



Walking life's road with Jesus.

Daily trusting God's Word.

**A Congregation of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians**

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Submissions for the newsletter should be made by the end of the third week of each month. Thank You.

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**THE CHURCH TRANSFORMATION COHORT**

In the end of 2019, our lease for Suite 2 comes to an end. That precipitates a set of decisions that we must make in the coming months. More than simply the decision about what building we will meet in for Sunday morning worship, this is a decision that will shape our ministry for years to come.

Here are a few things we can see about Road to Emmaus:

- > Road to Emmaus may be only four years old, but it has inherited the habits, culture and expectations that come from the history that leads up to our formation.
- > We have made some good progress and we are 'fighting above our weight.' We are well on the trajectory that we set for ourselves in our Vision, Values and Mission statement.
- > While we have enjoyed our time as a congregation, our numeric growth has barely matched our loss.
- > Given that we have little in terms of financial flexibility, we must maximize what is entrusted to us to do what God is calling us to be and do. There is much at stake and little room for error.

**Who is the Church Transformation Cohort?**

Our denomination is offering us help to see how to move forward. The emphasis in ECO is that the ministry of local congregations would be healthy and flourishing. ECO is sort of like the slogan of Home Depot: "You can do it, we can help."

ECO has secured the help of Paul Borden and his group called the Church Transformation Cohort. Paul was as an executive for the western region of the American Baptist Church. His work with local congregations in that context enabled a radical shift. Eighty percent of those churches were in plateau or decline, but 10 years later 72% of them were growing again. That is a great track record!

Paul Borden has trained a number of people in ECO to partner with him and work on the same kind of transformation among ECO churches. Among the cohorts that have begun among ECO churches, the early results look good.

**How does the Church Transformation Cohort work?**

There are three components.

**Pastoral Learning Community.** Pastors meet for two days, three times a year over the course of two years. They meet for prayer support, fellowship and accountability. There is a study component regarding things like evangelism, time management, governance, worship, retention of visitors, etc.

**Congregational Consultation.** There is a four day on-site consultation that includes a pastoral interview, interviews with leaders and session, a lay leader training event and a final report that includes five strengths, five concerns and five prescriptions. Our 'Consultation Weekend' will be April 25-28.

**Pastor and congregational coaching.** There is an 18 month period of ongoing guidance, encouragement and accountability for moving forward. This will include additional resources and prayer. (continued on page 2, upper right column)

## **NOTES FROM SESSION**

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

January tithes and offerings were \$8,809. Because of the bad weather which caused us to miss a Sunday, the budget was off approximately \$3,000. At the end of January. "The Road to the Future" building fund had \$24,074 in it.

### **DILLSBURG NEW MEMBERS**

Session accepted into membership 8 new persons in February. These new members are part of a Dillsburg group which is hoping to plant a new ECO church in the Dillsburg area under the guidance of R2E.

## **Daylight Savings Time - March 10th**

Spring forward, fall back. On Saturday, March 9th, before going to bed remember to set your clocks ahead one hour. Regardless of what time you come to church on the 10th, the service will begin at 9:30 Eastern Daylight Savings time.

### **HYMN FACTS**

During the month of March we will be singing "Softly and Tenderly". This hymn was written in 1880 by Will L. Thompson, born in Pennsylvania. It is the most widely known of his compositions, used for evangelistic meetings before being added to church hymnals. Its popularity continues today with many contemporary performers including Pat Boone, Amy Grant, Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Willie Nelson and Johnny Cash. An upbeat version by Elvis Presley can be found on YouTube.

### **Individual Prayer**

After worship each Sunday the pastor and an elder will be available to pray with you. They will be stationed in the front right corner of the worship area.

### **Many Thanks!**

Thanks to the Fellowship Team and any others who helped with Pat Kaullen's Memorial Service.

## **Church Transformation Cohort**

(continued from previous page) Using a football analogy, it's 3rd down and 10 yards to go. This is the point at which a team relies on coaches and people 'in the booth' to call some new plays. This is how we hope being part of the Church Transformation Cohort will help.

We believe that God has a future for Road to Emmaus Presbyterian Church in which people are drawn to God's saving word and engaged for God's purposes. We want to learn how to live this out more effectively. This is why the Elders have voted to participate in the Church Transformation Cohort.

You can soon look forward to more information about our Consultation weekend.

## **MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS**

### **2019 MISSION TRIP**

The 2019 Mission trip has been changed to Parma, Ohio, just south of Cleveland, and the dates have been changed to June 16-21. This is a hammer- and -nails activity with time off to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Persons 12 and older can go on this trip.. There are still several spots available. Please see Pastor Wayne for additional details and to reserve your spot.

### **WHERE'S THE BEEF?**

Our 3rd annual "Where's the Beef" project for Bethesda Mission ends Sunday, March 3rd. This year we are selling subs. Orders and monies are due then. Delivery will be on Sunday, March 10th. \$2.25 of each sub is our profit and goes toward the beef. If you choose to make a donation, please write your check to R2E and mark the envelope or check for the beef project.

### **CAITLIN'S SMILES**

On Sunday, March 31st, after church and Sunday school, we will be doing two craft projects for Caitlin's Smiles. These are adult and child friendly projects for children in hospitals. Before we start on the projects, a light lunch of sloppy joes and chips will be provided. If you're unfamiliar with **Caitlin's Smiles** this YouTube sums it up very well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTm-s4VN0cM&t=6s>

## R2E BOOK CLUB

Book club selections and dates are set for the next 3 months. Book Club is for all adult members of R2E and any guests who might want to attend. All dates are Saturday mornings at 10:00 at the church. Even if you can't come to all of these, you might enjoy reading the books on your own.

March 30 – *Claudia, Wife of Pontius Pilate* by Diana Wallis Taylor and *The Hideaway* by Lauren K. Denton

April 27 – *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ron Kaullen - March 9th  
Cindy Moran - March 14th  
Rachel Singley - March 16th  
Sandy Young - March 23rd  
Joe Ryan - March 28th  
Ken Chapman - March 29th  
Barry Sullivan - March 31st

If the birthday list does not include your birthday, please let Pastor Lowe or Linda Parkin know so it can be added.

## MARCH ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

The following are weekly Bible studies available to all. Invite a friend and enjoy fellowship.

**Sunday Study Group** - Sundays after 9:30 worship.

**Monday Morning Study Group** with Ellen Carnahan at 9:30 a.m. Also Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Carnahan home.

**Tuesday Evening** at the Caswell's home - 7 p.m. with Tom Chilcote leading.

**Thursday Morning Discussion Group** - 7 a.m. at Panera Bread (Paxton Towne Center).

All Bible studies during Lent will be on the book *Because of This I Rejoice*. Copies available in the Gathering Place.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

### Cathy Bentz

I was born and raised on my father's family farm in Juniata County. My mother's family owned the funeral home in Port Royal which is how that I am related to Ben Stimmel. I spent a lot of time in my junior and senior school years between both places as transportation to after-school activities was difficult from the farm.

I grew up in Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church where my mother was the first female elder at age 70.

It was in elementary school that I was introduced to the trumpet which I loved; but in junior high, the band director decided that he needed another baritone player and I was the chosen one. Lugging that horn on and off of the school bus was a challenge.

After graduating from Juniata "Joint" High School, I attended Polyclinic hospital School of Nursing and graduated in 1969. It was an unsettling time in Harrisburg for a country girl. After graduation I worked in the Intensive Care Unit, worked for Dr. I.O.Silver in Steelton and eventually ended up working in an ENT practice for 23 years.

Ken and I met through mutual friends and were married in 1995—we have four children and ten grandchildren. Besides R2E, he is the best thing that happened to me.

Most of you know that I have two passions—fishing and ice hockey. Twenty years ago we started making annual fishing trips to Canada—the most memorable was during 9/11. We were on a remote lake and were not aware of what had happened until late afternoon. Coming back into the United States was quite an experience. My other "fishing" story was catching a record Walleye and was runner up in a national fishing photo contest. Hershey Bears and Washington Capitals hockey keep me occupied and I enjoy reading just about anything. R2E book club has presented a variety of subjects.

Since retiring we have made several trips in our motor home—the most recent being a four month trip across country and into Alaska and back—it's hard to describe the experience. We saw so much and made so many friendships along the way.

Thanks to Bill Parkin, I became reacquainted with my Baritone (after 50 years) and truly enjoy the music fellowship. I feel very blessed to have Road to Emmaus as my church home and family.

# Road to Emmaus Presbyterian Church

## March 2019

<b>3</b> Sunday Worship and Communion 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow	<b>4</b> Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am  Ministry Teams Meeting 7:00pm	<b>5</b> The Guitar Gathering Session I, 6:30p Session 2, 7:30p	<b>6</b> Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00pm	<b>7</b> Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Time to Spring Ahead
<b>10</b> Sunday Worship and Joyful Noise Offering 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow	<b>11</b> Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am  Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Session Meeting 7:00pm	<b>12</b> NO Guitar Gathering	<b>13</b> Music Fellowship 7:00pm	<b>14</b> Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday Worship 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow	<b>18</b> Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am	<b>19</b> The Guitar Gathering Session I, 6:30p Session 2, 7:30p	<b>20</b> Music Fellowship 7:00pm  FIRST DAY OF SPRING!	<b>21</b> Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Book Club 10:00am
<b>24</b> Sunday Worship 9:30am Purim Play, 3:00pm	<b>25</b> Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am	<b>26</b> The Guitar Gathering Session I, 6:30p Session 2, 7:30p	<b>27</b> Music Fellowship 7:00pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 
<b>31</b> Sunday Worship and Communion, 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow	<b>1</b> Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am  Ministry Teams Meeting 7:00pm	<b>2</b> The Guitar Gathering Session I, 6:30p Session 2, 7:30p	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 
<b>7</b> Sunday Worship and Joyful Noise Offering 9:30am Fellowship & Sunday School to follow	<b>8</b> Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30am  Deacons Meeting 7:00pm	<b>9</b> The Guitar Gathering Session I, 6:30p Session 2, 7:30p	<b>10</b> Music Fellowship 7:00pm	<b>11</b> Thursday Morning Fellowship at Panera, 7:00am	"I give them eternal life, and ... no one will snatch them out of my hand." JOHN 10:28, ESV	