



# *The Shepherd's Voice*

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## **A MINUTE WITH MIKE**

*The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while."  
Mark 6:30-31a (NASB)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus,

Mid-Summer greetings to you and yours! I actually had a person tell me the other day they can't wait for the snow to fall. While I understand the growing weariness with the summer heat, I am not myself going to complain; it's simply the "dog days" of summer – thank You, Lord!

Many of you have taken summer vacations; some perhaps will be doing that soon. Donna and I are planning a very exciting vacation, and we'll be gone three weeks! We've never been away from work and routine for three consecutive weeks before. But in early September we have rented a small motorhome, and we're going out to see the Midwest. On our itinerary is Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone Park, Grand Tetons National Monument and many other historical spots. We can't wait!

I am praying that this will be a unique time of rest and refreshment for us both. I'm praying God will speak His words of love and wisdom as we celebrate His glorious creation. I'm praying also it will be a good time for you and our church family. Dr. Laura will preach on September 8 and 15, and Rev. Dr. Joo will preach on the 22nd.

As is always the case, we have a most wonderful and competent group of Session members you may contact for any reason. Betty Rittersdorf, Jim Miller, Bill Keating, Gary Lehmann, Henry Gachini and Angie Wiley are always ready to help us with any of our spiritual needs; don't hesitate to call them. Dr. Laura as well is always available should you wish to contact her.

Summer blessings to you and yours, and be sure you are spending some quiet time, some time alone with the Lord Jesus. He longs for your time and attention.

With love and gratitude, and in His joy,

*Mike*

## SESSION NEWS

### Treasurer's Report

\$ 11,730	Cash on Hand as of 6/30/2019
25,107	Certificate of Deposit (Fifth/Third)
	(less following committed funds)
<u>- 11,000</u>	Building Fund
\$ 25,837	Uncommitted Funds Available

Notes: Uncommitted funds available as of last month were \$24,304; *\$1,533 less than this month*. We sent a check to Potter's House for \$484.54; May/June Joyful Noise collections matched from Mission Funds.

**A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.**

**Pastor** – Pastor Mike offered the following for consideration and discussion:

- Picnic & outdoor worship plans reviewed.
- Session/Leadership training still postponed until fall.
- Reported on status of Norm Sharp, who's suffered a stroke and auto accident and is in Spectrum rehab.
- Mike would like us to consider approving an extended pulpit exchange for next summer – 6 to 10 weeks perhaps – with a cooperating pastor from Scotland. The pastors would exchange houses and cars as well as pulpits. The Session members are to consider this proposal for action at the next Session meeting.
- A Cleveland church plant is in the planning stages (Legacy Church), and Presbytery is proposing a financial shower for them at the October Presbytery meeting. Session to consider how we might participate.
- The ECO Annual Gathering is planned for the Dallas area in February 2020, and Presbytery is making financial aid scholarships available for participants from needy churches (10 at \$500/each).

### Other Business –

- Worship meeting scheduled for July 28 after service.
- Brooks Memorial Scholarship Fund; Jim Miller reports the present balance of this fund is \$14,639.
- Missions – Betty and Jim distributed copies of the minutes from their recent meeting. Action taken: substituting *In the Image* for *School Supply Santa* in the Joyful Noise rotation.
- Fellowship – there is a need for more “home-made” treats to complement the store-bought cookies.
- Payroll – it was noted that Jim Miller has prepared a payroll protocol and that, effective immediately, Bill Keating will be submitting payroll requests to VIPay instead of Pastor Mike.

**Next Presbytery Meeting** – It was noted that the next meeting will be October 4-5 in Cleveland, Ohio. The voting commissioner will be selected in August.

**Next Session Meeting(s)** – The next Stated Session meeting will be on **Thursday, August 8**, at 6:00 PM at Beacon Hill, Betty's residence. The next fellowship and prayer meeting at Mike's will be at 7:00 PM on July 16.

## AUGUST DATES

2<sup>nd</sup> (Fri.) Men's Breakfast (Bob Evans – M6 @ Kalamazoo Ave.) 9:30am  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Family Camp  
4<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 10:00am Worship & Communion  
7<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) Softball 8:30pm  
8<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.) Bilyea's Home Group meeting 1:00pm  
8<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.) Session meeting 6:00pm  
11<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 10:00am Worship  
14<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) Softball, time TBA  
18<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 10:00am Worship  
19<sup>th</sup> (Mon.) Newsletter deadline  
20<sup>th</sup> (Tues.) Baynai's Home group meeting 7:00pm  
21<sup>st</sup> (Wed.) Softball, time TBA  
22<sup>nd</sup> (Thurs.) Bilyea's Home Group meeting 1:00pm  
25<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 10:00am Worship

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

8 Jean Bailey  
12 Bev Schaafsma  
15 Toni Kenyi  
17 Dan Vanderberg  
20 Leonard Postema  
24 Marcia Jones  
31 Vi Squires

## AUGUST EVENTS – Sunday Services

4<sup>th</sup> - Samaritas (The Terraces) 3:30pm  
11<sup>th</sup> - Samaritas (the Lodge) 2:15pm  
18<sup>th</sup> - Vista Springs 2:00pm & 2:45pm  
25<sup>th</sup> - American House 3:00pm

## SERVING THIS MONTH

Children's Message: Children's Volunteer:  
4th – Jared Swanson Natlina Kenyi  
11th – Dana Lehmann Carrie Barrett  
18th – Sandee Keating Shauna Gipe  
25th – Shauna Gipe Rachel Wahome

Greeters:  
4th – Roger & Marie Zoerner  
11th – Bettye Kay & Joyce VanderLaan  
18th – Al Schumacher & Elaine Miller  
25th – Marcia & Bhama

Liturgists: Sound Booth:  
4th – Jim Miller Williams'  
11th – Angie Wiley Henry & Toni  
18th – Henry Gachini Williams'  
25th – Dr. Laura Smit Henry & Toni

Preaching:  
4th – Pastor Mike  
11th – Pastor Mike  
18th – Pastor Mike  
25th – Pastor Mike

Serving Communion:  
Shauna Gipe, Jim Miller, Rachel Wahome,  
Henry Gachini

Fellowship Hosts:  
Carrie Barrett, Lucy & Kennedy

## EVENTS:

### Family Camp

Plans are underway for this year's Family Camp to be held Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, August 4. The event will again be held this year at the home of Anne and Dan Vanderberg in Muskegon (2586 Memorial Drive). All are welcome to come for a day, the entire weekend, or the campfire on Saturday evening. Folks will begin to arrive on Friday afternoon to a "help-yourself" spaghetti dinner. We'll set up tents in the yard, and Saturday after breakfast we'll head to the beach. Saturday evening we'll have dinner around the campfire. Sunday morning after breakfast we'll have a camp-side worship service. For more information please contact Anne Vanderberg at (616) 299-0634 [annegundy@att.net](mailto:annegundy@att.net)

## Softball Schedule

This year's team includes Pastor Mike, two former JKPC members Steve Deer and Henry Kotsier, a Calvin Seminarian, and two Calvin college students. All games are played at the Christian Athletic Center (formerly the CRC Recreation Center) on the corner of 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Stauffer (behind the Wedgewood Home).

August 7 @ 8:30pm – diamond 5 (away): Church of the Servant

August 14, playoffs – time TBA

August 21, playoffs – time TBA

## A Note Regarding Fellowship

Every Sunday morning many of us move into the lobby area where we have fellowship and refreshments. Because store-bought cookies are easy to store, we most often serve them. However, without the complication of sign-up sheets or asking around in advance, we simply invite anyone interested to bring a little “enhancement” to our refreshment time. Things that would be easy to serve are bananas, grapes, cheese in a dish, perhaps with crackers. Of course, any of your home recipes are always welcome. Keep in mind once an item is opened, it really should not remain for next week. If you have any thoughts or questions, please feel free to speak with Carrie Barrett, Shauna Gipe or Pastor Mike.

## Goodbye Jared

On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> we'll say “thank you and goodbye” to Jared Swanson. Jared has served us well for about three years as Children's Church Director. He is a graduate of Calvin College.

## REMINDERS

The men's breakfast still gathers every first Friday at 9:30 am at Bob Evans (M6 and Kalamazoo Ave.). Mark your calendars for August 2 and plan on attending for fellowship, encouragement, and good food.

The pictorial directory is still ongoing. If you have not yet had your picture taken, please contact Pastor Mike.

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## PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

As a pleasant memory of a wonderful worship service and cookout lunch at Dutton Park, here's a picture of our stalwart cooks, Dan Vanderberg and Gary Lehmann, who prepared and served the scrumptious hot dogs and burgers for lunch.



## GENESIS TO REVELATION: THE SHORT VERSION

*Credit to John Greco, "Our Daily Bread" Discovery Series*

In the beginning, it was all about goodness. God made the heavens and the earth, and they were good. In fact, God made all things to reflect his goodness. But sin twisted the goodness of creation – all that we can see and all that we can't. Every aspect of creation was affected. Nothing was left unbent. Worse still is that we opened the door and invited sin in. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, were deceived and believed a lie about God's heart.

*In the temptation of Eve, the devil's lie contained several layers. One was to question God's instructions: "Did God actually say ...?" (Genesis 3:1) Another was to deny the truth of what he had said: "You will not surely die" (v.4). But the worst aspect of the lie appealed to their pride: "You will be like God" (v.5).*

As a result, they discovered what it was like to be separated from that good heart. Down through history, every child of Adam and Eve has experienced this brokenness firsthand. The situation, apart from God, is hopeless, for nothing broken can fix itself. But thankfully, our Maker does not want us to live apart from Him.

Starting with one man and his wife, Abram and Sarai, God created a nation to be a light to the world. Israel was to walk in God's ways and invite her neighbors to do the same. But Israel blew it. Over and over again, the people disobeyed God, and instead of inviting others to know the true God, they chased after the false gods of their neighbors. It would seem that God's plan had failed. But God's plan never depended on the faithfulness of his people. God is the faithful one.

At just the right moment in history, God himself put on flesh and came to earth to be born of a virgin in Bethlehem. Jesus did what Israel never could: obey perfectly.

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his listeners, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17). His life on earth perfectly lived up to the requirements of the Law and fulfilled multiple Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.*

Jesus did what the sacrifices of animals never could: pay for sin. And Jesus did what broken people never could: make a way back to the Father. Someday, he'll return to put an end to every evil thing and restore the unbroken goodness of God to all creation.

