inviting you to come to worship for a blessing by the Director of Christian Education. We want to bless you as you enter a new school year. We know the pressure that our culture puts on educators to rectify all kinds of family and social problems that have made this profession both vastly more crucial and infinitely more difficult. Please join us on Sunday, August 23rd as we affirm educators serving in schools as called to a holy and honorable vocation.



Parents On Sunday, August 30th we would like all children and youth to bring their backpacks to worship. We will have the blessing of the backpacks during the Children's Message and have a token to give each child to go on their backpacks. Our children and youth deal with so many stresses nowadays – academic, extracurricular, social, etc. In the midst of all these stresses, we want them to have a tangible reminder that they are always being upheld by the love of God and the love and prayers of their congregation. What better tangible reminder than the backpack that they lug around with them all day long? So, if you know any children or youth, encourage them to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 30th.

Are you feeling left out?

Do others seem to know things about our church that you don't?

Get on our Congregational Notification list and we'll be glad to send you prayer requests, reminders, and changes in our plans. We average sending 2 or 3 of these each month, so we won't overwhelm you with emails! Send your email address requesting inclusion in congregational emails to: info@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

Why Should I Volunteer in Christian Education?

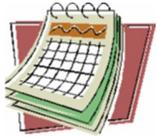
First of all, children and youth are important to God. The Bible tells us that children are a blessing, and while Jesus was on earth, he made a point to welcome children and to affirm their value. If God’s priorities matter to you, then you should care about Christian Education ministry! Volunteering also multiplies your efforts long term. There are few ministry opportunities that allow you to impact the future in such a direct way. Why not step forward and offer to teach in Sunday school, assist in Youth Club games, help in Kids Club, or agree to serve on either the Christian Education or Adult Discipleship teams? We are always looking for new eyes, ideas and individuals to share the love of Christ with others. Are you the one God is showing where He wants you to serve? If God is speaking to you, please talk with Cheryl. We need all of you.

HELP NEEDED

Christian Education needs individuals to help in the following areas for Fall Programming:

- Games/Activities Leader—Youth Club Wednesday afternoons 4:00 – 5:45 p.m.
- 3 Preschool Sunday School Teachers (9:30)
- Children’s Church leaders – 11:00 Service on a rotating basis – lead every 4-5 weeks.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DATES TO REMEMBER



Sunday, August 23 rd	Honoring Professional Educators
Sunday, August 30 th	Blessing of Backpacks Presenting Bibles to 3 Year Olds
Sunday, September 13 th	Kick Off Sunday –All Sunday School classes resume Presenting Bibles to new 2 nd Graders Disciple Bible Studies – I and IV Begin
Monday, September 14 th	Disciple II Bible Study begins
Wednesday, September 16 th	Youth Club Kickoff

**DATES
TO
REMEMBER**

“Kick Off Sunday”
September 13, 2015

“All-Church Picnic”
September 20, 2015

**You can help those
in need locally!**

We have two funds at church that are dedicated to helping those in need in our community: The Samaritan Fund (started by Jack and Kathryn Oyler) and the MacAskill Fund. Previously, several generous members of our congregation supported these funds with their giving. Unfortunately, since these people have passed into life eternal, they are no longer able to support these funds. Please consider an additional gift which will help us to respond to needs for assistance in our community & congregation.

Contemporary Worship News

Beth Christopher has stepped down as leader of the Praise Band after several years in this position. We greatly appreciate the excellent work that Beth did, and thank her for her service. But, we need to find another person to carry on this important work. If you have a suggestion regarding someone who might be a good fit for this part-time position, please contact Pastor Dave, Libby Crowe, Drew Stone, or Dave Conklin.

New Adult Elective Sunday School Class:

**“The God We Can Know”
July 19 – August 30**

We are explore the “I Am” sayings of Jesus through the Gospel of John. How many of the “I AM” statements can you name without looking them up in Scripture? Consider coming and finding out more about the ones you know and learning about some new ones. With each statement Jesus uses vivid images to capture our imagination, revealing more about his identity the purpose. Join us at 9:00 as we learn together.

Traveling Day Camp

TRAVELING DAY CAMP has been an awesome success. We had 29 children and youth participating in the first Traveling Day Camp at GPC. Fun was had by all playing gaga ball, nine square, skits, energizers, songs, slip ‘n slide and Bible Study. What an exciting time we all had at GPC. Thanks to Camp Krislund staff, including our own Andrea Crowe. Thanks also to Libby Crowe, and Ron & Beth Jones. Children did not want to leave at the end of the day and some even are asking if they can sign up for next year’s camp before we are finished with this week. Check out GPC Facebook page for pictures of the fun.

Preparing Through Life for End of Life

*Interactive Resource Fair to Help Plan and
Prepare for End of Life*



**Saturday, September 26
2015**

10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

Topics Include Advanced Directives
and/or Living Wills, Pre-Planning for
Funerals, Estate Planning, Grief Support,
Home Care, Nursing Care, Hospice and
Much More!

This event is sponsored by the End of Life Committee, an affiliate of
Healthy Adams County

DISCIPLE

BECOMING DISCIPLES
THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

The Disciple Bible Studies for fall will be:

Disciple I – facilitated by Randy Parmentier, will meet at 5:00 PM on Sunday Evenings. This 34-week course will move through the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem.

Disciple II – facilitated by Cheryl Betts, will meet on Monday mornings from 10-12. This 32-week study examines the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. We will examine Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts, emphasizing the rhythm of coming to God and going for God...approaching all experiences of life as opportunities for faithful witness and service.

Disciple IV – facilitated by Marion Lambert-Hollowell, will meet at 5 PM on Sunday Evenings. The phrase “under the tree of life” conveys the promise of finding shelter, security, and rest in God’s love. In this 32-week study of the Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, The Epistles of John, James, Jude and finally Revelation, we will see the entire process of living toward final completion of rest and reward.

Fall Disciple Bible Study groups are forming now. Please stop by the Christian Education table in Fellowship Hall or contact Cheryl Betts at gpcdce@embarqmail.com or 334-1235, ext. 5. This is a wonderful way to get to know a small group of people and study God’s Word together. Study Guides are \$40.00 with scholarship help available.

August 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9:00 a.m. Youth Band 4:00 p.m. Arab Christian Fellowship
2 11:30 a.m. Sermon Talk Back	3 7:00 p.m. Mission & Interpretation	4 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision	5 12:00 p.m. Men's Interfaith 6:00 p.m. Historic Church Walking Tour (West)	6 12:00 NOON Newsletter Deadline 6:30 p.m. Adult Discipleship	7	8 9:00 a.m. Youth Band 4:00 p.m. Arab Christian Fellowship 4:00 p.m. Sheely/King Wedding
9 Mexico Mission Report 11:30 a.m. Sermon Talk Back 11:45 a.m. Deacons 4:00 p.m. Session	10 6:30 p.m. Christian Ed.	11 7:30 a.m. Habitat Board	12 6:00 p.m. Historic Church Walking Tour (East) 7:15 p.m. Cont. Ministry Team 5:30 p.m. Welcome & Outreach	13 7:00 p.m. Youth Club Planning Meeting	14	15 9:00 a.m. Youth Band 11:00 a.m. Rush Benson Memorial Service 4:00 p.m. Arab Christian Fellowship
16 11:30 a.m. Sermon Talk Back	17 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music	18 6:30 p.m. Heart Healthy Grp 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision	19 6:00 p.m. Historic Church Walking Tour (West)	20 12:00 NOON Newsletter Deadline 9:00 a.m. Mom's Board	21	22 9:00 a.m. Youth Band 4:00 p.m. Arab Christian Fellowship 5:00 p.m. S. Dakota Picnic @ Rowland's
23 S. Dakota Mission Report 10:00 a.m. Puppet Show 11:30 a.m. Sermon Talk Back	24	25	26 7:00 a.m. Kiwanis 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Com. 6:00 p.m. Historic Church Walking Tour (East) 7:00 p.m. Healthcare 4 All	27 6:30 p.m. Gettysburg College First-Year Walk Outreach	28	29 9:00 a.m. Youth Band 4:00 p.m. Arab Christian Fellowship
30 Bibles to 3-year olds Blessing of the Backpacks 11:30 a.m. Sermon Talk Back 11:30 a.m. Hymn Sing	31 4:15 p.m. 275th Anniv. Com.					



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly



Serving God for 275 years

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, August 6 2015

August 2015
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Contemporary Worship @ 9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

August 2	Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego and the Fiery Furnace Communion
August 9	The Woman at the Well Mexico Mission Report
August 16	David & Goliath Workcamp Report
August 23	Elijah & the Priests of Baal South Dakota Mission Report
August 30	The Raising of Lazarus 275th Anniversary Vignette