

## Pastor's Pondering

*"Neighbor is not the one whom I find in my path, but rather the one in whose path I place myself, the one whom I approach and actively seek."* Gustov Gutierrez

I am an avid bird watcher. One of the first things I did when moving into our current home was to put up a bird feeder and install a bird bath. I am amazed each day by the variety of birds that come to get food and water. Variety, not simply in color, but in personality, size, temperament, flying skills, seed breaking abilities, etc.

For some time I reflected on how this was similar to our church. A diverse group of people coming together to seek nourishment - spiritual, physical and emotional. Recently, I have become aware of some significant differences between the birds and our church. First, we are more than individuals coming for nourishment. It is through who we are as a church community that our nourishment is found. It is through God who is in each of us, among all of us, and binding us together that we are nourished. We cannot do it on our own. Related to this the Spirit of God, within each of us, is often the nourishment that others need. We are a church community not only to find nourishment, but to be nourishment for each other. Finally, birds simply come to my front yard to eat and drink - to receive. God calls us to go out into the community in which we live to be the nourishment for those in need. In the act of sharing the love of God with those in our community, God nourishes us - God draws us further into living meaningful, fulfilling, free lives.

As you enjoy God's winged creatures through the end of summer, consider how God invites you to a better life - a life of going out and sharing God's love with those in need. In your journey outward may you experience God's love nourishing you in new ways.

Pastor Tim  
[wright.tim.b@gmail.com](mailto:wright.tim.b@gmail.com)

**William P. Young - Author of The Shack** will be speaking on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Traverse City Opera House in Traverse City. For more information visit [www.bethany.org/pdfs/tcpyoung.pdf](http://www.bethany.org/pdfs/tcpyoung.pdf) Purchase tickets at [www.cityoperahouse.org](http://www.cityoperahouse.org) or by calling 231.941.8082.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

The Tate Family  
Luke, Kevin & Emily  
Russell & Karen  
Glen & Linda

George & Marcie  
Phyllis John  
Margo & Kala  
Rose Kassube

Rose Greane  
Angie  
Calvin Hill  
Chris & Libby

Lucy Funk	Lilly Richardson	Bob Alexander
David Agnew	Tim McCullough	Mildred Speigl
Tammy Speigl	Caroline Kelly	Nellie Harmon
Janice Smith	Jackie & June	William Koontz
Matthew Cross	David Wassenaar	Mildred's brother
Ralph Teague	Clydell	Katie
Elizabeth	Kimberly	Irene
Mary K.	Joan	Heather
Kaden	Little Nicole	Jim & Inge Ledahl
Roxana Tramontini	Chase	Border Patrol

The Military: Phillip Slocum, Joshua Gloria, Courtney Marulli, Nick Colby, Brittany Shute, Les Meyette, and Troy Drebenstedt.  
Homeless and oppressed people throughout the world.

#### LITURGISTS

<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
2- Wendy Sloan	6-David Wassenaar
9- Clydell Willis	13-Nancy Acker
16-Nancy Acker	20-Alice Harvey
23-Richard Tunison	27-Richard Tunison
30-Lynn Groves	

#### BIRTHDAYS

<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
3-Kelly Sprague	3-George DeGraeve
4-George Seamer	4-Paul Belding
8-Dennis Dominic	15-Bonnie Dominic
9-David Wassenaar	21-Nancy Walker
10-Judy Elzinga	23-Brenda Seamer
11-Pastor Geri Litchfield	
15-Alexandria Sprague	
17-JoAnn Elzinga	
17-Neil Cross	
19-Dorothy Perry	
22-Pastor Carl Litchfield	

## ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
3-Duffy & Robin Johnson	13-Carl & Geri Litchfield
13-Bob & Sue Peterson	16-Dan & Sharon Stout
29-Brian & Valerie Williams	
30-Ken & Nancy	

## HARVEST DINNER 2009

Greensky Hill's annual Harvest Dinner for 2009 will be tentatively held Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:30PM in Susan Hall. Harvest Dinner is a time to come together- some describe it as a "homecoming" to appreciate God's bountiful blessings and to help support the church and its outreach mission. In the past, proceeds from the dinner were distributed for college scholarships, various community service organizations and to individuals in need.

The Harvest Dinner requires lots of organizing and leadership capability. This year Pat DeGraeve has graciously volunteered to be the person in charge for the dinner. We are currently accepting donations of foods and monies to support the dinner. Judy Johnson will be contacting people for donations and for working on the day of the dinner.

## WOMEN OF GRACE RETREAT

The Women of Grace Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Petoskey United Methodist Church. The keynote speaker is Kristen Cottingham, a vibrant and enthusiastic young woman with a passion for God's Word. She shares her heartwarming, everyday moments to teach truth about God and then she demonstrates how life may be joyfully lived beyond the mundane tasks of life.

Through her own personal experiences, she desires to draw others closer to Him. She has written a book titled "Life Beyond Laundry".

She and her husband, Chad, and four children, live in Three Rivers, Michigan, where they are involved in church leadership and community activities.

If you are interested in attending this retreat, please e-mail the Church secretary, Laurie, for information and registration form.....  
[info@petoskeyumc.org](mailto:info@petoskeyumc.org) or call 231-347-2733.

## ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE: MINISTRY TO PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES

When we read about Jesus healing persons with "evil spirits," we often believe what in truth was happening was Jesus ministered to persons with mental illnesses. But as Disciples of Christ, how well are we reaching out to persons today who suffer from schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, depression and other illnesses?

During their lifetime, one in four Americans will suffer some form of mental illness. Chances are, in we don't have one of those four people in our congregations today, we will in the future—or we currently minister to their family members. On Sept. 25, from 9 a.m.- 3p.m., the Harbor springs United Methodist Church will host " All of God's People: Ministry to Persons with Mental Illnesses. " Presentations will include a discussion of myths and facts about mental illnesses; a panel of persons with mental illnesses sharing their experiences including their needs; and a hospital chaplain who will present some do's and don'ts about ministry.

The cost is \$20 per person which includes lunch and all materials. For information, contact Kathy Cadarette at 231-675-2172 or e-mail her at [davec@racc2000.com](mailto:davec@racc2000.com). This conference sponsored in part by the West Michigan Conference Disabilities Concerns Committee.

## ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our All Church Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 7PM with the Parish Council meeting at 6PM. This year we are meeting at Horton Bay UMC. This meeting is the annual meeting of both churches in our parish. We will discuss how our previous year went, look forward to how our ministry will go next year, vote on some financial matters, hear a short message from the District Superintendent, and celebrate our ministry together. Please note on

your calendar- All Church Conference at Horton Bay at 7PM on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### IMPORTANT TIDBITS

1. Carol Tally's grandson, Joshua Gloria, graduated from the Rangers on July 2, 2009 at Fort Benning, Georgia. In September, he will be stationed in Afghanistan. Joshua is with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. Carol, Shannon, and Vanessa flew to Georgia to join in his celebration.
2. Special thank you to Ray Bice and Woody Pearson for power-washing Susan Hall. It looks great!
3. A thank you to Matt Koontz for cutting the grass at Greensky after attending a church function.
4. RUMMAGE SALE- will be in Susan Hall on Thurs.- Sat. Aug.20, 21, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. This rummage sale is for anyone who would like to earn extra money by selling items they no longer want or use. Any questions? Contact Molly Tate.
- 5.HORTON BAY LABOR DAY PIG ROAST- will be on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 4-7:00PM at the Horton Bay UMC.

### UMW MINUTES- JUNE 3, 2009

June 3, 2009 Meeting of the Greensky Hill UMW

The meeting opened with the reciting the Lord's Prayer. Attending were Madelyn, Carol, Alice, Pat, Judy, and Wendy.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. A complete treasurer's report was not available as some monies from the Scoop Dinner are outstanding. The Dinner was a success and everyone enjoyed the food and silent auction. There was discussion on having another one in the future.

Pat is looking into obtaining a used ice machine for Susan hall. More information will be forthcoming.

A breakfast for Father's Day is planned. A sign up sheet will be available in Susan hall for Breakfast casseroles, etc.

Harvest Dinner is in need of a Chairperson. Kathy Colby has compiled an excellent folder on how to run the Dinner. Anyone interested in chairing this event should contact Judy Johnson.

Our next meeting will be held the first Wednesday in August. All Greensky women are invited to attend.

Wendy Sloan, Secretary

### MRS. THOMPSON

This is a great story, all of us have the potential to be a Mrs. Thompson, and a large number of you I can say with confidence has been there for someone, and a Mrs. Thompson has been there for you in your life.

As she stood in front of her 5<sup>th</sup> grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same.

However, that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard. Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers. At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners, he is a joy to be around."

His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle." His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest, and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken." Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have any friends and he sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume. BUT she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to."

After the children left, she cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead she began to teach Children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy became one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer. The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said that he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, " Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, " Teddy. You have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

( For you that don't know, Teddy Stoddard is the doctor at Iowa Methodist in Des Moines that has the Stoddard Cancer Wing.)

Warm someone's heart today. I love this story so very much, I cry every time I read it. Just try to make a difference in someone's life today? Random acts of kindness, I think they call it!  
"Believe in Jesus, He will return the favor."

### AS TIME GOES BY-----

It's hard to believe that five years have past since we have published the first edition of the Greensky Hill Tidings. As stated in the first newsletter- we felt a need to provide a means of communication to keep us all informed of current happenings in the church and to focus on each other's needs.

If you have any suggestions/criticisms of the newsletter, we would appreciate hearing from you to improve the newsletter. We would encourage you to provide us with any written Greensky articles, information, poems etc. you would like to share with others in the congregation.

Articles for the October/November issue will be Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Please place your articles or information in our church mailbox. Thank you.

### ANSWERS TO BRAIN PAINS (See June/July Issue)

1. The answer is 27 ounces. If a brick weighs 9 ounces plus half a brick, then each half-brick is 9 ounces. So a whole brick weighs 18 ounces (2 halves @ 9 ounces each= 18 ounces), and a brick and a half weighs 27 ounces.
2. If you allow  $n$  to represent the number of spaces each vehicle uses, then you need  $1n$  for each motorcycle,  $2n$  for each car, and  $3n$  for each truck.

For the combination of one of each type of vehicle, you need 6 spaces ( $1n + 2n + 3n = 6n$ ). From  $6n = 400$ , solve for  $n$  by dividing the total number of spaces (400) by 6 (spaces) to get 66.67. Because you can't have part of a vehicle in a pod, round that off and you have 66 of each type of vehicle.

Now calculate the fees:

66 motorcycles @ \$ 1.50= \$ 99.00

66 cars @ \$ 2.25= \$ 148.50

66 trucks @ \$ 3.00= \$ 198.00

Add these, and the total is \$445.50

### A LITTLE SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU LAUGH!

A minister was waiting in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday week- end. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, " I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, " I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?