

Van Buren Presbyterian Church

September 2011

207 W. Market St
P. O. Box 35
Van Buren, OH 45889

Rev. James E. Friedmeyer
(419) 299-3097
www.vbpres.org

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR'S NOTES

"What are you reading?" That was the headline for an article I read a few days ago online in a pastor's newsletter. The writer went on to say that as pastors we need to ask ourselves that question. Not to make ourselves guilty but to remind ourselves of the importance of constantly developing our minds. It got me thinking. This summer I have re-read a couple of Tom Clancy novels (I do enjoy the adventure and excitement). But what have I read to stretch my mind and my faith? I have read some articles in the "Leadership Journal" and I have been reading a very interesting book by Albert Winseman entitled Growing An Engaged Church. The sub title is "How to stop 'Doing Church' and start Being the Church again." I haven't quite finished reading it yet but I would recommend it to anyone.

In 2 Timothy Paul is writing to a young pastor, encouraging him in his ministry. In chapter 2, verse 15 Paul writes, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." If you go back to the King James Version it says to "study to show thyself approved". To be approved before God, one needs to develop the spiritual mind as well as spiritual habits. One needs to read, think and wrestle with ideas. One needs to struggle with arguments to find out the truth of what God is saying to his people. In Romans 12:2 Paul tells us, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will." The transformation of the mind does not come by just listening to a preacher, but rather by struggling with ideas and submission to God's Lordship.

I think Paul's advice to Timothy is good advice to all pastors, but I also think it is good advice to all Christians. As followers of Jesus Christ we often refer to ourselves as disciples. But a disciple is one who studies and applies the teachings of the teacher. We call ourselves disciples, but are we really studying and applying his teachings?

So I ask you the question: "What are you reading?" Are you exercising your mind and reading things which challenge you? Are you reading books and articles which deal with spiritual issues? Are you reading things which make you think about your walk with Jesus Christ? Or are you just reading books that help you escape the world around you? When I read my Tom Clancy books I am escaping the world. There are times when I need to do just that. But I also need to read books that expand my thinking.

What can you read? Here are some books that I have read and would suggest to you. For some light Christian fiction, I recommend the Jan Karon "Mitford Series": a series of fictional books about the life of a pastor in a small town in the North Carolina area. It is a nice escape but at the same time you may find some faith challenges in the stories. Another series of Christian Fiction would be C.S. Lewis' Cronicles of Narnia. I know they have made some very good movies of some of the books, but I suggest you read the actual books. For some books that will cause you to think about what you believe and how you apply your faith to life, I give you these titles: Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster; The Prodigal God by Timothy Keller; Too Small to Ignore by Dr. Wes Stafford, President of *Compassion International*; and to really cause you to think, Discipline by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. You can also read some of C.S. Lewis's non-fiction books and they will make you think. I can recommend many others, these are just some off the top of my head.

I would like to challenge you to do some special reading this fall. Read something which challenges your faith. Read something that causes you to struggle and grow, read something that will renew your mind in Jesus Christ. The adult Sunday School class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 and are currently working through the book of Genesis. Thursday evening Bible Study will be starting soon and we will be exploring the Epistles of John. I invite you to employ those opportunities to help with the renewing of your minds.

I'll be reading. What will you be reading?

God bless,
Pastor Jim

SERVICE IN THE PARK

Our annual Service in the Park will be Labor Day weekend, Sunday, September 4. We will gather at the south shelter (off TR 229) for worship at 10:30 am and share lunch following. Meats will hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Bring a dish to share and your favorite drink. There will not be Sunday school that morning.

AN EVENING AT THE MUSEUM

Our visit to the Hancock Historical Museum was postponed because of so many other activities on that date. Watch for a new date this Fall.

Canned Soup Drive

We continue to collect canned soup and canned fruit for Chopin Hall. As a small congregation we have donated a nice number of cans already. But hunger continues in our community. Please continue to purchase a couple of extra cans when you do your shopping, so that others may eat as well.

Litter Landing Recyclable Trailer

Our next Recycling Day is Saturday, September 10,, from 9:00 – 3:00. Items that can be recycled are clear and brown glass, steel and aluminum cans, newspaper and office paper, magazines and flattened cardboard.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

During the month of August you brought in your donations of school supplies for the Van Buren School. We have collected some 116 items ranging from notebook paper to crayons to pencils. Thank you for your support and willingness to help those who are not able to purchase these supplies themselves. God bless.

September Birthdays

- 1 Marilyn Mattson
- 6 Pat McCormick
- 11 Rosine Harris
- 25 Poke Ollendorf
- 30 Jeff Peterman

September Anniversaries

- 1 Russell & Chantelle Howard
- 9 Pat & Lori McCormick
- 27 Michael & Ruthann Luke

***If your birthday or anniversary was missed, please let the church office know so that we can get our records straight. Thank you.**



September Worship Helpers

Deacon of the Month - Tiffany Sammet

Greeters	Lay Readers
4 Tiffany Sammet	4 Park Service
11 Lasley & Iris Wilkinson	11 _____
11 Rex & Amy Fishbaugh	18 _____
25 Sheri & Pam Norris	25 _____

Women's News

Back to School!

Ladies! It's that time of year for us, too! Yes, it's back to school! And for us, that means back to our monthly Women's Association meetings. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00. We will return to our study of Max Lucado's book "A Gentle Thunder". In September we will study Chapter 7, with Jenni Friedmeyer leading the study. So dig around and find your book so you'll be prepared to join in the discussion. Of course, we will have to talk about the **B.S.** (Bake Sale), so don't miss it! If you haven't joined us before, come and give it a try!

The CROP Walk to fight hunger will be coming up on World Communion Sunday, October 2. Plan to walk or to support a walker with your donation. Together we can make a difference for the hungry in Hancock County. For more information, contact Pastor Friedmeyer.

Prayer Service and Bible Study

This year we will have our monthly Prayer Service and Bible Studies on Thursday evenings. This fits in with Pastor Jim's teaching of drivers Ed. Usually Prayer Service will be on the first Thursday of the month and the other Thursdays will be Bible Study. Each begins and 7 pm and ends at 8 pm. The September Prayer Service will be on Thursday **September 15** and Bible Studies will begin on **September 22**. Our Bible Studies will be looking at the letters of John. Come join us.

Do you shop at Kroger?

If you shop at Kroger and you have a Plus Card, you can help the Van Buren Presbyterian Church. You register your card online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Our organization number is 82220. Every time you use your Plus Card to purchase groceries you earn a percentage for our church. For the first quarter of the year we only earned \$8, but the more who register and use their cards, the more help it gives the Van Buren Presbyterian Church.

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