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CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2023
TYDINGS

Volume 33, Issue 8

Over the last few weeks, the Wallace family has been settling into their new life in Barranquilla, Colombia. The first thing we have learned about the city is that IS IT HOT! Apart from that, the hardest part in the first several days was recognizing just how many tools each of us uses daily and when you don't have them, it's tricky to accomplish certain thing. For example, the smaller things we had to find right away were hangers, chip-clips, pots and pans, towels, and pillows. Then, we also had to acquire several larger items. We needed a dining room set, a microwave, a washer and dryer, and another air conditioner in our main dining/living room. Did I mention that it was HOT?

Apart from the language barrier, there have been several cultural differences, some expected and some not. The pace of life is slightly slower and speed and efficiency are not held in such high esteem as in the US. Food service is much slower and sometimes meeting times are more suggestions than an exact time to be there. It makes me wonder, are we too fixated on time and speed that we cannot enjoy the in-between moments more? Also, shopping here is a hassle because it's always hard to know the hoops you have to jump through when checking out.

We bought a fan today and, while at the register (where often we need to show ID or a passport—but not always!), we were told we had to return to the appliance section to have them make sure the product worked before we left. (As an aside, when paying with a credit card, they always ask how many installments you want—I assume it's something akin to layaway but am still not sure.) Then, before leaving the store, another employee had to check that every article we had was on the receipt.

There have been other surprises, too, including:

- We can walk to two large shopping malls in just a few minutes.
- At the grocery store, we found around a dozen local fruits, and some don't even have a translation to English because we just plain don't have them!
- Exterior windows don't have screens because bugs (including ants) are rare.
- However, we do have a lizard hiding in our kitchen cabinets!

The children have started attending school at the Colegio Americano. The school year here is different, and they are just finishing up their school year rather than starting a new one. The children have been immersed in Spanish and are picking it up *paso a paso* (step by step).

It has been so helpful to have Courtney's dad, Mike, who has been staying with us for the first month of the sabbatical. Especially in periods of transition, it's nice to have an extra pair of hands to depend on with childcare and more. He's staying in the apartment adjacent to ours, so he has privacy, but is only a shout away.

Starting on Wednesday, August 2, Pastor Michael will begin to teach his

(continued on page 2)

PRAYER CHAIN

Whenever there's a need for prayer, please call one of our Prayer Chain co-chairs:

Barb Bartchy
(330) 494-4003
bbartchy@hotmail.com

Judy Smith
(330) 771-0598
judithllsmith@gmail.com

Carol Orin
(330) 327-6543
jlocao4638@gmail.com

WORSHIP

Sundays
8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
10:30 Sunday services are broadcast LIVE on

News-Talk 1480 WHBC
YouTube

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PASTOR'S NOTE

August 2023

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."
Jesus (Mark 1:15)

In the Gospel of Mark, these are the first words that come out of the mouth of Jesus. Speaking of Jesus, these words are the first words spoken by John the Baptist. The purpose for which he came, the very center of the gospel, revolves around the Kingdom of God. As Dr. John Bright puts it in his book *The Kingdom of God*, the Kingdom of God is the "burden of Jesus' preaching." As you read through the Gospels, the Kingdom of God is always the topic of concern, and for Jesus, a matter of grave importance. Jesus says very little about heaven and even less about Hell. The word "salvation" crosses His lips 11 times. He speaks of the Kingdom of God 86 times. Is it too dramatic a thing to suggest that knowing and understanding the Kingdom of God is the key to authentic and life-giving faith? I think not!

Yet even though the Kingdom of God is central to all that He says and does, Jesus never pauses, not once, to define or explain it. Even more perplexing is the fact that nobody ever bothered to ask "Good teacher, just what is the Kingdom of God? Please explain it clearly." To make matters a bit more muddled, often when Jesus talks about the kingdom, he does so through parable.

"He said therefore, 'What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.'" (Luke 13:18-19)

It's as if the term was already understood and didn't need to be explained any further.

One of my theology professors once noted much the same thing about the sacrament of baptism. Nowhere is it clearly defined in the scriptures. He went on to compare it to our common day handshake. If you think about it, nobody ever had to explain to me just what a handshake was, what it represents, how it is executed. Someone might have explained how to shake hands correctly, but there was no need to explain its meaning. I didn't need a class in handshaking. After my father finished explaining the "facts of life" to me, he didn't then say "Now, let me tell you about the handshake!" Everyone just knows. Jesus uses the term Kingdom of God knowing that everyone understood exactly what he was talking about.

The idea Jesus was talking to was one very familiar with every Jew of his day. Jewish history is replete with such an idea, though the concept was worded differently in the many and various centuries that preceded Jesus. To understand the term, and therefore the central concept of Jesus' ministry and revelation, we must look to comprehend the idea historically.

The fact is, Jesus does not leave us with a nebulous concept meant to confuse us and leave us with an incomplete or misguided faith. On the contrary, knowing that Jesus is expounding and building upon a vision, hope, and expectation born of God at the dawn of time, is designed to excite us, draw us near, and direct a faith that longs for meaning and purpose. Authentic Christian faith needs to be fashioned in the same ways that those who followed Jesus had their faith imagined and formed. Those who came to Jesus did not come with a blank slate. Their faith was formed through the stories of Moses, David, Isaac, Jeremiah, and many others. They give shape to all that Jesus said and did. To understand Jesus and the kingdom He proclaimed—to take the next step in faith maturation—we must put ourselves in the same place as those who first followed Him.

The next CPC program year begins in September. With Sessions' encouragement, I invite you to consider what will be various classes, discussions, and experiences I have designed to put each of us in a place of fully perceiving and appropriating the central message of Jesus Christ. Various opportunities will unfold throughout the year. I hope you will consider joining in as many of these faith excursions as you are able. I'm excited to offer these opportunities and am eager to enjoy the fellowship, conversation, and renewal that our time together promises.

Shalom,
Pastor Dave

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two theology classes. For Systematic Theology I, and the first few weeks, he will be discussing the role of theology, the differences between faith and reason, and the importance of God's self-revelation for theology. For Systematic Theology II, he will dive into the topics of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

As always, we would ask that you be in prayer for our whole family as we continue in this cross-cultural experience of a lifetime. We miss you all and hold you in prayer and in our hearts. Again, if you feel so inclined, feel free to drop us a letter or postcard at the following address:

Quinta Iglesia Presbiteriana
Rvdo. Michael Wallace, Sra. Courtney Wallace,
Teo, Neva, Nathaniel
Calle 73 B # 41-10
Barranquilla, Colombia

Bendiciones (Blessings)!
Michael, Courtney, Theo, Neva, & Nati

August 2023

Sunday
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service (Chapel)
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir (Chancel)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Monday
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday
- 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 1
- 6:00 p.m. Special Session Meeting (Parlor)

Thursday, August 3
- 1:30 p.m. Alzheimer Caregiver Support Grp. (Parlor)

Sunday, August 6
- 1:00 p.m. Family Pool Party

Tuesday, August 8
- 7:00 p.m. Mission Ministry (Parlor)

Wednesday, August 9
- 8:00 a.m. Food and Clothing Ministry (Westminster Hall)
- 1:30 p.m. Faithful Friends Sm. Grp. (Parlor)
- 3:30 p.m. Worship Ministry (Parlor)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry (Zoom)

Friday, August 11
- 12:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting (Zoom)

Saturday, August 12
- 7:30 a.m. Food Ministry Breakfast (Westminster Hall)

Monday, August 14
- 5:00 p.m. Camp Fundraiser (Dairy Queen on Hills and Dales)
- 1:00 p.m. Property Ministry (Parlor)

Tuesday, August 15
- 9:15 a.m. Endowment Meeting (Parlor)
- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday, August 16—TYDINGS DEADLINE

Wednesday, August 23
- 8:00 a.m. Food and Clothing Ministry (Westminster Hall)
- 1:30 p.m. Faithful Friends Sm. Grp. (Parlor)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry (Zoom)

Sunday, August 27
- 11:45 a.m. First Youth Group Meeting

Dramatic Readers of God's Word

Do you remember the choir all taking parts at Pentecost to bring alive the Acts 2 story of the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples? That was the start to a twice-monthly series, brainchild of Rev. Michael Wallace and Geoffrey Darling starting in September.

If you are interested in taking part please contact Geoffrey Darling at 330 819 8109, or grab him when you next see him or email at geoffrose05@yahoo.com.

A Message from the Transition Team

Dear members of our congregation,

We are now entering the next phase of our succession plan to replace Pastor Dave. As we described at our most recent congregational meeting, we have started the subcommittee of session to begin our due diligence efforts. We have met with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) and outlined session's vision for the future of CPC.

COM has asked us to conduct "Conversation Circle" meeting(s) to review the vision with the congregation and get your thoughts, concerns and ideas as we start this due diligence portion of our work. These conversations are an opportunity for us to collectively discern and envision the leadership we desire for our future.

During the conversation circles, we aim to create an open and inclusive environment where everyone's thoughts and opinions are heard and respected. We want to engage in meaningful dialogue to understand what qualities and attributes in a pastor(s) are important to our congregation.

The conversation circles will take place on September 10th and September 24th following the 10:30 worship service. We will provide lunch. We encourage you to attend one of these dates and contribute to these discussions. Your presence and insights are invaluable in this significant decision-making process.

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to engaging with you in these conversation circles and working together towards selecting the next pastor(s) who will guide our congregation.

Shalom,
Chuck Ash, Elder

Session Notes—July 18, 2023 Meeting

The meeting was opened with prayer followed by dinner provided by Elder Jennie George.
Pastor Dave handed out a sheet listing current headlines from various news sources and led a discussion on a quote by Karl Barth: "Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible."

Vision

- Nancy Irving notified members of an upcoming Presbytery Mission Summit scheduled for October 14.
- Pastor Ben led the group in a discussion of SMART goals for the coming year. The various church ministries will be one focus. Added communication among ministries and with the congregation will be implemented. A team will be developed to review the Spirit and Space document to review the "Spirit" aspect and present an updated paradigm to Session. This discussion will be continued at the Session Retreat in September.

Relationships

- Jen Anderson presented an opportunity for CPC to develop a relationship with band members at McKinley High School by helping to fund and serve them dinner on football nights. A small team will lead this initiative.
- Session members were encouraged to read an article from The Presbyterian Outlook entitled "How can we care for ruling elders?"
- Pastor Ben will be participating in Leadership Stark this year.

Ministry

- Session members signed up for preparing Session Meals, leading Session Worship, writing up Session notes and attending Presbytery meetings for the next year.
- Pastor Ben reported on the ups and downs at Camp Wakonda this summer. Zach White and his family are settling in. Camp attendance is back to pre-pandemic levels. The camp budget will show a deficit this year, mainly due to increased food costs. The camp capital campaign is close to $600,000. Here at CPC, Pastor Ben is leading the Board of Deacons and doing visitations among his other duties. He remains involved in Presbytery activities.
- Pastor Dave reported that the new custodian is working out very well. The air conditioner for the Chapel has died and there is a 30-week wait for a new unit. Early church services will be moved to Westminster Hall as needed during the summer. The Habitat for Humanity build is going well. The potluck meal with Mt. Zion COGIC, the church with which we are building the house, was a great success. We will look for ways to reciprocate their hospitality. Pastor Dave continues to plan for the Bible Study class which will resume in September. His pastoral care visits have picked up. The Spirit and Space team is meeting again to look at plans for a porte cochere for the Wells entrance. Pastor Dave requested vacation from August 26 through September 1.
- Micah Ministry reported to Session their mission statement: Making a faith centered change for social justice by facilitating relationships through education, collaboration with others, and strengthening community.
- Elder Dave Hudson reported on a request from Pastor Michael to donate $7,000 from the Parkinson Fund to help theology students at The Reformed University of Barranquilla, Colombia who are struggling to pay their tuition. Session voted to approve the expenditure this year with the intention to continue the donations for five years.

Structure

- Financial reports for June, 2023 and fiscal year 2022-2023 will be available by the end of this week. They will be emailed to Session members along with the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 for discussion and approval.
- New credit card recommendations for staff members were approved.
- The Clerk's Report on deaths, Worship attendance and communications was received.

Unfinished Business

- The gun violence sign is up and running.
- Pastor Dave will be meeting with new Session members for an orientation.

New Business

- Terms of Call for Pastor Dave will be emailed along with the budget for Session approval before the Annual Meeting.
- Session officers were elected for a one-year term: Dave Hudson, president; Jen Anderson, vice-president; T.J. Hon, treasurer; Nancy Irving, secretary. Terry Moore was appointed Statutory Agent. Bank Resolutions for Key Bank and Huntingdon Bank for the new fiscal year were approved reflecting the new officers.
- Nancy Irving has communicated with all ministries requesting their reports be submitted to the office to be included in the Annual Report.
- Omnibus and additional motions were approved, excepting the budget and terms of call motions, which will be voted upon by email later this week.

The meeting was closed in prayer led by Pastor Ben focusing on needs of congregation members and others.
Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Okonak

American Guild of ORGANISTS

Heather Cooper recently took the Associateship Exam offered by the American Guild of Organists. This two-day exam included prepared repertoire, sightreading, improvisation, and an extensive written portion including form-and-analysis and composition. She passed the exam and received the highest score of all examinees this year. Congratulations!

Dear CPC,
I cannot express enough how honored and appreciative I am to receive your scholarship this year. It is truly a blessing and I cannot thank you enough. CPC has shaped me into who I am today and I am extremely grateful for the continued support for my future.
God Bless,
Hannah Kemper

SAVE THE DATE! On October 8 and 15 the Micah Ministry will be sponsoring a presentation by Stanley Frankhart on the Young Christian Professionals Organization, a part of the Stark County Common Pleas Prison Re-Entry program, as part of the ongoing outreach of our church and growing out of our participation in the Be the Bridge classes from the Summer of 2022. Please mark your calendars and be sure to be present for this at the 9:15 Adult Education hour.

Confirmation begins Fall 2023!

We are very excited that a new confirmation class will begin this September. This year-long course is primarily geared towards those who will be in grades 7th, 8th, and 9th grade in the Fall of 2023. The class will be held at 9:15–10:15 a.m. from Sunday, September 10th, 2023–May 2024 We look forward to engaging a new class of students as they consider what it means to confirm that the Christian life is the one that they want to live out. By studying major topics and having a safe space to ask the big questions, we believe that this experience will help the youth to grow stronger in their faith and confirm their commitment to Christ.

Students who are unsure if they would like to be confirmed are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Students ultimately make their own decision about whether to be confirmed.

Please contact
bwiggins@cantoncpc.org
with any questions.

(*right* last year's confirmation class)

THE CATHEDRAL HOUR
Sunday Morning Broadcast
On WHBC-1480

To shut-ins, those unable to attend Church for various reasons, and also those without a Church home, the Cathedral Hour has been invaluable over the years. Your continued support is needed to sponsor a complete service at a cost of $300.00 per Sunday. However, partial contributions are extremely important to the continued existence of this program, and it is to this end that we encourage you to consider contributions to the Cathedral Hour as part of your "above and beyond" support of our Church. Please contact the Church Office for available dates.

Christ Presbyterian is HIRING!

Christ Presbyterian Church is currently looking to hire a transport coordinator/van driver for approximately 8 hours per week. If you know someone who might be a good fit (or if that someone is you!), please contact Pastor Ben (bgeorge@cantoncpc.org). More information is available at https://cantoncpc.org/announcements/job-postings/

August Birthdays

2 Sarah Milligan
4 Sandi Fedder
5 Wilson Rownd, David Rausch
6 Martha Ash, Mark Hanlon, Jerry Norton
8 David Rudy
10 Hailey Hon
12 Tom McCain, Lee Lavery, Anthony D'Antonio, Max Ward
13 Susan Oliver, Jennie George
14 Natalie Weinsz, Mack Miller
15 Darrell Holland, Estella Williams
16 Jack Burnquist, Terry Pansino, Erin Shea, Mya Miller
17 Robert Sweeney
18 Judy Gibbs, Jill Hazen
19 Pam Gaynor, Anna Milligan
21 Joyce McKimm, Kimberly Tittle, Neva Wallace, Joshua Wiggins
22 Janet Creighton
23 Faye Heston
25 Elaine Ketterer, David Puterbaugh, Vanessa Worley
26 Judy Sweeney, Rich Milligan
27 Renie Connor, Ginger Brown, William Groves, Nancy Halter
28 Lucy O'Wesney
29 Barbara Batchelder, Joanne Bennett, Avery Miller

Christ Church celebrates birthdays of members who are 95 years or more:
Renie Connor (96)–August 27

Summer 2023 CPC Youth!

Please contact Bonnie at bwiggins@cantoncpc.org or @cantoncpcyouth on Instagram for any questions.

Sunday, August 27 First Youth Group of the School Year

Faith Build 2023

18 Faith Communities are building three homes at 1732 Root Ave NE in Canton. We are very excited to be partnering with Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ on this project.

Special Events—Thank you to everyone who attended the July 29th Potluck at Mt. Zion COGIC. They were wonderful hosts and we all enjoyed the Fellowship, Food and getting to know more folks in their congregation.

Pray—Please continue to pray for the Al-Saffat, Broyles and Walker families, the volunteers and the Habitat Ministry.

Donate—($5,000 commitment to the Build) Please mark checks or envelopes to Habitat Faith Build. We are close to meeting our commitment. Thank you.

Volunteer- Building the Exterior walls June 10th was great. Our volunteer slots for Insulation on July 29th are filled, however if you want to help with the half day final cleaning on September 30th, please contact Cincy Camp, 330-936-1253, cincyc2005@gmail.com or Jim Camp, 330-495-0228, jcamp@cutlerhomes.com to volunteer or for more information. Putting our Faith into Action!

Camp Wakonda Thanks You!

Thank you for supporting a great summer at Camp Wakonda! We're still hosting guest groups, and we are looking forward to a fabulous fall!

Camp's New Property You've heard about it; now you can rent it! For only $150/night for the first four people, plus $25/person per night beyond that. Contact Zack White at zwhite@cantoncpc.org or 330-735-2740 to reserve your spot today!

Wakonda For All (Sept. 15–17) $112 for each adult & $82 for each child (1-night: $56 for adult & $41 for child)

Campers of all ages are invited to delight in a Wakonda fall. Relive the wonder of childhood or make brand new memories—all are welcome at this camp! Join us for the weekend as we explore nature, play games, and learn about God together. Come as a family or come on your own. (Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.) This event will culminate in the Annual Wakonda Ox Roast (donation for lunch not included in the registration cost). Register at www.wakondacamp.org

Ox Roast! (Sept. 17th, Noon-4:30pm) Celebrate the season at Camp Wakonda's Annual Ox Roast. Join us for food, outdoor games, a hayride, or merely walk the beautiful trails and delight in God's creation. Meal is by donation. (If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Zack White at zwhite@cantoncpc.org or 330-735-2740.

Financial Notes

		6/30/23	6/30/22
Beginning Balance Operating Funds as of 7/1		$328,310	$190,018
Revenue	Pledges	663,038	626,351
	Other	567,425	382,236
	Trusts and Endowment	114,023	111,584
	Total Income	$1,344,486	$1,120,170
Expenses	Operating Expenses	(1,183,321)	(981,878)
Ending Balance Operating Funds as of YTD - 6/30		$489,475	$328,310

This reporting reflects the General and Camp Funds from July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023.

Please remember to keep your pledge current! Thank you!

Gifts can be given online at www.cantoncpc.org or mailed to the Church office.

Stewardship—June

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

Average Monthly	June 2023	June 2022
Attendance	185	142
General Fund Income	$96,125	$89,613
G/F Budget Needed	$73,118	$69,507
Monthly Net +/-	23,006	20,106

2023 Per Capita Communicant Apportionment

Total Per Capita for 2023	$31.46
MVP	$18.36
GA	$9.85
Synod	$3.25

Your assistance in donating to help defray the cost to the church will be greatly appreciated.
Please indicate "for the 2023 apportionment" on your check.

Christ Caring *for* People *through* People

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis—large or small—and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to Pastor Michael. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

Mission Ministry

Have you considered where your walk with Christ is going? Are you feeling the need to give back to the community; to serve the needs as they arise? We could use your expertise on the Mission Ministry. We will have an opening presentation on September 16 by Rev Matt Skolnik, Executive Presbyter of Muskingum Valley Presbytery. Please consider committing energy to joining us. We work to welcome people into a vibrant life of faith in the Christian Community. Start by signing up in Cloister Hall or contact Heather Dominik (330-459-4590) at or Beth Pansino (330-605-5968).

Share your Sheets!

The Mission Ministry is collecting gently used and new sheets for distribution during one of the Food, Clothing and Prayer gatherings. Check your closets and bundle a set of sheets and pillowcases in a plastic bag for each. Be sure to mark them with the size for the set (Queen, Twin, King, etc.). We also accept new and gently used towels. Collection boxes are available in the Narthex and in Cloister Hall. So, give your closet space and share with folks in need. Questions? Contact Heather Dominik (330-459-4590) at or Beth Pansino (330-605-5968).

Christ Presbyterian Church
530 Tuscarawas St. West
Canton, Ohio 44702

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Church is charged for every returned newsletter. If you have moved or changed a seasonal address, please notify the church office.

Thank you.

To be added to the Tydings email list or to submit an article for Tydings, please email cpcoffice@cantoncpc.org no later than **Wednesday, August 16**

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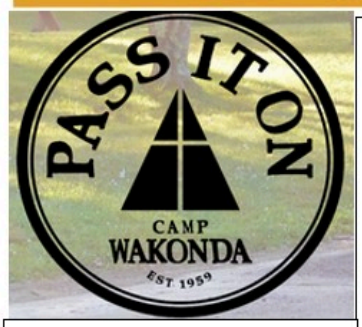
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In Christian Sympathy

Lorna Kraft
July 5, 2023

Christian Sympathy is extended to the Kraft family



No flyer needed!
Just stop by. 😊
Good for pick up, drive-thru, or dine-in

Monday, August 14th
5-8pm
20% of all sales at the Hills and Dales Dairy Queen go to Wakonda's
PASS IT ON Capital Campaign.
(gift cards not included)