



Li'l Ripples

SEPTEMBER 2023

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A Publication of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

A Message from Pastor Mark -

Who are your "Indians"?

Mary Jemison was 12 years old when she was abducted by a Shawnee raiding party in Adams County in the year 1755. Mary Campbell was 10 years old when she was abducted by a Lenape raiding party in the Western Reserve territory (Ohio) in 1758. These abductions, and others like them, would have terrified the early Presbyterians who gathered in our Church. This clash of civilizations between the newly arrived Europeans, including our Scots Irish folks, and the native Americans who already lived here was violent and hostile. Despite their strong Christian faith, their knowledge of the Bible and their commitment to the ways of Jesus as they understood it, our Presbyterian ancestors truly hated the "Indians". Devout Presbyterian Scots Irish, terrified by the possibility of Indian raiding parties aligned with the French military, were aggressive in their defense of their homes and communities. Rev. Paxton, a prominent Presbyterian pastor known throughout the Cumberland Valley, took the offense and organized a small militia of Scots Irish frontiersmen to attack Indian settlements. Looking back at this history from our modern perspective, it is hard to understand such vitriol and violence.

But are we really any different? Ponder in your own heart the people, types of people, groups of people, cultures of people that truly terrify you today. If we search deep and hard enough within our own heart, I guess there are such people, or groups of people, who are our "Indians". And right there, with those people or groups in mind, we have an important set of questions and issues to pray about! Who are our Indians? Who are our enemies? Of whom are we so afraid that true hatred rises up? Jesus had words for us on this question; are we listening?

In Christ!

Mark

In this issue:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------|----|
| <u>Birthdays</u> | Page | 7 |
| <u>Church Life Announcements</u> | Page | 2 |
| <u>Clerk's Report</u> | Page | 17 |
| <u>Deacon's Page</u> | Page | 9 |
| <u>Do You Know</u> | Page | 8 |
| <u>Financial Report</u> | Page | 19 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|
| <u>From the Pastor</u> | Page | 1, 2 |
| <u>Giving Corner</u> | Page | 3 |
| <u>Have you Heard</u> | Page | 7 |
| <u>Mission Advocate's Corner</u> | Page | 11 |
| <u>Music Ministry</u> | Page | 10 |
| <u>Thanks</u> | Page | 8 |
| <u>275th Anniversary Celebration</u> | Page | 4 |

NEXT
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 15



CHURCH LIFE - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



An Invitation & Information from Pastor Mark –

Celebrating on Sundays:

September, October, November, December

Looking Ahead: Please make plans to join us for these wonderful FESTIVITIES this Fall! (Of course, by festivities we mean GOOD FOOD!)

Sunday, September 10 at 5:30

Ice Cream Social

A selection of ice cream and toppings will be served. If you wish, sign up your “team” to provide your own, best home-made ice cream flavor. Everyone will get a taste of the favorites, and vote for the best. One food item for the Fairfield Food pantry affords you one vote for the best flavor. Taste them all; vote often!

Sunday, October 1 at 5:00

A good, old fashioned potluck dinner.

Bring your favorite dish to share, and join us for what promises to be a feast! This dinner is sponsored by our Interpretation and Stewardship Team and Deacons as part of our annual Stewardship Campaign. We gather for fellowship and feasting to say “Thank You” for our Church, and all of Almighty God’s abundant providence in our lives.

Sunday, November 5 at 4:00

Anniversary Banquet at the new *Beyond the Battle Museum*

The closing banquet of our 275th anniversary year. We will gather and celebrate our heritage at the new *Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum’s* banquet room (625 Biglerville Road). At 4:30 p.m. Director of Education Tim Smith will offer us a presentation on the Scots-Irish migration which changed our nation and formed our congregation in the 1700s; at 5:30 we will enjoy a catered dinner provided by Biggerstaff’s Catering. After dinner we will celebrate our heritage with a special Service of Worship: *Singing through the Ages*. (Advance reservations at \$25 per person will be available soon.)

Sunday, December 3 at 5:00

Advent Church dinner

We start the holy season of Advent together with a Church dinner hosted by our Deacons. Our Deacons have some special plans to put a historical flavor into our feasting.

*Join
us*



*this
fall*

Men's Breakfast is back: Meeting next on Saturday, **September 9, 2023 at 8:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the table in the hall to attend and to volunteer to help. The sheet has space for volunteers to cook, make coffee, and set tables starting at 7am. Also, help is needed with cleanup after breakfast. Our guest speaker is Cathy Michaliga. The topic is Operation Christmas Child. Any questions, please see Gary Michaliga or call 717—339—6137

The **Couple's Study Group** will meet **September 9, 2023 5:30PM** at the Kiwanis Club Pavillion at the Gettysburg Rec Park. The sign up sheet will be in the Narthex starting August 20th for the following food categories: Meat; Salad; Side Dish or Dessert. We will be filling 25 Shoe Boxes during our time together as well as our usual time of great food and fellowship. Anyone willing to go along to purchase items for the Shoe Boxes should contact Bev Benner (717-642-8239) after August 20th. We will probably be going for those supplies on August 29th or 30th. All married couples in our congregation are urged to try our fellowship to meet and help support each other.

The Case For Heaven

What happens after we die? Is there any convincing evidence that we live on in eternity? And if so, what will our experience be like? In Lee Strobel's recent book *The Case for Heaven* he applies his research and analytical skills to show us definitive evidence for the existence of heaven. Strobel offers compelling answers for questions such as:

- How can we know there is an afterlife?
- Will heaven be boring?
- Does God really send people to hell?
- Will we have the same bodies and personalities after we die?
- What does it mean to see God face to face?

These are questions many of us have asked.

Starting **Sunday, September 10 at 9:45am** join other adults to read and discuss this book. Pick up a book in room 4 of Fellowship Hall, the room where the group will meet. A donation of \$10.00 can be given to Barb in the office or just put \$10.00 in the box.

Questions: Susan Nunamaker or Doyle Waybright

The **Women's Guild** will meet **September 19th at 1:00pm** in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to attend.

The **Women's Guild** is gearing up for their annual **Yard & Bake Sale** on **September 23rd from 8 am to 2 pm**. We will have good items to sell, Therese's delicious soups and hotdogs for lunch and to take out and of course, a really fun day. If anyone is interested in selling items and procuring a table or space, please watch the bulletins to get a form to fill out and give it to either Nancy Brill or Roz Santay. Profits made from this sale help us buy Christmas gifts for our Teen Angels which we have done for 19 years! If anyone is interested in contributing baked good for us to sell, please watch the bulletin to find out when items can be delivered to the church. We always appreciate the support and cooperation in our endeavor and we sincerely hope you will join us!

Roz Santay

The **Women's Bible study** meets electronically two Thursdays a month at 7 PM. This fall we will be reading and discussing Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison-Warren.

Interested women contact Dana McDonald at 717-642-6272.

275th Anniversary Update

Honoring the Past, Faithful in the Present, Praying for the Future

After all the busy-ness of May and June, the rest of the summer has been break time for the 275th Committee, as with most church activities. We've enjoyed a more leisurely pace since the picnic, but are gearing up to jump into fall!

By the time you read this, the Congregational Retreat on August 26th will be over. We hope you were able to attend; it looks like it will be a fun and engaging event! We have over 60 people signed up at this point. Look for a review in the next issue of Li'l Ripples!

Coming up very soon is our **Ice Cream Social/Crank-Off on Sunday, Sept. 10th**. We've enhanced the annual Ice Cream Social this year with the Crank-Off, an event similar to a Chili Cook-Off, but with ice cream! Several teams will submit batches of their flavor of ice cream for you to come taste at 5:00 PM that Sunday. We ask that instead of voting for your favorite(s) in the normal fashion, you bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Fairfield Food Pantry. You can place your food items in front of your choice(s); the one that has the most items will get bragging rights! :) If you just want to come eat ice cream and socialize, we'll be serving it up beginning at 6 PM that evening. Please join us!

We are kicking off another event in September as well. **On September 17th**, you will see 275 **Operation Christmas Child** boxes stacked in the narthex and decorating our sanctuary windows for a couple of weeks. We are hoping to get *all* of these boxes filled and shipped, with the message of the gospel, to the children around the globe served by Samaritan's Purse. Our normal average each year is about 100 or so boxes; 275 represents a big stretch! Please consider filling a box if you don't normally do one, or if you do one or more each year, perhaps you might consider adding another. This year, the shipping costs are being paid through the David Scott Youth Fund, so that is an expense you do not need to worry about! If you fill a box online, please tell either Elaine Reichl or Cathy Michaliga, so that we can count your box in our numbers. Several of the church groups are filling boxes as a group and are going to the OCC warehouse in Shippensburg to buy items to go in the boxes at very cheap prices. If you are interested in purchasing your shoebox items there also, please contact Cathy for the hours when the warehouse will be open. Collection of the boxes is scheduled for November 13-18.

Our 275th year anniversary celebration will close with a dinner held at the **Adams County Historical Society's new Beyond the Battle museum on Sunday, November 5th**. Tim Smith of the ACHS will present a talk on the Scots-Irish migration to this area in the 18th century at 4:00 pm. Dinner will follow and a presentation led by Dirk Grove on worship music through the centuries is also planned! More details on the dinner will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event.

Please join us for any or all of these events as our 275th year of serving our communities draws to a close!

Lynn Miller

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Many, many thanks to Roz Santay for her dedication to ensure our sanctuary is graced with beautiful flowers every Sunday...for almost 50 years! Roz, you have blessed the members, friends and visitors with your gift! We thank you.

Roz has decided that it is time to pass the job to someone else and we are looking for her replacement. The job is a voluntary position which entails posting an annual sign-up calendar on the bulletin board in the narthex for folks to sign-up for a Sunday. The volunteer calls The Flower Boutique to order the flowers. The Flower Boutique delivers the flowers to LMC on Saturdays (they have a key). The position also includes ordering and arranging Christmas poinsettias and Easter palms and flowers for our sanctuary.

Roz has suggested that two people may want to do this. Possibly a husband/wife team, two friends, two family members, whatever. Roz will be available to help the new team in whatever way she can. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Cathy Michaliga, 703 - 994 - 0289, or cmichaliga@yahoo.com.

Marriage Retreat:

Many thanks to the committee for planning our 2023 marriage retreat. Catherine and Mark Orleski were our capable program planners and administrators. Carlos and Doris Wampler prepared communion for our worship time. Ray and Arlene Wright provided our snacks. Cathy and Gary arranged the hotel and logistics for our event. Kim and Dave Donaldson, from the Orrtanna church, ran our sub sale for fund raising and Joe and Lori Jackson ran the Totem Pole fund raiser.

This is a new year and we have new faces on our committee: Pat and Dave Diehl and Jean and Lee Bentz. The Jacksons and Michaliga's remain on the committee. Our first meeting was July 27th and we decided to cancel our retreat for Feb of 2024 at the Heritage Hotel in Lancaster. This will give us time to survey your needs to determine if we continue with our Lancaster retreats or change things up a bit.

Later in the fall we will send out a survey to help us assess how to move forward in the future. For those of you who have donated money to our retreats, or helped with our fundraising, THANK YOU!! Do not let your heart be troubled. All moneys donated will remain dedicated to our future retreats. Questions: Cathy Michaliga, 703 - 994 - 0289 or bupkadetka@gmail.com.



DOES ANYONE REMEMBER the coin produced to celebrate LMCC's 265th anniversary in 2013?





DIAPER
DRIVE

August
19,
2023



We collected close to 5,000 diapers and that was well over our goal of dispensing 2,000 diapers to our community. It was also wonderful to have community folks (not LMCP members) drop by with their individual donations. On behalf of all of the “Diaper Drive Committee” I would like to **THANK EVERYONE** at LMCP for their generosity in supporting this effort. I/we hope to do it again next year.

Kris Englund-Krieger

Statistics:

- 63 cars participated
- 3,619 diapers given out in bags of 25 each
- Remaining diapers were donated to SCCAP

Sandy Buhrman

Photos taken by:
Denise Lockwood
Sandy Buhrman



IT WORKS FOR ME

Many years ago, I read the book *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. I assume I liked the book, but I can only remember one thing from it. Dr Peale recommended this verse for use during meditation, and he recommended meditation and prayer for relieving stress and anxiety. His meditation verse is, "*With God's help, I am draining all the stress and anxiety from my body. God is filling me with peace and quiet assurances.*" While meditating I would breathe out while thinking of the first line (getting the bad stuff out) and breathe in while thinking of the second line (God filling me with the good). You may find this verse to be calming as well.

John McMann

Happy Birthday to the following members of the LMCC family :

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Sally Gately | 10. Sue Welsh | 23. Doyle Waybright |
| 1. Lauren Neely | 14. Donnie Brill | 24. Melody Duffy |
| 2. Bev Benner | 15. Sandy Buhrman | 28. Jeff Kann |
| 3. Teresa Sanders | 20. Pat Diehl | 30. Alicia Dehoff |
| 10. Joe Reichl | 21. Dale Williams | |

HAVE YOU HEARD

The six-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy and said quietly, "Good morning Alex." "Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "which service, the 8 or the 10:30?"



After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "The preacher said he wanted us to be brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys!"

Kathy Megyeri

DO YOU KNOW . . . Ray and Arlene Wright? Ray is an Elder and Arlene is a Deacon at LMCC.

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER LOWER MARSH CREEK CHURCH?

This Is Our Story

In the early summer of 2017 our youngest son, Andrew, received word that his job was relocating him from Atlanta back to the Washington, DC area. When he first moved to Atlanta he was single and had no family. By the time the summer of 2017 rolled around he was married to Teresa, a lovely Georgia girl, they were the parents of Maddy (now 17) and Drew (now 14) and the caretaker apparent for us. After much soul searching Andrew realized he had to make the move. The big question was what were we going to do?

We had already made two other retirement moves. Were we up to another great adventure with one of us age 78 and the other age 81? The answer to that question, with a little nudge from God, was a resounding YES! Thus, in late November 2017 we were unpacking our earthly belongings in Gettysburg. This turned out to be very fortunate from a family point of view. Our daughter, Jennifer, and her Navy husband, David, were at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis and their three children, Joshua, Megan, and Jonah, were all relatively nearby in graduate school or college. Our oldest son, Bill, and wife, Carrie, were close by in Leesburg, VA, with children, Kelleigh and Ben. By this time Andrew and family had settled outside of Frederick, MD.

Since 1974 we had attended and been quite active in the Episcopal Churches close to our homes in Centreville, MD, Aiken, SC and Canton, GA. So we began to attend the local Episcopal Church in Gettysburg. Unfortunately it was not a good fit for us. We attended the Battlefield Church Services during the summer of 2018 to get a feel for the Christian worship life in the area.

Nothing was really moving us until the day we saw an advertisement in the paper for a trip to Greece sponsored by Lower Marsh Creek Church. Now Greece was on our "bucket list," so we attended a service at Lower Marsh Creek followed by the trip presentation. We went home that day pretty well decided to take the trip, but more importantly, both of us agreed that the little stone church in the country was the place we had been searching for that summer.

Since that time we've realized how much of spiritual life we have found in our church. It is truly the home where we found our family - a family which supports you, cares for you, and prays for you. And so, we would ask again, "How did you discover Lower Marsh Creek Church?"

Or maybe, just maybe, Lower Marsh Creek discovered you when you needed to be discovered . . .

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

June 26, 2023

Thank you for your commitment to our Lord in supporting this ministry. We appreciate you. You all are such a blessing. It was wonderful to teach one of your own children in Good News Club this year.

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County

THANKS continued on the next page -

THANKS continued from preceding page -

June 27, 2023

The members of the Joint Camp and Conference Committee of the Presbyteries of Carlisle, Huntingdon and Northumberland, and the members of the Krislund Staff would like to thank you for your generous gift to the Krislund Annual Fund. We are grateful for your thoughtful Christian stewardship to this camp ministry of the Presbyteries.

With gratitude,

Josh Boyd, Camp Director

Dear Lower Marsh Creek,

Thank you for your generous gift towards our ministry with DiscipleMakers in May. We are praising God for your generosity and for your desire to see the next generations walk with Jesus. It is a blessing to have you as partners in God's work on campus. God bless each of you! Philippians 1:3-6

Much thanks,

Kevin, Maria, and Simeon Noyes

Serving GOD

DEACON'S PAGE

Serving Others

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023

Elaine Reichl

Joe Reichl

Pam Grove

Class of 2024

Pat Diehl

Suzanne Welsh

Pam Johnson (Moderator)

Class of 2025

Jim Welsh

Arlene Wright

Al Miller

Fairfield food Pantry:

Hard to believe summer is on its way out. Welcome fall. The food pantry will benefit from the ice cream social on September 10th as we will be voting for our favorites. Your votes (bring non-perishable food items) will be placed next to your favorites. In October spiritual life will sponsor Harvest Home and we will again support the food pantry with most needed items. Another opportunity is when you see a BOGO item at the grocery store, think food pantry. Thank you always for your continued support. Arlene Wright

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY: Attendees of LMCC having a transportation need should call one of the following drivers directly to arrange for a date, time, and destination. If none of these volunteers can meet your need, please call Jim Welsh at 717 - 377 - 5370.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

Lee & Jean Bentz 717 - 334 - 6064

Susan Nunamaker 717 - 642 - 9646

Sallie Sites 717- 334 - 8712

Roy Weaner 717 - 334 - 3376

Len Williams 717 - 642 - 0123

Ray Wright 717 - 549 - 2118

Sing to the LORD
A New Song



Sing to the LORD
All the Earth

Psalm 96:1

Where has the summer gone? Hopefully you have enjoyed our musical mix of new and familiar faces that graced our sanctuary (and fellowship hall) during our summer season. Beginning in September we will return to a familiar schedule featuring our local talent. Fortunately, God has blessed us with an abundance of talented musicians. That may include you!

Music enhances worship and It brings people together. Perhaps this is the year you will participate in the musical program of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church! Please consider joining one of our established groups:

Glory Singers – Perform at the 8:30 service on the first and third Sundays of each month. Their only rehearsal time is at 8:00 (downstairs) on the morning of each performance. They typically perform familiar hymns. If you enjoy singing in a group, come join us!

Faithful Voices - Perform at the 11:00 service on the first and third Sundays of each month. They rehearse every Thursday evening at 7:00 in the church sanctuary. Their music is usually four-part harmony, so the ability to read music is important, but not necessary.

Wires and Wood – Performs at the 8:30 and 11:00 services on the second Sunday of each month. This group is comprised of string instrumentalists and vocalists. They rehearse every Thursday evening at 6:00 in the church sanctuary.

Specials (Solo/Duet/Children/Instrumentalists/etc.) - Please let me know if you or someone you know has special talents to share in our worship services. I would be glad to accompany or help in any way.

Schedule for August - September

August 27 - Lee and Jean Bentz

September 3 - Jason Williams

September 10 - Wires and Wood

September 17 - Faithful Voices

September 24 - Special Music

Feel free to contact me at pausetoread@yahoo.com or at church if you are interested in participating in our music program.

Linda Clark

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." **Groucho Marx**

Linda Clark

MISSION ADVOCATE'S CORNER

Go Therefore and Make

Disciples of All Nations

Mission Advocate Mailbox - Recent Correspondence

Mt. 28:19

Adams Christian Prison Ministries

In month of June, two female inmates decided to believe in Jesus Christ as their savior, redeemer, and restorer of their lives. The first salvation took place on a Monday morning while one of the local woman clergy provided pastoral care for one of the female inmates. The second one took place in the afternoon while the chaplain visited the housing unit for a one-on-one pastoral visit. While the chaplain was explaining God's plan for salvation, she interrupted him and exclaimed, "That is what I want!" The chaplain helped her to pray and ask God to forgive her, save her, and renew her. Both ladies have demonstrated a genuine desire to grow in their faith by attending the weekly Bible studies. The salvation of these two individuals is just a small testimony of what God is still doing inside the prison. The men who attend the weekly Bible studies have also demonstrated spiritual growth and an increase in their faith.

Please continue to pray for the people who are incarcerated and separated from families. It is a time when they do a lot of self-reflection, and we invite the Holy Spirit to nurture them and reveal to them the heart and mind of God.

ACPM has been coordinating with ACACC to reintroduce volunteers to conduct religious services. The opportunity is drawing closer with a tentative re-launch time of the end of September or the beginning of October. Please pray that there would be a spirit of unity as teams are being developed to lead weekend services. The inmates are looking forward to having times of worship and preaching of the gospel. A prayer rally is being coordinated for all who wish to join them to lift before the Lord the re-launch of the volunteer ministries in the prison. This will be an opportunity to pray over the volunteers and ministry teams. More information will be provided during the month of August. An information flyer will be mailed out. Check the ACPM Facebook page and website for more information

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Adams County

The two weeks of Summer Missionary Training is tough. The students are evaluated on every part of club from their facial expressions to how they share the Gospel. We are so blessed to have two gifted interns willing to be mentored this summer.

Thursday morning prayer meetings are held using Google Meet from 7 am to 7:45 am to pray for CEF of Adams County. What a blessing it is to start the day praying with like-minded believers! If you would like to join us, contact Miss Pam at pamelablankenship@cefepa.net or 717-677-4797.

.Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian Ministry

"When I started this beautiful journey in FFCM, I had no more than 3 local churches visiting the migrant workers. After 3 years we have 28 churches from different places coming and doing an amazing mission and compassion movement. Being creative is the key to start any relationship. I'm glad how people from our community is helping loving God and loving our neighbors."

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“Please consider providing financial support to our ministry, either as a one-time donation or especially, on a regular monthly basis. FFCM is feeling the effects of the high cost of virtually everything in the US economy, especially gasoline, postage, printed materials, etc., which affects our ability to care for our worker community in a way that we should do. Gasoline for our vehicle is our most significant and variable operating expense. We are also experiencing reduced financial contribution levels from many individuals who have faithfully contributed to FFCM in recent years, but are faced with rising costs in their own life situations.”

Hope Walks

Hope Walks, a Christian nonprofit that helps treat kids with clubfoot in 15 countries, has just moved and will hold an Open House at their new offices at 400 Main St., Suite C, York Springs. Enjoy coffee and pastries, paint a brace, take a virtual tour of one of their more than 170 clubfoot clinics in Africa, and learn more about their ministry.

Letters from our Compassion Children

As you can see, there is somewhat of a delay between when the letters are written and when we receive them. If you feel called to respond to one or all of these letters, please let Sandy Buhrman know.



May 30, 2023

“Hello dear sponsors Friends. It is a joy for me to say hello with this letter. I hope you are doing well together with your family and friends, enjoying blessings from our Lord. Let me tell you that I am doing well and enjoying the holidays in my country. These days, we enjoyed the holy week. We spend time as a family, and we share delicious food. Y mom likes to prepare fish patties (made with dried fish and covered with corn meal, eggs, spices, and sauces), a traditional meal in my community. We also prepare milk bread to enjoy with coffee.

We also visit the beautiful river in my community and eat delicious hen soup there. My dad also likes to fish in the river, and we swim. I also love the Christmas season. I think it is my favorite season because I love to eat delicious cakes and gifts with my friends. How do you spend your holidays in your country? What meals do you prepare with your family? Thank you so much for the gift you sent me. I bought some clothes and food supplies. It was a blessing. I ask you to help me pray for my studies because Lord willing, I will graduate this year and my dream is to go to college. May God give me the wisdom to make my dream come true, and for my family so that God may protect them. I say bye with hugs. **Brayan**” (Birthday 11/25 – currently 17) *El Salvador*

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*March 3, 2023*

“Dear Friends, How are you and your family? My family and I are fine thanks to God. How is your country? I took Grade 12 university examination, but I did not score enough to join university. I have been disappointed with my result. I do not give up. I have a plan to begin college education. Pray that I will be able to succeed in college education to please my country, family and you, my sponsor. I interrupted my church service but now I'm thinking of resuming my church service. Pray that I will become strong in my spiritual life. 1 Corinthians 1:9 reads ‘God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.’ I collected your money gift birr 2386.26 that you sent me. I bought dress for 800 birr, shoes for 700 birr, and jacket for birr 886 with your gift. I thank you so much for your money gift.

Goodbye until the next writing. Pass my greetings to your family. May God bless you, your family and country. With Regards, **Hawine**” (Birthday 2/23 – currently 18) *Ethiopia*



*May 25, 2023*

“Hello dear friends, sponsors, I greet you with a big hug. I hope you and your family are fine. I thank you for the gift you sent me. I bought school supplies and food. On May 25, we celebrate the first Libertarian Cry of South America. On that day, there are schools and institutions parades in the city's downtown. I think I will be a volunteer in an institution where police officers train. I am participating in my school's championships and we have won some matches. In the Compassion Project, there was a medical check up, they said I am in good health. In June, it is my mom's birthday. I do not know what to give her. Also, a car race is coming. It is called Oscar Crespo 2023. It is one of the activities that I like best. I am improving my studies.

Winter vacation will start, there is one week and a half left and I will take that time to be with my family and visit my aunt's baby. Pray for my family to be in good health, for my studies, for my uncle and his family, for my mom's job. I say goodbye with a big hug. Your friend **Sergio**.” (Birthday 7/28 - currently 13) *Bolivia*

### Update on Thomas & Cheri Henry



Thomas and Cheri have been accepted to serve with One Another Ministries based in Cannock, England. After applying for a residential visa and raising a bit of support, they hope to move by the end of November.

One Another exists to strengthen and encourage international Christian organizations and their workers by providing professional training, consulting, counseling, and resourcing. Global ministries face pressures and demands as complex challenges confront the Great Commission. Without the right tools and support, organizations struggle, and workers become discouraged, exhausted, vulnerable, ineffective, or wounded – many simply quit. One Another is a team of skilled helpers who equip global ministries to face these challenges for effective long-term ministry.

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Thomas and Cheri's role at One Another will be to join with what God has been doing through them, bringing their own experience and resources, and helping build up the team in England. Having lived in Turkey for 23 years doing church planting and regional member care, they understand the complexities of living and serving on the mission field while raising Third Culture Kids. More specifically, they will help develop and care for workers through individual coaching, mentoring, and pastoral counseling. Together, they will mentor couples and singles through the 4-day Relational Care Intensive. All of that can be done at The White House ministry centre in Cannock, England, or on the worker's field of service, or virtually when necessary.

When asked "how long," Thomas and Cheri say that their calling compels them to serve the Lord in some context for as long as they are physically and mentally able. Their idea of "retirement" is not to one day stop. Rather, the limits of their humanity will slow them down to serve at a different pace, recognizing that their desires and priorities will slowly shift to serving their family. One year at a time.

### Together on the Way



*A letter from Ryan and Alethia White, co-regional liaisons for Northern and Central Europe*

Dear friends and supporters,

While summer is blazing across much of Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, we have similarly been warming up to our plans to spend this coming school year in the U.S. and have been busy finalizing our preparations. We will be in the U.S. starting in August and will be easier to reach from those time zones for the next year! It has been hard to say goodbyes here in Berlin as we have been in a whirlwind of final gatherings among colleagues and friends. Our family was present during Ryan's final gathering with the International Konvent (network of migrant/international churches in Berlin) and with the church community that we have been working with for the past 10 years. We were warmly sent off by both of these communities as well as by friends. The girls have just had their last day of school and also been well celebrated and shown lots of love from teachers and friends. It is a bittersweet time for us with lots to look forward to and also to grieve as we put a pause on our family life in Berlin.

It has been a full season as well in our capacity as regional liaisons for Northern and Central Europe as we fit in partner visits while we are still on this side of the ocean. Although we will continue in this role during this next year from the U.S. thanks to Zoom and some trips back, we have tried to make face to face contact where possible before we leave Germany. In May, Alethia joined Area Coordinator for the Middle East and Europe Luciano Kovacs to meet with the Protestant Church of Switzerland. Apparently, many decades ago, there was a more active relationship between the PC(USA) and PCS, but this has been dormant in recent years. We were invited by the ecumenical officer to come to Bern and get a better sense of the work the PCS is involved with. It was encouraging to see how much and advocacy, gender and sexuality justice, refugee and migrant work, and congregational vitality initiatives.

Continued on the next page -

Continued from the preceding page - It was said that Switzerland's federalist political structure, in its modern form, may have likely been inspired by the political experiment that became the United States in the 1700s. It is a complicated structure even today in which to work and pass social reforms. We came away from our visit with the sense that the PCS is engaged with good work and that there is a good foundation from which to build a further partnership together. Swiss Church Aid (HEKS) is also a partner that PC(USA) already interacts with through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Just recently, Alethia returned from a week-long conference in beautiful Olomouc, Czech Republic where the Czech Partnership Network – the mission network of the PC(USA) and Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) – were meeting together as partner congregations from both countries. Alethia often joins the partnership network meetings, and it was good to meet members in person after some years together on Zoom. The theme of the conference was "Together on the Way," and we discussed ideas of how the church informs family concepts, congregational life, society and the world. There were agreements and disagreements, but always in the spirit of listening to the other's experience. We can always learn from each other. It was a wonderfully well-organized week, thanks to a great team from the hosting ECCB church in Olomouc and the result of many months of back and forth planning between the two countries. Alethia was happy to reconnect with ECCB partners from a previous visit and to make new connections with U.S. church congregations who were participating. It was inspiring to see how this transatlantic partnership has been kept alive with back-and-forth visits to each other, conferences (online and in person), and sharing ideas, recipes, songs and experiences. T-shirts worn by both Czech and American participants spoke to the back-and-forth visits. The Americans wore shirts with scenes from Prague, and the Czechs wore shirts promoting a particular football team or from Athens, Georgia or from the Washington, D.C./Maryland area. It was delightful to observe the camaraderie in the room during the week.

Does cross-cultural partnership and conversation and friendship appeal to you or your church community? The partnership network is interested in taking on new participating congregations to keep the spirit of friendship and exchange alive and moving forward. There is a website for the network (<http://czechpres.net/>) or feel free to send a message and we can put you in contact with leaders of the network for further information.

As we prepare to settle into life in the U.S. for the coming year, we look forward to being available for some visits with church communities. Feel free to be in touch if this is of interest.

As always, your support and encouragement are invaluable. Let's keep the conversation going together!

Greetings from Berlin, Alethia and Ryan

#### MEMBERS OF SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION: Denise E. Lockwood

ASSOCIATE CLERK OF SESSION: Phyllis Doyle Smith

##### Class of 2023

Jim Richardson

Dirk Grove

Lynn Miller

##### Class of 2024

Susan Nunamaker

Cathy Michaliga

Doyle Waybright

##### Class of 2025

Raymond Wright

Ron Milhimes

Lane Speck

# The Giving Corner

## STEWARDSHIP

### Our Heritage, Our Duty, Our Hope

Another change of season approaches as the children go back to school, we look towards the harvest and cooler temperatures. We head back to Sunday School on Rally Sunday, and we look forward to our Stewardship events.

Plan on joining Pastor Mark and Session members on **Sunday, September 24, 2023**, for our annual Congregational Stewardship Conversation. This will take place between services at **9:45 AM** in the fellowship hall. At this time we will review the proposed 2024 budgets for both the Church Operating Fund and the Mission Organizations/Missionaries Fund. In addition we will begin to reflect on where God is leading us in the future. Over this year we have remembered our past, **"Our Heritage"**, and we have celebrated our beautiful history. It is now our time to consider the legacy we are meant to leave, **"Our Duty"** for future generations, **"Our Hope"**. Please come! Light refreshments will be served.

**Stewardship Sunday** is set for **October 1, 2023**, which is also World Communion Sunday. On this day we invite you to bring your Estimate of Giving cards to worship and offer your gifts to our Lord! On **Sunday evening at 5:00 PM** we are planning an **"Ole Fashion Church Potluck Dinner"**. This will be a time for us to come together as a family around our dinner tables to break bread and to celebrate the many blessings bestowed on Lower Marsh Creek over the past year! Mark your calendars for this special fellowship event and start to contemplate which delicious treat you will bring along to share!

We have much to be thankful for at Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church! Let us come together to thank our God for his grace to us and let us ponder how we can better serve him in the future!

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Galatians 6:9







# From the Clerk's Desk

The Session held their regular meeting on August 15, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the education building with Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger serving as moderator. Here are highlights from actions taken at that meeting:

- ◇ Membership as of 8/9/2023: Active Members (AM = CA): 164, Baptized Members (BM = FP): 57 and Family Members: 51. We welcome new members: Lynn Berwager, David and Jane Bruss, Scot and Suzanne Dolly, Lynne Orner, Jacque & Milt Higgins, Marty Martinez, and Denny & Micki Ryder to our church family!
- ◇ The Interpretation and Stewardship Team continues to monitor all church finances. Please see the monthly report in this issue for June and July as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter report of investments and special accounts. We thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!!

## ***Approved the following events and business items:***

- ◇ Vacation for Pastor Mark from December 25, 2023, to January 7, 2024, with Rev. Kristal Smith preaching on Sunday, January 7, 2024.
- ◇ That a second 1-year Certificate of Deposit for \$10,000.00 be opened at the M&T Bank in Gettysburg, PA.
- ◇ Harvest Home food collection from October 8-29, 2023.
- ◇ That Ausherman painters assist with moving the pews back in the sanctuary with an additional 2 inches between the pews.
- ◇ Elders Miller and Grove as commissioners to the next Presbytery meeting to be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023.
- ◇ That the proposed 2024 Church Operating Fund and Mission Organizations/Missionaries Fund Budgets be shared with the congregation at the September 24, 2023, Congregational Budget Conversation.
- ◇ That special collections be taken for 2-3 weeks to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance work in Hawaii.

## ***News from the Home Ministry Team – maintains the church properties including the cemetery***

- ◇ Team Members: Dirk Grove, chair; Ron Milhimes and Jim Richardson
- ◇ Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 1:00 PM has been tentatively set for completion of cleaning the cemetery grave-stones.
- ◇ Projects completed by the team include: painting of the sanctuary, installation of a new metal roof on the manse, removal of trees at the manse, and the installation of new water fountains in the education building. Thank you to the team for all your great work!
- ◇ New sections of the cemetery fence will be fabricated that almost exactly match the original fence. These sections will be installed by Perry Fence. We were awarded about \$6,000.00 with a \$2,000.00 deductible for the damage incurred from the windstorm which dropped a tree on the fence. Monies for expenses not covered by insurance will be taken from an estate gift received last year for cemetery projects.

***News from the Interpretation and Stewardship Team – manages church finances and missions***

- ◇ Team members: Ray Wright, chair; Lane Speck and Doyle Waybright.
- ◇ The proposed 2024 Church Operating Fund and Mission Organizations/Missionaries Fund Budgets are prepared. Final approval will come following the receipt of the Estimate of Giving Cards in October.
- ◇ Balance sheets and Cash Flow reports for June and July were approved as presented.

***News from the Spiritual Life Team – oversees the spiritual life of the church as well as fellowship, education and music in the church***

- ◇ Team members: Cathy Michaliga, chair; Lynn Miller and Susan Nunamaker.
- ◇ Distribution for the new Directory is set for Sunday, September 10, 2023.
- ◇ It was decided that there will not be a Marriage Retreat in 2024.
- ◇ Pastor will lead an Introduction to the Bible class during the Sunday School hour in October.
- ◇ Kris Englund-Krieger is planning a Children's Sunday School class during the 11:00 AM service. This will begin on September 24, 2023.
- ◇ The kick-off for Operation Christmas Child is Sunday, September 17, 2023. 275 boxes is our goal!
- ◇ The concept of a Parish Nurse was introduced by Pastor Mark for consideration.
- ◇ Elder Miller will lead a new evening Bible Study on the book of Acts this fall.

***News from the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – to celebrate the 275 years of the church's history and service to God***

- ◇ Team leaders: Lynn Miller, chair; Cathy Michaliga, recording secretary.
- ◇ Here are the upcoming events – "Save the Date":
  - \* Sunday, September 10, 2023: Annual Ice Cream Social with our very first ice-cream making contest, the Ice Cream Crank Off!!!
  - \* Sunday, November 5, 2023: Banquet at the Gettysburg Beyond the Battlefield Museum in Gettysburg, PA. This will begin at 4:00 PM with a presentation on the Scots-Irish in our area in the 1700's by Tim Smith; a catered meal and a "Singing Through Worship" service. Those attending the event will be able to tour the museum prior to the event at a reduced fee of \$10.00.
  - \* Advent Season: Christmas Through the Ages

***News from the Personnel Team – manages employees and reports to the Session***

- ◇ Chair: Lynn Miller, members: Carlos Wampler and Frank Buhrman
- ◇ Submitted proposed salaries for all employees for 2024.
  - \* Pastor Mark's Terms of Call will be voted on by the congregation at the October Congregational meeting, date to be determined.
  - \* Other employee salaries will be approved by Session when the final 2024 Church Operating Fund budget is submitted.

| <b>FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – JUNE 2023</b>                                         |                    |                              |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Church Operating Fund Income</b>                                                |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>Account Description</b>                                                         | <b>June—2023</b>   | <b>Year-to-Date<br/>2023</b> | <b>2023<br/>Budget</b> |
| Offering Income*                                                                   | \$20,533.50        | \$143,915.50                 | \$252,298.00           |
| Other Income                                                                       | \$2,111.48         | \$45,701.51                  | \$58,357.00            |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                                                | <b>\$22,644.98</b> | <b>\$189,617.01</b>          | <b>\$310,655.00</b>    |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b>                                              |                    |                              |                        |
| Spiritual Life                                                                     | \$141.38           | \$4,949.16                   | \$14,600.00            |
| Education & Nurture                                                                | \$0.00             | \$741.60                     | \$3,400.00             |
| Interpretation & Stewardship                                                       | \$84.98            | \$5,106.98                   | \$6,022.00             |
| Home Ministry                                                                      | \$6,641.24         | \$38,302.34                  | \$77,600.00            |
| Church Administration                                                              | \$15,921.93        | \$99,534.52                  | \$209,033.00           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                                              | <b>\$22,789.53</b> | <b>\$148,634.60</b>          | <b>\$310,655.00</b>    |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>                                                       | <b>-\$144.55</b>   | <b>\$40,982.41</b>           | <b>\$0.00</b>          |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/2023: \$89,674.35</b> |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income</b>                              |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>Account Description</b>                                                         | <b>June—2023</b>   | <b>Year-to-Date<br/>2023</b> | <b>2023<br/>Budget</b> |
| Offering Income*                                                                   | \$6,985.50         | \$41,091.50                  | \$76,800.00            |
| Other Income                                                                       | \$0.36             | \$3,065.04                   | \$1,000.00             |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                                                | <b>\$6,985.86</b>  | <b>\$44,156.54</b>           | <b>\$77,800.00</b>     |
| <b>Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses</b>                            |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                                              | <b>\$6,914.00</b>  | <b>\$42,658.29</b>           | <b>\$77,800.00</b>     |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>                                                       | <b>\$71.86</b>     | <b>\$1,498.25</b>            | <b>\$0.00</b>          |
| <b>Missions Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/2023: \$1,559.55</b>               |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>Notable expenses for June: \$2,205.26—Building Repair and Maintenance</b>       |                    |                              |                        |

| <b>FINANCIAL HEALTH UPDATE – JULY 2023</b>                                          |                    |                              |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Church Operating Fund Income</b>                                                 |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>Account Description</b>                                                          | <b>July—2023</b>   | <b>Year-to-Date<br/>2023</b> | <b>2023<br/>Budget</b> |
| Offering Income*                                                                    | \$30,828.00        | \$174,743.50                 | \$252,298.00           |
| Other Income                                                                        | \$3,327.65         | \$49,029.16                  | \$58,357.00            |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                                                 | <b>\$34,155.65</b> | <b>\$223,772.66</b>          | <b>\$310,655.00</b>    |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Expenses</b>                                               |                    |                              |                        |
| Spiritual Life                                                                      | \$230.00           | \$5,179.16                   | \$14,600.00            |
| Education & Nurture                                                                 | \$0.00             | \$741.60                     | \$3,400.00             |
| Interpretation & Stewardship                                                        | \$0.00             | \$5,106.98                   | \$6,022.00             |
| Home Ministry                                                                       | \$8,120.89         | \$46,423.23                  | \$77,600.00            |
| Church Administration                                                               | \$15,612.92        | \$115,147.44                 | \$209,033.00           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                                               | <b>\$23,963.81</b> | <b>\$172,598.41</b>          | <b>\$310,655.00</b>    |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>                                                        | <b>\$10,191.84</b> | <b>\$51,174.25</b>           | <b>\$0.00</b>          |
| <b>Church Operating Fund Checking Account Balance as of 7/31/2023: \$120,404.19</b> |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Income</b>                               |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>Account Description</b>                                                          | <b>July—2023</b>   | <b>Year-to-Date<br/>2023</b> | <b>2023<br/>Budget</b> |
| Offering Income*                                                                    | \$12,358.00        | \$53,449.50                  | \$76,800.00            |
| Other Income                                                                        | \$0.40             | \$3,065.04                   | \$1,000.00             |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                                                 | <b>\$12,358.40</b> | <b>\$56,514.94</b>           | <b>\$77,800.00</b>     |
| <b>Mission Opportunities/Missionaries Fund Expenses</b>                             |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                                               | <b>\$5,082.00</b>  | <b>\$47,740.29</b>           | <b>\$77,800.00</b>     |
| <b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>                                                        | <b>\$7,276.40</b>  | <b>\$8,774.65</b>            | <b>\$0.00</b>          |
| <b>Missions Checking Account Balance as of 7/31/2023: \$9,050.95</b>                |                    |                              |                        |
| <b>Notable expenses for July: \$5,555.00—Building Repair and Maintenance</b>        |                    |                              |                        |

**SECOND QUARTER REPORT — 2023****INVESTMENTS**

| <b>Account Description</b>   | <b>Opening Balance<br/>3/31/2022</b> | <b>Deposits</b> | <b>Expenses</b>           | <b>Unrealized<br/>Gains/Losses</b> | <b>Closing Balance<br/>6/30/2023</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Capitol Improvement Fund     | \$141,933.06                         | \$0.00          | \$4,441.50                | \$8,244.76                         | \$145,736.32                         |
| Cemetery Fund                | \$3,696.08                           | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | \$28.86                            | \$3,724.94                           |
| Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund | \$154,151.47                         | \$1,909.71      | \$0.00                    | \$7,022.36                         | \$163,083.54                         |
| Mission Endowment Fund       | \$140,683.96                         | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | \$184.38                           | \$140,868.34                         |
| Woods Scholarship Fund       | \$96,793.96                          | \$0.00          | \$6,000.00                | \$5,832.16                         | \$96,626.12                          |
| David Scott Youth Fund       | \$87,357.20                          | \$0.00          | \$0.00                    | \$2,678.21                         | \$90,035.41                          |
|                              |                                      |                 | <b>Total Investments:</b> |                                    | \$640,083.93                         |

**DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED FUNDS**

| <b>Account Description</b>    | <b>Opening Balance<br/>3/31/2022</b> | <b>Deposits</b> | <b>Expenses</b> | <b>Closing Balance<br/>6/30/2022</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Insurance Claim               | \$10,266.15                          | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$10,266.15                          |
| Marriage Retreat—Fund Raisers | \$7,701.63                           | \$300.00        | \$807.99        | \$7,193.64                           |
| Cemetery Benches              | \$80.00                              | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$80.00                              |
| Sanctuary Flowers             | \$867.56                             | \$486.00        | \$697.76        | \$655.80                             |
| Men's Breakfast               | \$98.95                              | \$116.00        | \$256.43        | -\$41.48                             |
| Bulletins                     | \$346.87                             | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$346.87                             |
| Pastor's Study Leave          | \$3,000.00                           | \$0.00          | \$3,000.00      | \$0.00                               |
| David Scott Youth Fund        | \$8,476.39                           | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$8,476.39                           |
| 275th Anniversary Fund        | \$4,363.66                           | \$1,207.00      | \$1,804.23      | \$3,766.43                           |
| Church Directory              | \$500.00                             | \$0.00          | \$94.80         | \$405.20                             |

**SPECIAL CHECKING ACCOUNTS**

| <b>Account Description</b> | <b>Opening Balance<br/>3/31/2022</b> | <b>Deposits</b> | <b>Expenses</b> | <b>Closing Balance<br/>6/30/2023</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Membership Assistance Fund | \$3,371.85                           | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$3,371.85                           |
| Cemetery Fund              | \$22,661.28                          | \$0.00          | \$3,334.71      | \$19,326.57                          |
| Gifts & Memorials Fund     | \$5,884.18                           | \$165.00        | \$1,428.00      | \$4,621.18                           |

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church  
1865 Knoxlyn Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

*Li'l Ripples* September 2023



1748 - 2023

275 Years

Pastor Mark Englund-Krieger



*Sunday Morning Worship*

Early Worship 8:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 AM  
Late Worship 11:00 AM  
Nursery 8:30 AM - 12:15 PM

*Church Office Hours*

Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Phone Number 717-642-5332  
Email Address [office@lmcp.org](mailto:office@lmcp.org)  
Website [www.lmcp.org](http://www.lmcp.org)

*Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Statement*

“To glorify God, deepen and enrich the spiritual life of the family of believers,  
And reach out to the community with the love of Jesus Christ.”

*Li'l Ripples* - Editor, Fay Hess - 717-476-5682 or [lilripples@gmail.com](mailto:lilripples@gmail.com)