

GREENSKY HILL TIDINGS JUNE/JULY 2010

Pastor's Ponderings

A few years ago in this space I mentioned a phrase I used while pheasant hunting after firing over 25 shells and only bagging one bird, "I'm looking and shooting, but I'm not shooting where I'm looking". My comments may have "missed their mark", so I'll see if I can take another "shot" at explaining what I'm thinking.

Who are we, the congregation of Greensky Hill Indian Mission United Methodist Church, and why are we here? This question is answered by our **Mission, Congregational Goals**, and **Core Beliefs** (see below). We are a people called by God to live out our **Mission**. It is God who gives us our **Mission**, is the reason we have a **Mission**, and empowers us to be fruitful in carrying out our **Mission**. Our **Congregational Goals** are the areas/things we believe God is calling us to concentrate on in the near future to cause our **Mission** to become a reality. Our **Core Beliefs** are the foundational beliefs that govern how we carry out our **Mission** and **Goals**. Another way to say this is that our **Core Beliefs** define how we behave. Each of these key elements of who we are, **Mission, Congregational Goals**, and **Core Beliefs**, were discerned over several years by our Pastor Parish Relations Committee and our Council through much prayer and discussion.

As we continue to grow as a congregation, it is easy to lose track of these three areas, reducing our fruitfulness in making God's mission for us become a reality. In other words, we can be "looking" (aware of our **Mission/Goals/Core Beliefs**) and "shooting" (using our people and financial resources for activities), but "NOT shooting where we're looking" (not matching our activities up with God's **Mission/Goals/Core Beliefs**).

I encourage you to ponder, pray, and be in conversation with others around our Mission, Goals, and Core Beliefs. How can we be more "on target" in participating with God to make our **Mission** become a reality.

Mission

We remain a sanctuary of love in a setting of natural beauty.

We preserve a unique Native American heritage.

We invite people to experience community as brothers and sisters in Christ
and empower people to serve all in need.

Congregational Goals

1. We seek to be a welcoming and caring community of faith.
2. We seek to nurture spiritual growth and provide, vital worship opportunities.
3. We seek to have a church family that reflects our ethnic diversity.

Core Beliefs

We believe:

- In the power of prayer
- That Christ has shown us the way to obtain eternal salvation
- All people are created equal
- We are to love each other

PRAYER REQUESTS

Agee Family

George & Marcie

Rose Greane	Neil Cross	Luke Calhoon
Phyllis John	Rose Hassube	Herb Winn
Russell & Karen	Margo & Kala	Lucy Funk
Marsha	Lilly Richardson	Bob Alexander
David Agnew	Glen & Linda	Mildred Speigl
Tammy Speigl	Caroline Kelly	Janice Smith
Matthew Cross	Steve	Clydell
Katie	Jack Balahik	Elizabeth
Tony M.	Kimberly	Austin Gabby & Sonya
Irene	Mary K.	Joan
Angie & Kaden	Kip	Little Nicole
Roxxana Tramontini	Chase	Linda DeGrow
Lois Webb	Connie K.	Gilbert & DeLos
Lynn	Steve R.	Ginny B.
Gary McSawby	Border Patrol	

LITURGISTS

JUNE

6-Al Colby, Jr.
 13-Clydell Willis
 20-Matt Koontz
 27-Kevin Willis

JULY

4-Michael Marchewitz
 11-Kim Marchewitz
 18-Russ Bolt
 25-Kevin Willis

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

1-Mike Mitchell
 1-Tamora Skelly
 3-Craig Adams
 16-Emory Sloan
 16-Marsha Sutton
 17-Pastor Tim
 18-Derek J. Willis
 18-Dora Willis
 18-Matthew Cross
 19-Hayden Johnson
 19-Derek Willis
 26-Matt Koontz

JULY

15-Wendy Sloan
 18-Paula Wright
 23-Shannon Gross
 24-Marilyn Williams
 27-Aaron Robinson
 30-Sara Sheaffer
 30-Carole Tally

ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE

22- Dale & Lori Willis

JULY

2-Jim & Tamora Skelly
 4-Mark & Dorothy Perry
 5-George & Brenda Seamer

Preliminary plans have been made for the up-coming Camp Meeting, being held this year on August 6, 7, and 8. We are awaiting confirmation on groups before finalizing our program. As usual, the Meeting will open on Friday evening the 6th with a Fish Fry at 5:00 PM. , followed by a service and music.

Food for the meals will be provided in Susan Hall, other than on noon Saturday, (the 7th), which will feature a hot dog, bratwurst roast with potato salad in the picnic area. Tables with crafts will be in the open around the picnic area all afternoon.

Weather permitting, all other events will be in our “ Arboreal Cathedral”.

A flyer with confirmed plans and events will be mailed to all receiving this newsletter, and posted in strategic spots in the area.

We hope to see you there. We always have a lot of fun while playing, eating, and in fellowship with the attendees.

Carol and Bonnie

On June 6 following fellowship, baby shower for Katie Willis. Katie is having a girl and is registered at Target.com

Welcome back to Pat DeGraeve, Wendy and Lynn--they were missed!

GREENSKY HILL MEN'S CLUB

The Greensky Hill Men's Club is hosting a benefit for Ruby John, who will be accompanying a Canadian group to Ireland in August.

The Men's club hopes to raise enough to defray some of her expenses, with a pot-luck dinner and music evening (bluegrass- gospel) on July 3rd at Susan Hall, 6:00 PM. The price is \$6 per person with children under 10- years free.

LEWIS AND CLARK EXHIBITION

On Saturday, May 15th twenty- eight hard working members of our congregation came together to show off our church to the surrounding communities. Many thanks to all who prepared to speak about different areas of the church and the grounds. They were Sue and Russ Bolt, Daugherty Johnson, Kevin and Clydell Willis, Alice Harvey, Debbie Chapaw, Ray Greensky, Ray Bice, Richard Tunison, Paula Wright, Rick Quinton and John and Nancy Rhode. Thanks also to Mike and Irene Mitchell who were our elders who made themselves available to share their thoughts with those who just wanted to chat.

The kitchen staff was, as usual, amazing with their ability to take a plan and make it special and then clean up after. Thanks go to Heather Quinton, Clydell Willis, Molly Tate, JoAnn Elzinga, Wendy Sloan, Lucy Witthoef, Nancy Koontz and Carol Tunison. Special thanks to all our food donors: June and Jack Cross for whitefish, Kevin Willis for elk, Duff Johnson for venison, Bonnie Dominic for fry bread, and Daugherty Johnson for wild rice.

A special thanks to Sue Bice for all her assistance in attending planning meetings and the Lewis and Clark opening ceremony, doing the grocery shopping and being the go to person on the day of the event. Thanks to Ray Greensky for making an outstanding map of our church and grounds. Thanks to Dunmaglas Golf Course for the loan of a golf cart for transport to the council trees; thanks to Pastor Tim for driving.

While the community may have missed out on a wonderful opportunity to learn about us, we who came together that day had a marvelous and joyful day of friendship, good food, and learning. God has definitely blessed our church with talented people. Thanks also to the twelve visitors who did come to visit with us.

Judy Johnson

THE AMERICAN FLAG

Thanks to Richard and Carol Tunison and Bart Stupak for the new American flag that is flying at Greensky Hill. This flag was flown over the capitol on June 4, 2006 in honor of Greensky Hill Church and was mailed to us for our use. The flag will continue to fly at full mast until the next Michigan half request. We will then fly the flag at half-mast in memory of those who have given their lives to protect our freedoms. Emory Sloan, whose son was killed in Afghanistan, reports that this is an acceptable practice.

Judy Johnson

MUCH OBLIGED

Thanks to Sue and Ray Bice and family for washing the church windows.
Thanks to Daugherty Johnson for the repair of the pothole at the north corner of the

parking lot.

Thanks to Debbie Chapaw for her Sunday School classes and church mini-message.

Thanks to Molly Tate for weeding the church entry garden walk.

Thanks to Matt Koontz for mowing the church grounds.

Thanks to Paula Wright for updating the church web site.

Thanks to Lee Erickson for his electrical expertise.

Thanks to Gregory, Sarah, Savannah, Brayden, Madelyn, Ani, and Harper for ringing the morning bell.

Thanks to Alice Harvey for coordinating the funeral dinners.

Thanks to JoAnn Elzinga for her steadfastness in Sunday music.

Thanks to Craig and Carol Adams and Sue Bice for doing the newsletter.

This list could go on and on.... More next time!

Judy Johnson

COAL BASKET BIBLE- Author unknown

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, " Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book, What good does reading the Bible do"? The grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, " Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said," You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the bucket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was impossible to carry water in a basket, and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said," I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went to the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wants to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got very far. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was empty again. Out of breath, he said," See Papa, it's useless!"

" So you think it's useless?" The old man said," Look at the basket."" The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean." "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not

understand or remember everything, but when you read it; it will change you from the inside out. That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son.”

Ephesians 5: 25-26 “ Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.”

ONE FLAW IN WOMEN

By the time the Lord made woman, He was into the sixth day of working overtime. An angel appeared and said, “ Why are you spending so much time on this one? And the Lord answered, “ Have you seen my spec sheet on her? She has to be completely washable but not plastic, have over 200 moveable parts, all replaceable and able to run on diet coke and leftovers, and have a lap that can hold four children at one time, have a kiss that can cure anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart- and she will do everything with only two hands.”

The angel was astounded at the requirements. “ Only two hands!? No way! And that’s just on the standard model? That’s too much work for one day. Wait until tomorrow to finish. “But, I won’t, the Lord protested. “ I am so close to finishing this creation that is so close to my heart. She already heals herself when she is sick AND can work 18 hour days.”

The angel moved closer and touched the woman. “But you have made her so soft, Lord.” “ She is soft,” the Lord agreed, “but I have also made her tough. You have no idea what she can endure or accomplish...” “ Will she be able to think?” asked the angel. The Lord replied, “ Not only will she be able to think, she will be able to reason and negotiate.”

The angel then noticed something and reaching out, touched the woman’s cheek. “Oops, it looks like you have a leak in this model. I told you that you were trying to put too much into this one.” “That’s not a leak,” the Lord corrected, “that’s a tear!” “What’s the tear for?” the angel asked. The Lord said, “ The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her pain, her disappointment, her love, her loneliness, her grief, and her pride.” The angel was impressed” you are a genius, Lord. You thought of everything! Woman is truly amazing.” And she is! Women have strengths that amaze men. They bear hardships and carry burdens, but they hold happiness, love, and joy. They smile when they want to scream. They sing when they want to cry. They cry when they are happy and laugh when they are nervous. They fight for what they believe in. They stand up to injustice. They don’t take “no “ for an answer when they believe there is a better solution. They go without so their family can have. They go to the doctor with a frightened friend. They love unconditionally. They cry when their children excel and cheer when their friends get awards. They are happy when they hear about a birth or a wedding.

Their hearts break when a friend dies. They grieve at the loss of a family member, yet they are strong when they think there is no strength left. They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken heart. Women come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. They’ll drive, fly, walk, run, or e-

mail you to show how much they care about you. The heart of a woman is what makes the world keep turning. They bring joy, hope, and love. They have compassion and ideals. They give moral support to their family and friends. Women have vital things to say and everything to give.

HOWEVER, IF THERE IS ONE FLAW IN WOMEN, IT IS THAT THEY FORGET THEIR WORTH.
Maggie Dominguez

SHORT QUIZ

Take this small quiz and see how you do. Answers will be found in the August/September Greensky Hill Tidings.

1. How many birthdays does the average man have?
2. Why can't a man living in Winston-Salem N.C. be buried west of the Mississippi River?
3. If you had a match and entered a room in which there was a kerosene lamp, an oil heater, and a wood burning stove, which would you light first?
4. Some months have 30 days, some have 31. How many months have 28?
5. What four words appear on every denomination of U.S. coins?
6. A farmer had 17 sheep. All but nine dies. How many did he have left?
7. Divide 30 by $\frac{1}{2}$ and add ten. What is the answer?
8. Two men play checkers. They played five games without a draw game and each man wins the same number of games. How can this be?
9. Take 2 apples from 3 apples and what do you have?
10. How many animals of each species did Moses take aboard the ark with him?