

**October 2017**

**Worshiping God With Joy.**

**Serving Others.**

**Embracing All.**

## Pastor's Ponderings...

Two things are on my mind this morning as I consider what to write in this newsletter article. So it seems like a perfect opportunity to tie them together – prayer and stewardship. Strange bedfellows indeed – one is so intangible and the other so tangible. Nevertheless the stewardship of our lives, our finances, our church, etc. is very much affected by our prayer life. And it works the other way around too. Our prayer life is very much affected by the ways we view and practice stewardship in all the areas of our lives. I think it is reasonable to say that all of us could use a little help, do a little better, in our prayer lives and in our stewardship practices.

People wonder about how to pray, whether there is a “right” way to pray, or what happens in prayer. Even the apostle Paul, in the first century, confessed: “We do not know how to pray as we ought” (Romans 8:26).

The ‘keep it simple’ rule applies. Prayer is simply talking with God in all the ways we communicate with and talk to other people. However, whenever, wherever, and whatever, you choose to pray, the most important thing is to DO it! Paul sets a goal for us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). In prayer we are called to recognize our total dependence on God and to realize that all that is good in our lives is a gift from God.

Over time, prayer helps us to see ourselves as God sees us and to see who God is calling us to become. With this realization comes a sense of purpose and a responsibility to the Christian practice of stewardship whereby we serve God’s kingdom in whatever ways we can. As faithful stewards we place our talents and gifts at the service of God and one another. Hugh Whelchel, Executive Director of the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics, says that Christian stewardship “is where the concepts of faith, work and economics intersect.” In other words, stewardship is a package deal not to be shirked or taken lightly.

Stewardship season is upon us. You will be hearing more information about that soon. Unashamedly, we will be asking for your financial support; and if possible, increased giving. It goes without saying that there is a need for financial resources to support our aging physical plant and administrative costs. But your donations also directly impact the mission and ministry of this congregation both within and beyond our doors.

As you consider the connection between prayer and stewardship in your life, I would ask that you focus on gratitude. The truth is that everything we have comes to us as a gift of God – every breath, every ability, every opportunity, every moment of life – all blessings not earned or deserved but freely given to us by God through grace.

Gratitude works as the gift that keeps on giving. And Christian stewardship grows out of gratitude. Daily ask “For what gifts am I grateful today?” Say “Thank you” often – to God and others. And then respond to that gratitude by putting the things God has given you to use for God’s work in the world.

*Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.*

*C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

Ogden Memorial is only able to continue its ministry supported by your stewardship commitments. We plan to launch this year's program mid October. So please prayerfully consider making a generous commitment. All of our costs continue to rise – so it is vital our income does also.

Please go all “In” with Ogden as our congregation focuses on ‘Living A Generous Life.’ It is not overstating the case to say that Ogden’s future begins and ends with each and every member of the church and their responsibility for and commitment to ensuring our doors stay open in service to God’s Kingdom.

Pastor Kathi

*Pray for the little things ...*

*“Help me to live this day quietly and easily; To lean upon Thy great strength trustfully and restfully; To wait for the unfolding of Thy will patiently and serenely; To meet others peacefully and joyously; And to face tomorrow confidently and courageously.”  
(Anonymous)*



**NEED A RIDE?** We know that some of you may have a difficult time getting here on Sundays. If you want to be here, we want you to be here. So please contact the office (973-635-5567) some time Monday thru Thursday, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. prior to that Sunday, and let us know. We will do our very best to arrange a ride here and back.

## **Sundays at Ogden – October**

### **Sunday, October 1 – World Communion**

9:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Deacons

### **Sunday, October 8**

	No Ensembles
10:00 a.m.	Worship
	No Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship

### **Sunday, October 15**

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
11:15 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Musicians
11:30 a.m.	Mini Craft Sale

**Sunday, October 22**

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
9:30 a.m.	Youth Musicians
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Worship & Music Committee

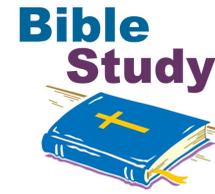
**Sunday, October 29**

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Musicians



**Coffee Hour Sign-ups**

We look forward to enjoying refreshments and fellowship after the church service. It is hoped that we can continue to provide coffee hours each Sunday, but your help is needed. Please take a moment to sign-up for one of the upcoming coffee hours. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have any questions, we can find the answer. Just call June in the church office (973-635-5567) and she'll make sure someone gets back to you.



will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Library at 10:30 am. No preparation is needed – nor is any Bible knowledge. Just come and be a part of our discussions about how faith, life and biblical teachings intersect. The next scheduled classes are October 24 and November 28. Because of Christmas, the December class is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19. We'd love to have you join us and hope you will consider giving it a try – on a once-in-a-while, or on a regular, basis. While advance notice of your attendance is not required, it is helpful to know 'just in case' anything changes regarding holding the classes.

**Mission-In-Action...**

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed towards the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Program to benefit Hurricane Disasters. We were able to collect about \$366. There is still time to donate if you wish. Just use one of the pew envelopes, mark it "PDA," and deposit it in the offering plate or the plastic jar in the Narthex.



Our October mission project will be to collect new or used (clean, in good shape) coats, hats, gloves and scarves. A collection box is available in the Narthex.



## News From Session

At its September meeting, the Session:

- voted to call a special meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on October 15, 2017;
- looked forward to PSE&G's construction of a new gas line, to accommodate the new furnace;
- heard plans for this year's Sunday School, and planned to seek additional teachers;
- heard of contributions to hurricane relief, and plans to continue this effort;
- requested that all committees make their budget requests for 2018 as soon as possible;
- discussed ways in which Ogden can make more effective use of social media and other device-based activity.



## ♪ Music Notes ♪

Thanks again to all who helped with our wonderful Kick-Off Sunday on September 17. It was a great day musically and all around! Minus a slight variance for the start of October, our ensembles are back in their fall rotation. Details are outlined on the monthly calendar, but here are some highlights:

- On October 1 **Chancel Choir** adds to worship along with guest organist Karen Coates and soprano Lydia Dahling. While I will miss being at Ogden at the start of the month, I am appreciative of some time away to be with family and friends, especially to celebrate the wedding of Hallie Silverston, a good friend and someone who has sung at Ogden over the years.
- After the Columbus Day weekend (with all ensembles “off”), Chancel Choir adds to worship on Sunday, October 15. **Youth Musicians** also resume rehearsals on Sunday, October 15, with the goal of having them share their talents in worship on Sunday, October 22. **Chimes Ensemble** will likely next add to worship on the first Sunday of November.

- Also, mark your calendars and save the date: On **Sunday, November 12**, our **Concerts on Main** series returns with a 4:00 p.m. performance followed by a **Community Dinner**. Full details to be shared soon.



Plans are underway for fall and winter youth activities, possibly to include an adventure in late October or early November. One tradition, our **hike following worship the Sunday after Thanksgiving** is set to take place on Sunday, November 26. Additional information about this and other events will be shared in the coming weeks.

## **IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START SHOPPING NOW**

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES WILL BE DUE BY NOVEMBER 12**

Operation Christmas Child, a project of the Samaritan's Purse, is the world's largest Christmas outreach of its kind. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to millions of children affected by war, poverty, natural disasters, and other crises in more than 100 countries. Our church once again has an opportunity to touch the lives of boys and girls all over the world. All you need to do is take an empty shoe box and fill it with things like fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. The shoe boxes are not only meant to bring joy, but also demonstrate God's love.

Operation Christmas Child is an easy mission project that every member and family can participate in by bringing a gift-filled shoe box to church **by Sunday, November 12**. Operation Christmas Child brochures and ready-made boxes (both cardboard and new plastic ones) are available now. Don't pass up the opportunity to show a child love and caring this holiday season. Encourage your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to take part and bring their boxes to Ogden.

For additional information and to learn more you can visit:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

The website has been newly updated with wonderful stories to view and share, updated idea lists for items you can put in your boxes, ways to volunteer etc. You can also follow Operation Christmas Child on Facebook or look for shoebox ideas on Pinterest.

If you have questions, please see Gail Paradise or Ginnie Trowbridge. Additionally, if you would like to support this mission project but are not able to fill a shoebox, you can provide a cash donation to Gail or Ginnie and they will shop for and fill shoeboxes with your donated funds!



### Art Exhibition

We are pleased to let you know that one of our members, Kathy Havens, will have a solo art exhibition, "Eclectic," during the month of October at the Library of the Chathams.



Please take time out from your busy schedules to remember the October birthdays listed below. Send a card or make a phone call. Your greetings will be appreciated by all! If you have not seen your name on the lists, please call the church office so that we can update our files with your birth date. We promise not to print the year in the "Birthday Corner."

Barbara Molitor	16
Tyler Kidd	20
Lisanne Wildauer	22
Casey Molino Dunn	22
Dmitri Apostola	25



Dear Ogden Family and Friends,

Peter and I would like to thank everyone who cooked meals for us when I was recuperating from hip surgery. We are very grateful for all the cards and prayers. I am currently doing out-patient therapy. I still find it hard to walk and climb stairs. Hopefully I will be back to church by October.

Thank you all again.

Mariclaire and Peter Miller

