

Grace Notes

February 2019
"Come Home to Grace"

An Unexpected Journey

Thus says the LORD:

*"Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies;
and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls."
-Jeremiah 6:16*

Not unlike Tolkien's Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, I am going to take an unexpected journey. I did not anticipate this opportunity but as a wise friend told me once, "All things happen for a reason." In obedience to Jeremiah's word from the Lord, I stand at a crossroads. I have found the most ancient path I could find. I pray it is a good one, for me, and for all of us.

I am overdue by a year for a sabbatical. I have seen enough dried-up, stale, burned-out minister/preachers that I know I never want to become one. A sabbatical helps renew the soul of a pastor (or anybody else). Discovery and self-discovery, guided by the Spirit, renew as nothing else can.

I have been crossing things off my bucket list ever since the cardiac surprise event of February 22, 2011, 07:30 hours. On my last sabbatical in 2013 I crossed off several things from the list. This sabbatical (September 9 – October 21) I will cross off a BIG one, one I never expected to be able to cross off: to become a medieval pilgrim for a time and walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

A brief history of the Camino: In the early 700's western Spain was still controlled by Christians. The south was dominated by the Islamic Moors. A claim was made that the bones of St. James the Great, were discovered in a tomb in northwestern Spain. King Alfonso II, "the Chaste," king of Asturias, in the northern mountainous region of Spain, made a pilgrimage across the mountains to Santiago. He wanted to verify that these very bones, were, indeed, the bones of St. James. How he "verified" them, I'm not sure, but quickly, and perhaps shrewdly, seeing the strategic advantage of verifying a Christian relic and creating a pilgrimage site in northern Spain, did just that. Ever since, people have walked, in pilgrimage, a number of paths to get to Santiago de Compostela, the city and the church that still holds the relics 1300 years later. This is all very "Catholic" and I am *not* one. But I am a Christian and I *love* medieval history, especially medieval church history ever since I first viewed a 900 year old bishop's mitre (the pointy hat) and his robe and complete outfit in the Cloisters, (go if you can, Google if you can't!) a collection of items of the medieval church housed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. I was taking Church History

01 at Princeton Seminary and as my mouth dropped open I thought, “No way! These people actually lived and fought, and debated, and preached, and finally died, all those years ago!” Church history very literally jumped off the page of my text book in that moment. By the way, we are much more “medieval” in our modern faith than you might think. History tends to repeat. I’ll explain more later.

Of the Caminos to walk, the one I have chosen is the Camino Primitivo (The Original Way) which is of course, the path first used by King Alfonso. Walking the Camino in pilgrimage had fallen out of favor with folks for a time. In 1978 only 13 pilgrims were registered as completing the pilgrimage at the Pilgrim Office in Santiago. The pilgrimage is back being popular. Last year 300,000 pilgrims completed the journey. On the mountainous and remote Camino Primitivo, only 13,000 walked it in all of last year. But I also *love* mountains and mountain hiking, *properly paced*.

People have walked the Camino for various reasons through the years. Some pilgrims came from their plague ravaged village to the cathedral to ask God to stop the pestilence. Some have walked in thankfulness. Some were looking for an answer or for direction in life. Some, now, are fitness geeks and through-hikers. I will be thinking about many things. If I am looking for an answer at all, it will be to seek clarity about my experience on February 22, 2011. I know what happened medically. That is a matter of record. I am seeking clarity about what happened that day *between me and God*. And I’ll probably ask the question, “OK. What next?” These are things good for all to think about and I invite all of us to do the same in 2019.

I am planning, by order of my wife, Jules, to get a new phone capable of reliably sending back good pictures and messages/devotionals/insights from the Asturias Mountains and Galicia while I am on my 200 mile unexpected journey. If you want on the list to receive the Camino Journal (or whatever else I might call it), there will be a time to sign up for that. I will be staying in hotels, not hostels, nor camping, every night. Don’t worry. I will be fed and sheltered. In preparation I am spinning the treadmill on various degrees of incline like a mouse on a wheel, every day. No ill signs or symptoms have appeared (of course they didn’t last time, either). One can only prepare as best one can, try to act wisely, and leave the rest to God. That’s the way life is anyway.

The Camino de Santiago literally means “The Way of St. James.” As a congregation, we will go on a scriptural journey this year as I will preach my way through the Epistle of James, as often as the Spirit leads. You might want to read that short epistle in preparation.

What “pilgrimages” have you been on in life? What did you discover, experience? Did you find God on the wayside? Let me know!

Grace and Peace on the Journey, *-Pastor Rob*

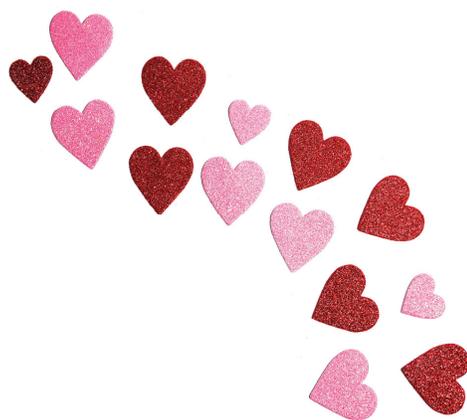
Please Remember:
FAIR SHARE IS DUE NOW! \$15/member
Check to: “Grace Church” Note: Fair Share

SNOOPY SAYS BE COOL! COME TO YOUTH CLUB!

Make a valentine box and fill with cards...
Box and cards will be supplied!
Sing lovely songs & hear a message of love....
Play a cool game...
Feast on Snoopy bowls full of spaghetti, applesauce,
carrots & dip, tossed salad, chocolate dipped strawberries,
Bread Chef bread and pink lemonade!
Parents...would you like a box of Choco-Latte Crunch?
Snoopy said to reward you for bringing your children!

Grace Church February 5 from 4:30-6:00pm

March Youth Club will be Wednesday, March 13 as my son is coming home from California and I want to spend time with him.



GRO's Pizza & a Movie!

You are invited to a movie night on Sunday, February 24 at 5:00 p.m. GRO is providing pizza, a veggie tray, dessert and beverages. If you have a suggestion for a movie, contact Jolane or Diane. Look for a sign up sheet in the dining hall.

The movie will be shown on a brand new TV and blue ray player purchased by GRO! The TV/ player will all be available for use by other church organizations and groups.

Jon & Lynn McMaster
February 16, 1952

Richard & Mary Lou Cope
February 9, 1958

Wayne & Pat Lanterman
February 4, 1978

Tom & Marcy LaVogue
February 7, 1987

Tom & Ashley Snow
February 7, 2008





WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philipians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

Consistory Meeting of January 2019

Members Present: Matt Bell, Brian Cope, Logan Cope, Chris Eisenbraun, Mark Frost, Bill Greenawalt, Alex Heintzelman, Jerry Hughes, Patty Lanterman Excused: Cindy Perorazio, Steve Barnett

I. Devotions – Matt

Next Month: Logan

II. Duty Roster: January: Elevator – Logan Usher – Cindy Communion – Logan, January 6, 2019
February: Elevator – Cindy Usher – Brian Communion – Logan, March 10th, 2019

III. Informal Discussion/Goal Setting: Welcome to Patty, Kim, Jerry, and Brian.

IV. Communications: Thank You's from Pastor Rob, Marcy, Judy, Jolane & Matt Bell for Christmas gifts.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from December reviewed. Motion to accept minutes 1st: Jerry 2nd: Logan, motion carries.

VI. Financial Secretary Report (M. Bell):

Financial report from December 2018 – Current Fund Revenue: \$21,500. Received 165% of budgeted (\$12,987). Current Fund Expense: \$14,915. Spent 113% of budgeted (\$12,962). For the year as whole, expense was at 99% and revenue was at 97% of budgeted amounts. Motion to accept the report. 1st: Patty, 2nd: Bill, motion carries.

VII. Financial Committee Report (M. Bell):

Recognized Janice Heintzelman's service as church treasurer (retiring) on January 6th.

VIII. Pastors Report (R. Joy):

Attendance up in December on average compared to last year, though Christmas Eve service was down a bit.

IX. Unfinished Business:

Have not resolved disagreement with Coon Construction on tuck pointing project. Half of the original balance has been paid. A meeting will be held with Coon to determine final payment. This has been communicated.

X. New Business:

Pastor Rob's Sabbatical 2019 - Proposal reviewed. Sabbatical fund has \$5,049.65. Motion to approve Sabbatical proposal using currently estimated cost, with possible modification in the future. 1st: Mark, 2nd: Matt, motion carries. Sabbatical to start after worship on 9/8/19 and last 6 weeks.

Columbiana Women's club requests to rent the kitchen in May to prepare meals to sell, and use the dining room as a fundraising space. Will "table" until dates more accurately known. No action.

2019 Fair Share requests will start February 2019.

Election of Officers – Nominations:

Secretary – Alex Heintzelman

Vice President – Jerry Hughes

President – Chris Eisenbraun

Chairman of the Elders – Cindy Perorazio

Financial Secretary – Matt Bell

Treasurer – Patty Lanterman

Motion to close and accept nominations 1st: Mark, 2nd: Bill, motion carries.

XI. Committee Reports:

-Worship Design – Meeting upcoming later this month – January 21st, 2019.

-Music – Bell Choir Starting 1/8/19 for the Spring session.

-Endowment – No Report. To meet on January 27, 2019 after church.

-Property – To meet with Coon Restoration regarding final payment for tuck pointing. Thanks to congregants who volunteer their time to continue making the church a nice place to be.

-Elders – No Report. Evaluations ongoing.

Motion that the President of Consistory form a committee to determine guidelines for the distribution of funds in the Grace Church Family Emergency Fund, currently housed within the Women's guild budget. 1st: Mark, 2nd: Brian, motion carries.

XII. Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting February 4th, 2019 at 7PM.



- 2/1 Vicki Cope
Todd Hughes
- 2/2 Pastor Rob Joy
Alex Heintzelman
Lillian Cyrus
- 2/6 Janice Heintzelman
- 2/7 Wyatt Cline
- 2/11 Dorothy Noll
Joe Lawton
- 2/13 Gil Fennell
- 2/17 Karen Nussbaumer
Jessie Lanterman
Holden Barnes
- 2/18 Sue Ferguson
- 2/20 Shirley Beckham
- 2/21 Pat Young
Ruth Zarnosky
Steve Jones
- 2/22 Ann Wise
Caitlin Reash
- 2/24 Evan Kollar
- 2/27 Steve Hanna

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Project Heifer International a success! GRO was able to purchase bees, bunnies, chickens, geese, a goat and a sheep with the \$618.00 we collected during the month of December.

—GRO

Dear Grace Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$400.00 to Hospice of the Valley. We truly appreciate your kindness.

—Sincerely, Liz McGarry, Director of Development

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for generously supporting the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley with a gift of \$400.00. I am touched by your compassion towards your homeless neighbors.

—Blessings in the New Year, John Muckridge, CEO/President

Those Ministering This Month:

Greeters:

- 2/3: Kim Davis
2/10:
2/17: Ruth & Joe Zarnosky
2/24:

Liturgists:

- 2/3: Debbie Rohm
2/10: Amanda Frost
2/17: Brenda Hanna
2/24: Jack Johnston

Nursery:

- 2/3:
2/10:
2/17:
2/24:

Usher: Brian Cope

Elevator Attendant: Cindy Perorazio

Candles: Pat Lanterman



Grace Notes

Grace Church of Columbiana
140 S. Main Street
Columbiana, OH 44408
330-482-4532

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert Joy
Secretary: Marcy LaVogue
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E-mail: gracechurchofcolumbiana@comcast.net
Web: www.gracechurchcolumbiana.com

Office: 330-482-4532
Pastor's Home Phone: 330-892-0512
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.

