

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

July 2016

Last week I had a strange dream.

I was walking in the park on a beautiful sunny day. While crossing a bridge I glanced above my head at the tree in front of me and stopped dead in my tracks. Staring me right in the face were several leaves of low hanging poison ivy, not six inches from the bill of my cap.

Knowing that poison ivy is most certainly *not* a type of tree, I looked closer and noticed that vines of the ivy had completely taken over this particular tree. It was so deeply enmeshed with the trunk and branches that it was difficult to tell where the tree itself ended and the ivy began. For one who didn't know what they were looking at, it would have appeared an ordinary tree. For one who did, it was a horrifying sight that demanded immediate attention.

So urgent was my desire...nay, my NEED to have that dastardly poison removed from this innocent tree that I reached up with my bare hands and set to work removing the ivy piece by piece. I yanked away a small strand here, tore down a huge vine there. I angrily ripped away the venomous plant that had no business whatsoever invading what should have been a safe and happy space around this guiltless timber (and around my head). I didn't give a second thought to the effects that the poison would undoubtedly have on my unprotected hands and arms. It didn't matter; the ivy had to come down NOW.

When I was halfway through the job, I woke up in a sweat.

The interesting thing is that my dream was nearly identical to my experience that morning. I had gone for a walk in the park on a nice, sunny day. I was crossing over a bridge when I noticed that the leaves of the drooping tree in front of me were not friendly vegetation but rather the same foliage which has been the cause of oh-so-many blisters on my feet and ankles. The only difference: instead of immediately hacking away at the poison vines as I did in my dream, I gave the plant a wide berth and got out of dodge as quickly as possible.

At first I didn't think much about it. But as the hours passed, I considered just how much I had wanted the poison ivy GONE, both in my dream *and* on my actual walk in the waking world. Had my subconscious graciously given me license to engage in an act that my cautious, self-preserving self had emphatically denied? I think it had. In the deepest recesses (or maybe not so deep?) of my mind, there was a truth that simply wouldn't go away: what was wrong had to be righted. This truth was an itch that needed scratching so badly that my sleeping self had to take care of the business which my stirring self would not.

In this life we will never stop being put into situations in which we have the chance to speak – to act – or to just walk silently by without addressing the evil at hand. Why do we choose the latter? It's simple: we don't want to become infected with the blisters that the poison ivy of this world will certainly give us.

But here's another truth: injustice and wrongdoing surround us on every side, and *there isn't time* to run home and grab the long sleeves and gloves that will help us properly do battle with the poison of this world. By the time we return to the site of injustice, it will be too late. Others will have been exposed to the poison from which we fled. As we take our time getting ready, little children will be infected with the malevolence that we refused to challenge.

It's true that if we rip down that poison ivy on the spot we will risk exposure to the wickedness of this world. We will experience blisters. We will experience pain.

But we will also embody the example of others who have bravely gone before us and carved out a difficult, but straight, path.

You might have heard of one. He died on a cross.

Pastor Mike

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i> Communion Service starts at 10:00am in fellowship hall for the summer	<i>4</i> 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	<i>5</i> 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	<i>6</i> 6:30-9:30 NA	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> Session	<i>11</i> 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group 6:30-9:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	<i>12</i> 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	<i>13</i> 6:30-9:30 NA	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> Potluck Picnic after church with ice cream social	<i>18</i> 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	<i>19</i> 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	<i>20</i> 6:30-9:30 NA	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> Deacons	<i>25</i> 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group 6:30-9:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	<i>26</i> 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	<i>27</i> 6:30-9:30 NA	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	<i>30</i>
<i>31</i>						

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter, Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer, Elder

Audrey Conner, Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Sharon Garcia, Chairman and Elder

Cindy Handford, Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Jenny Root, Chairman and Elder

June Jennings, Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

Judy Curtis, Chairman and Elder

Michelle Shrewsbury, Elder

Lorraine Scott, Deacon

Lois Hanley, Deacon

FOUNDATION

Leslie Holland, Chairman and Elder

David Garcia, Elder

Nancy Pride, Deacon

Patrick Frobe, Deacon

John Jennings, Deacon

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

Music Man Jr.

Gale Shrewsbury is playing Mrs. Paroo in the Music Man Jr at the Village Theater in Canton.

Performances are July 14-16 at 7:00pm and July 16-17 at 2:00pm



Sunday, July 17th, following worship –
Potluck Picnic

Friday, September 16th, 7 p.m. –
Bonfire and Wienie Roast

Friday, October 14th, 7 p.m. –
Board Game Night



JULY
BIRTHDAYS

4	Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin
10	Carolyn Gates
19	Betty Hesselgrave
28	Lee Milligan-McLane
29	Mark Handford
31	Michelle Shrewsbury

JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

The Classy Lassies (ladies) and Grazers (gentlemen) meet at 11:30 on the last Wednesday of the month for lunch and fellowship. All are welcome to join as the men visit one location and the ladies another. Meet at the church before 11:30 on July 27 to attend this lunch with a host of friendly folks.

A publication for the family and friends of Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church (USA)
36660 Cherry Hill Road, Westland MI 48185
Office: (734) 728-1088 churchoffice@wowway.biz
Michael Beckman, Pastor (215) 620-3259, mikebeckman2@gmail.com

July 2016 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

July

Friday, July 1 Morning: Pss. 88; 148 Evening: Pss. 6; 20 Num. 24:1–13 Rom. 8:12–17 Matt. 22:15–22	Wednesday, July 6 Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 132; 134 Deut. 1:1–18 Rom. 9:1–18 Matt. 23:27–39	Monday, July 11 Morning: Pss. 5; 145 Evening: Pss. 82; 29 Josh. 2:1–14 Rom. 11:1–12 Matt. 25:1–13
Saturday, July 2 Morning: Pss. 122; 149 Evening: Pss. 100; 63 Num. 24:12–25 Rom. 8:18–25 Matt. 22:23–40	Thursday, July 7 Morning: Pss. 116; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 26; 130 Deut. 3:18–28 Rom. 9:19–33 Matt. 24:1–14	Tuesday, July 12 Morning: Pss. 42; 146 Evening: Pss. 102; 133 Josh. 2:15–24 Rom. 11:13–24 Matt. 25:14–30
Sunday, July 3 7th Sunday after Pentecost Morning: Pss. 108; 150 Evening: Pss. 66; 23 Num. 27:12–23 Acts 19:11–20 Mark 1:14–20	Friday, July 8 Morning: Pss. 84; 148 Evening: Pss. 25; 40 Deut. 31:7–13, 24–32:4 Rom. 10:1–13 Matt. 24:15–31	Wednesday, July 13 Morning: Pss. 89:1–18; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 1; 33 Josh. 3:1–13 Rom. 11:25–36 Matt. 25:31–46
Monday, July 4 Morning: Pss. 62; 145 Evening: Pss. 73; 9 Num. 32:1–6, 16–27 Rom. 8:26–30 Matt. 23:1–12	Saturday, July 9 Morning: Pss. 63; 149 Evening: Pss. 125; 90 Deut. 34:1–12 Rom. 10:14–21 Matt. 24:32–51	Thursday, July 14 Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 16; 62 Josh. 3:14–4:7 Rom. 12:1–8 Matt. 26:1–16
Tuesday, July 5 Morning: Pss. 12; 146 Evening: Pss. 36; 7 Num. 35:1–3, 9–15, 30–34 Rom. 8:31–39 Matt. 23:13–26	Sunday, July 10 8th Sunday after Pentecost Morning: Pss. 103; 150 Evening: Pss. 117; 139 Josh. 1:1–18 Acts 21:3–15 Mark 1:21–27	Friday, July 15 Morning: Pss. 51; 148 Evening: Pss. 142; 65 Josh. 4:19–5:1, 10–15 Rom. 12:9–21 Matt. 26:17–25
		Saturday, July 16 Morning: Pss. 104; 149 Evening: Pss. 138; 98 Josh. 6:1–14 Rom. 13:1–7 Matt. 26:26–35

Sunday, July 17
9th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Josh. 6:15–27
Acts 22:30–23:11
Mark 2:1–12

Monday, July 18
Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Josh. 7:1–13
Rom. 13:8–14
Matt. 26:36–46

Tuesday, July 19
Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Josh. 8:1–22
Rom. 14:1–12
Matt. 26:47–56

Wednesday, July 20
Morning: Pss. 15;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Josh. 8:30–35
Rom. 14:13–23
Matt. 26:57–68

Thursday, July 21
Morning: Pss. 36;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Josh. 9:3–21
Rom. 15:1–13
Matt. 26:69–75

Friday, July 22
Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Josh. 9:22–10:15
Rom. 15:14–24
Matt. 27:1–10

Saturday, July 23
Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Josh. 23:1–16
Rom. 15:25–33
Matt. 27:11–23

Sunday, July 24
10th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Josh. 24:1–15
Acts 28:23–31
Mark 2:23–28

Monday, July 25
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Josh. 24:16–33
Rom. 16:1–16
Matt. 27:24–31

Tuesday, July 26
Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Judg. 2:1–5, 11–23
Rom. 16:17–27
Matt. 27:32–44

Wednesday, July 27
Morning: Pss. 65;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Judg. 3:12–30
Acts 1:1–14
Matt. 27:45–54

Thursday, July 28
Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Judg. 4:4–23
Acts 1:15–26
Matt. 27:55–66

Friday, July 29
Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Judg. 5:1–18
Acts 2:1–21
Matt. 28:1–10

Saturday, July 30
Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Judg. 5:19–31
Acts 2:22–36
Matt. 28:11–20

Sunday, July 31
11th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Judg. 6:1–24
2 Cor. 9:6–15
Mark 3:20–30

PRESBY-LITE

A low-fat review of the Presbytery of Detroit meeting
of June 14, 2017, held at Port Huron First Presbyterian Church

*Strengthening and Transforming Our Congregations to be Missional, Pastoral, Prophetic
Seeking the Welfare of the City. Jeremiah 29:7*



CALLS AND TRANSFERS

New Calls

Daniel Ervin to resident minister, **Ann Arbor First**
Judith McMillan to interim pastor, **Howell First**
Keith Cornfield, to temporary Supply, **Ann Arbor Calvary**
Richard Griffith to temporary supply, Milan Peoples
Arthur Oberg to validated ministry at **Trinity Home Health Care Services**.

MAJOR ACTIONS TAKEN

Examination for

Ordination. Presbytery examined and approved for ordination **Daniel Ervin**. Mr Ervin will serve in the validated ministry of resident minister at **Ann Arbor First**.

Closing of Point of Vision.

At the request of Southfield Point of Vision Church, Presbytery voted to close the church.

REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Seek the Welfare of the City. Jeremiah 29:7. As a part of addressing this 2016 theme, there was a pre-

Presbytery meeting entitled “Startup Communities: How communities can take action to solve problems and address unmet needs using entrepreneurial approaches.” It was presented by Sheu-Jane Gallagher, founder of the Villages Community Development Corporation, and a Business consultant.

During the meeting, Presbytery heard and discussed “Detroit Update,” a description of what is happening in the City, by John Gallagher, Detroit Free Press Business Writer and Commentator.

Howell Nature Center. The Trustees announced that they have changed the Howell Nature Center from a limited license company to a Michigan non-profit corporation. This was done to help in fund-raising and tax-exemption.

Investment Policy. The Trustees announced the new Trustee Policy T-7. This is the policy that will guide the investment of Presbytery endowments and funds.

Funds for 2017. The Trustees have estimate that our investment portfolio will provide \$278,029 in 2017,

which will augment *per capita* and shared mission contributions in our mission budget.

Retirement of Beverly Auger. The Coordinating Cabinet reported the retirement of Beverly Auger, our Accounting Manager. The Presbytery Operations Team is conducting a search to fill the position.

MISCELLANEOUS

Seek the welfare of the city.

The Coordinating Cabinet reported that all the material for our 2016 theme, Seek the Welfare of the City, Jeremiah 29:7, is posted on our web site.

Records Review. The Stated Clerk reported not only churches who have had their records reviewed by the Presbytery, but also those churches whose records have not been reviewed. He announced that the policy has been changed, and now requires clerks of session to report that their records have been reviewed and any exceptions or corrections. A make-up review session is scheduled for Saturday, October 15th at 10:00 a.m. at the Presbytery office.

PC(USA) leaders issue post-General Assembly letter to the church

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3

Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a new season in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as witnessed by the actions of the 222nd General Assembly (2016). The body of 594 commissioners who gathered June 18-25 in Portland, Oregon, elected Co-Moderators Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, and J. Herbert Nelson as the Stated Clerk. Both were historic, and both signal a new way forward for our church.

The business decisions made by the body also were transformative for the 1,572,660 members and 9,642 churches of the PC(USA). The work wasn't easy, and involved careful deliberations. Collectively, the body acted on nearly 100 overtures by discerning the will of Christ.

Among other things, we now have a new addition to our *Book of Confessions* – the Confession of Belhar. It is the first of our confessions that comes from the global south. And, the PC(USA) has a new Directory for Worship; and Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures. God is truly guiding us to be more faithful and just to all of God's creations.

Much discussion has been taking place around the identity and purpose of the denomination, and this week the assembly voted to create a 12-member Way Forward Commission “to study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC(USA),” and a 15-member 2020 Vision Team to “develop a guiding statement for the denomination and make a plan for its implementation.”

To quote Stated Clerk-elect J. Herbert Nelson, “We are not dead ... we are alive, we are reforming and we are transforming this world, one person at a time.”

Looking outward, the assembly voted to engage in selective, phased divestment from fossil-fuel companies through the PC(USA)'s Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee, and re-affirmed a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine.

Please know this is only a snapshot of the actions taken, and just a glimpse at where God is leading this denomination. Complete business actions can be viewed at [.](#)

We are, brothers and sisters, in a new season. It's exciting, but also a little scary. Yet in the midst of it all, take comfort that God is still guiding and controlling all – and we need not fear. God is calling us to hope, and to God be the glory!

The Reverend Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

The Reverend Denise Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston

Financial Report as of 5/31/2016



	May	Year to Date	Budget
Income	9,844	46,786	43,977
Expenses	8,506	45,270	44,651
Net Income or Loss	1,338	1,516	-674
Liquid Assets*	91,061	91,061	

* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.

Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

May was again a positive financial month with 5 collections, Flea Market income, and a \$200 class action suit settlement. We are now significantly ahead of the 2016 budget; however, we still have not been billed for snowplowing and June will be a 3 pay period month which is always difficult to overcome.

Join us for a potluck picnic and ice cream social on

Sunday, July 17 at Noon.

Everyone is welcome!

Bring a dish to pass, your own lawn chairs and any lawn games you may have.

The Fellowship Ministry Team will furnish the ice cream treats and table settings.

A-I Side J-P Main R-Z Dessert



Now that you have finished reading the newsletter, please take a moment to pray for...

NEEDING PRAYERS:

Willow Creek's preschool teacher, Darlene Taig, has an 11-year old granddaughter with Kleefstra Syndrome

Brenda Wilson, friend of Leslie Holland-her cancer has returned

The mission of the Kirk of Our Savior is to glorify God, nurture new and existing relationships, and bear witness to our faith and divine calling through worship, service, stewardship and prayer.

It is the vision of this church to become a living example of God's love, called to show Christ to those within the church community by offering ourselves in service to those in need and inviting all to share in this vision.