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Pastor's Ponderings



LABYRINTHS HELP US ALONG OUR LIFE-JOURNEY

This article was written for the Prairie Press once-weekly paper for the week of May 24th *with a few changes/additions*:

You likely have heard of labyrinths. In fact, in Schwartz Park, on the northeast side of town a couple blocks west of the 5-way intersection at Wood and High Streets, there is a brick labyrinth. One of our members, Jane Bittner, helped to design it. I have walked it and prayed while doing so, several times, surrounded by trees, flowers and singing birds.

The labyrinth is an ancient symbol relating to wholeness. Wholeness refers to the total human being: mind, body, and spirit/soul. It encompasses the emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual aspects of a person. For a very long time, labyrinths have been used as spiritual and meditative tools.

One of the best known labyrinths is found as part of the beautifully paved floor of Chartres Cathedral, France. That labyrinth is the pattern for many other labyrinths. They can be built into a floor made of stone, dirt paths delineated by stones, cement, brick, wood, and more portable ones can be made of canvas, plastic and other durable but flexible materials which can be rolled up and even taken somewhere. The church I grew up in back in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has a portable labyrinth.



Labyrinths are not to be confused with mazes. A maze refers to a complex branching puzzle with choices of path and direction. A labyrinth has only a single path to the center and back and isn't difficult to navigate.

We are all on a path and Christians try to follow the path Jesus Christ has set before us. It is a journey, a life-long journey. How important it is to be connected to God while walking that journey. When we consider our lives as sacred journeys, the labyrinth makes perfect sense as a tool to assist us, prayerfully and meditatively.

There are walking labyrinths and finger labyrinths. During our worship service May 17th, I had a finger labyrinth on a half-page insert put in each bulletin (we still use those even though we now have multi-media screens in worship too). It is simply the outline of a labyrinth and one follows the path to the center and back while praying. This is done in silence and individually. I gave those present 2 or 3 minutes to follow the path and pray or simply listen for what God had to say to them.

We all know that life is a challenge most every step of the way. We need to take time to talk with the Lord and one way to do that is to walk, or follow with our finger, the labyrinth as we ask God to shape our lives, following God's purpose for them, expanding our vision as we go. The labyrinth assists us in seeking our own center in Christ.

We can pray and/or listen to God for so many things: forgiveness and forgiving others; those who are ill or dying, people who don't know God; that we might draw closer to our Savior; for those who are angry with the Lord; for family, friends and colleagues; for the weather, climate change and those recovering from natural disasters; for love, compassion, mercy and peace, and so much more. The Labyrinth may help us work through our prayers, or listening, as we focus on the walk on or trace with our finger the repetitive pattern.

LL THE ONLY WAY OUT
OF THE LABYRINTH OF
SUFFERING IS TO FORGIVE. JJ
— JOHN GREEN,
LOOKING FOR ALASKA

Labyrinths offer the
opportunity to walk in
meditation to that
place within us where
the rational merges
with the intuitive and
the spiritual is reborn.

If you have a chance, look 'labyrinth' up online and print out an outline of one to follow with your finger as you pray. You may just find this a very prayerful experience of centering, peace, and transformation. Or, try out the small, brick labyrinth in Schwartz Park. May God richly bless you in your prayer experiences, in whatever way and wherever your prayers occur.

A Gentle Prompt

Are you caught up with your financial giving to our church? As God's stewards we are to give generously and freely (God loves a cheerful giver) in gratitude for many blessings in our lives.

Right now we are behind in our giving for 2015 and have many bills, salaries, committee work and church events for which to pay. Just like other areas of our life, those things never give us a break. Won't you help out and give what you pledged, would normally donate or for times you were away? We pray you will continue to give regularly in the Summer.

Please consider paying
your \$40 Per Capita
payment to our higher governing
bodies work on behalf of all PC(USA)
churches (including ours).
Our budget pays for it regardless of
whether or not you do,
and it can be a drain on
our financial resources.
It is a *separate request* from your
pledge or weekly donations, if you
are willing and able to pay it.



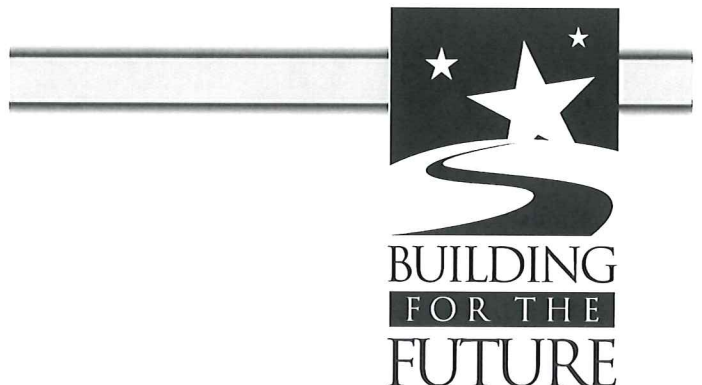
The Mission Task Force continues to be busy donating your mission pledges/offerings to local, national, PC(USA), and world-wide organizations which seek to help others in a world hungry for assistance, love and helping hands.

We have a project we are considering promoting this fall for your consideration and it is for a great need in our world.

Keep up the good work and we will inform you of up and coming opportunities for which God may call us to give of our time, talent, and treasure.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY for...**

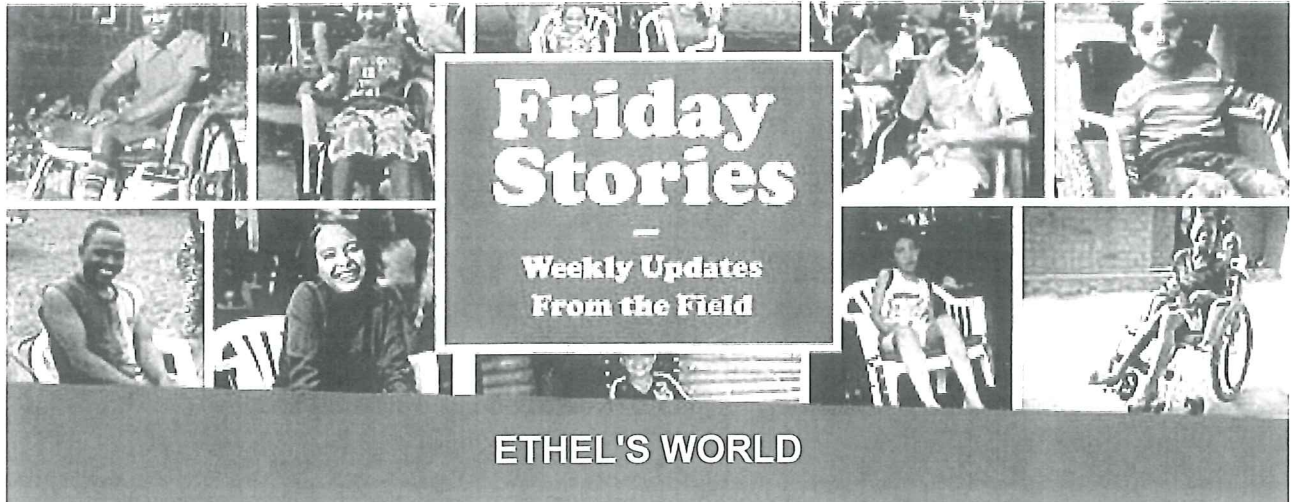
Generosity
changes everything



thank
you



Free Wheelchair Mission®
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE GIFT OF MOBILITY



Greetings Laurie, and Happy Friday!

I love getting stories from the field about recipients who no longer have to live their lives from a back room in their home. This week I wanted to introduce you to Ethel whose world became larger the moment she received her very own wheelchair:

Two years ago as Ethel tried to get out of bed, she realized her legs no longer worked. "It was just too painful to walk," she said, "and I haven't walked since." Because she is bedridden, she moved in with her son so he can help take care of her.

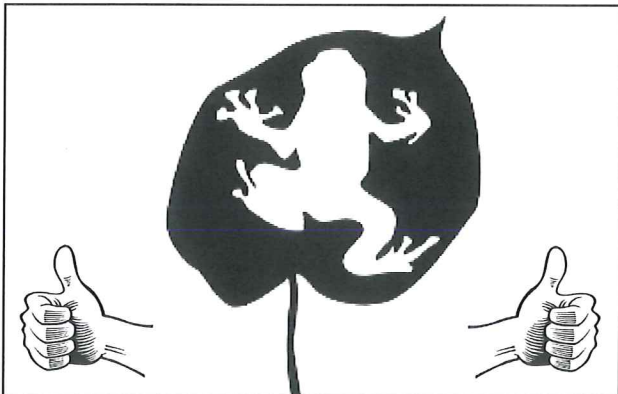
Ethel was so excited to receive her very own GEN_1 wheelchair from our partner in Swaziland, The Luke Commission. She couldn't believe that she would no longer have to spend every day and night cooped up in her room. "Thanks to God for this chair" she exclaimed!



Thank you for helping to provide recipients like Ethel with the gift of mobility every week. I love that \$77.91 can transform someone's life so quickly and I'm grateful to each one of you for helping this vision continue to grow, one wheelchair at a time.

A FRIENDLY REQUEST:

PLEASE DO NOT
BUY ANYMORE
STYROFOAM
FOR CHURCH
EVENTS/ACTIVITIES!!
-not easily recycled-



We're Trying To Be
GREEN!!

For Our soon-to-be Hospitality Room

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO BARBARA BERGDOLT

for all the time she spent pulling
together information needed
for and writing of our
Mission Grant request
from Presbytery!!!

We received a \$2500 grant as seed
money going toward
the work for that Room.

It's going to be great!

The 'Hospitality Room' Task Force will
meet in early June and work on plans
for the Parlor space as on outreach
both to our members/friends and,
eventually, our community

Jeanette Levellie



"I came forward to get recycled."

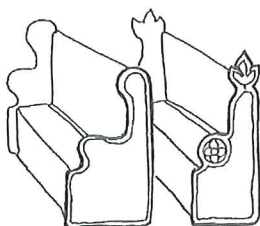


Please take the time
this month to greet
and welcome her to
our Church Staff!
She will begin her
position June 8th
with a little training
earlier with Carmen.

WE WELCOME YOU, JEANETTE!!

| Administrative Assistant |

♥ We will miss Carmen and pray for her and will see her around!



PEW NEWS

**Listed on the Mayo Middle School
3rd quarter Honor Roll:
Drew Bradshaw, Melfina McCollough,
and Alex Turner.**

**Brianna Blair is a member of the
Cheer Extreme team from En Pointe
Performing Arts Studio, who recently
took first place at a MCDA Dance and
Cheer Championship.**

**Listed on Paris Cooperative High
School's third quarter honor roll:
Bianna Blair (senior), Morgan Jipp
(sophomore), Caitlin Blair (freshman)
and Zane Blair (freshman).**

**Sean Blair was recognized as an eighth
grade band member at the recent
Spring Concert held at Crestwood.**

**Brianna Blair received the Trogon
Scholarship, presented by the Paris
Kiwanis Club. She also received an
Illinois State Scholarship and Drama
Scholarship from PCHS.**

**Awards were given to Brian Blair (perfect
attendance), and Tom Hebermehl (3rd
place—"Kiwanian Of the Year") by the
Paris Kiwanis Club.**

**Congratulations to Hannah Church on
her move to Peoria to assume the new
duty of Choir Director at the Peoria
Junior High and High School. She has
served as choral director for the past
three years for District 95.**

**Morgan Jipp received a physical science
award at the recent Honors Program
held at PCHS.**



A THANK-YOU from Carmen...

**WHAT CAN I SAY...other than
it has been an adventure for
the past thirty-five years! I would
not trade the friendships and all
the special 'benefits' I have
experienced as church secretary.
I will miss all of you, but I am not
going too far – I'll still be around!
God bless all my Presbyterian
'family'.**

**Barbara Bergdolt, Jane Blair, and Liz
Gough were part of the barbership
group performing at the recent 50th
celebration of Chapter KD of the P.E.O.
Also recognized for participation was
Christie Russell and Beth Ruff. Charter
members Virginia Zimmerly and
Betty Dahlin were unable to attend.**

**Emma Scott is a member of the
Redbird Leadership Squad at Mayo
School.**

DID YOU KNOW.....

**....that at least 95 different people
participated in Paris Presbyterian
Church worship services or other
activities during the month of April?
(and that does not include our guests
from New Providence Maundy
Thursday)**



NEWS FROM SESSION

Business at the May meeting of the church Session included:

- a 'get to know each other' visit from our new liaison to the Presbytery's Committee On Ministry, Rev. Maureen Clark (Ashmore Church)
- approval for the reception of a new member May 24
- decisions on how to proceed with the calling of a new Administrative Assistant
- reports on the April ("cluster") and May (whole group) Presbytery meetings
- our monthly prayer for a committee's work was for Christian Education this time, including Vacation Bible School

THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

The months of June through August do not have many specially-designated Sundays, such as Easter and Pentecost. From June through August, we are not in a special season of the church year, but in "ordinary time". Ordinary time is described this way by the worship resource "The Liturgical Year":

"The Sundays of ordinary time celebrate the good news of Christ's death and Resurrection, and the unfolding presence of the new creation in the risen Christ. It presents us with an ongoing opportunity to witness to the living Lord, who makes all things new." In these weeks of ordinary time immediately following Pentecost (May 24), when the Holy Spirit began the Christian Church, churches today sometimes look at the stories of that early Christian Church in the Bible, and consider how we can operate as churches faithful in discipleship.



SANCTUARY CHOIR NEWS

Thanks to the six gentlemen who comprised our special men's choir on Mothers' Day. Their performance was excellent!

Now the ladies will have their chance: we will have a "ladies only" choir for worship on Fathers' Day - Sunday, June 21. We will rehearse at 7 P.M. on Wednesday, June 17.

The choir will continue to sing through the month of June, but we will only have rehearsals on June 3 (everybody) and June 17 (ladies).

The Sanctuary Choir members extend our warmest wishes to Carmen as she completes her church office duties. Henceforth, we will consider her an 'honorary' member of our choir!



CHURCH FAMILY OF THE WEEK

Our "Church Family of the Week" program gives us a chance to lift up a different family (group or individual) of our congregation each week, include them in our daily prayer for our families and friends, and to send cards or greetings or in some other way let them know we are glad they are part of our church family.

The Church Family of the Week is listed in our Sunday bulletins. If you missed one or more of those recent announcements, I'll bet those families wouldn't mind if you prayed for them this week. Those recently listed are:



Ruth Anthony
704 E. Court St., Apt. 16, Paris

Carmen Minge
501 Walcott St., Paris

"SUMMER BREAK"

Thank you to:

- All who participated in the Monday evening Bible Study for our 2014-15 "school year"; the Bible Study will return in the Fall.
- Our Children's Choir for all your presentations in worship over the past few months; we will look forward to your return in the Fall.
- Our Children's and Youth Sunday School teachers, and all who substituted for them on Sundays they were away; and our children and youth who participated faithfully in this year's classes. These classes will resume in September.
- The Sonshine Puppeteers for all your presentations in worship over the past few months; we will look forward to your return as we get closer to the next school year.



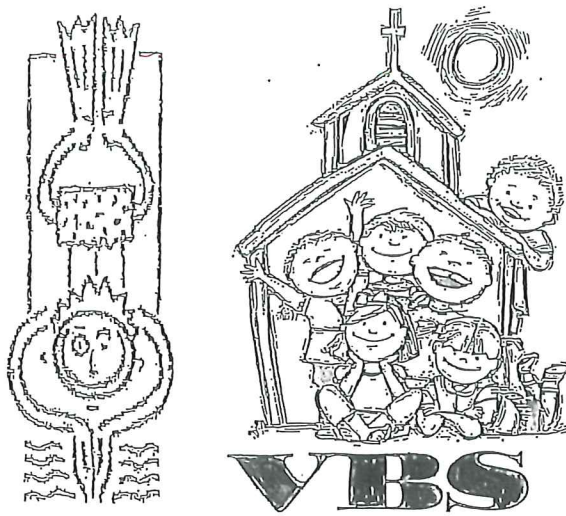
SUNDAY, JUNE 21

We will expand the "Fathers' Day" holiday a little, and also celebrate "Men of the Church Day", expressing our appreciation for all the gifts that all men bring to the church. The Deacons will provide a gift to all men (18 and older) in attendance. A special Women's Choir will give the men of the choir a "day off" (all women invited to sing!).



ALL-CHURCH OUTING JUNE 28

Come to Twin Lakes Park Sunday, June 28, if you like to play golf, or if you like to eat, or if you like music; for our next all-church outing you can come for all or some of the following: Our all-church all-ages outing will begin at 4:30 at the miniature golf course; we'll form teams and play for fun. After golf, we will have a picnic supper at the tables nearby; you can "bring your own" or visit the concession stand, which offers a variety of sandwiches, snacks, cold drinks, and ice cream treats. And you may want to bring a lawn chair: The Community Band Concert begins at 7 P.M. and lasts until about 8:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy each other's company, right here in Paris. If you have any questions, contact a Membership and Evangelism member, or the church office.



Just look at those
smiling faces. They
could be on the faces
of your children;
grandchildren, your
children's friends or
neighbor children.
Please invite them to
our cooperative

JUNE 14-19 VBS
Program at
Otterbein Methodist Church
406 W. Washington St.
Sunday - Thursday
5:15- 8 pm and Closing Program
Friday from 6:30-7:30

Join Us!

**UPDATED LIST: WHO AND WHAT WE STILL NEED FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** (Thank you to those who have signed up)

**Sunday, June 14 – Friday, June 19, Otterbein United Methodist Church
Sun-Thursday 5:15-8:00 Fri. 6:30-7:30**

Just on Tuesday the 16th: **Bible Lesson (curriculum provided).**
 Volunteers: 2-3
 Food preparation, serving, clean-up.
 Volunteers: 3

(Dinner is 5:15-5:45, so this is not a late evening)

And if you would like to accompany a group to their various activities any evening, you are welcome.

Monetary donations for craft supplies.

**Supplies for the joint-effort Sunday dinner: 2 packages hot dogs and buns,
1 package of 24 small bags of assorted chips, 2 8-packs of Capri Sun drinks,
50-60 ice cream cones.**

For Friday closing program: 3-4 dozen cookies

Please contact Lisa McCollough, Beth Ruff, or Rodger Allen regarding what you can do or provide.






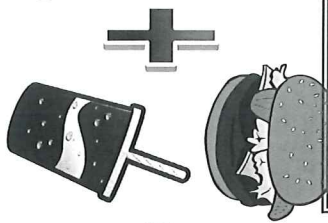



JUNE 2015 The Profile

The Presbyterian Church
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secretary@parispresbyterian.org



Sunday *Monday* *Tuesday* *Wednesday* *Thursday* *Friday* *Saturday*

9:30 Adult Sunday School classes ONLY in the summer 10:30am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	1 WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY!! 	2 5-8pm TOPS	3 3pm <u>Worship</u> Com. 7pm Sanctuary Choir?	4	5	6
7 11:40 <u>Membership and Evangelism</u>	8	9 5-8pm TOPS 6pm <u>Stewardship</u> 7pm <u>SESSION</u>	10 7pm Sanctuary Choir?	11	12	13
14 5:15pm-8pm Otterbein 	15 5:15-8pm Vacation Bible School	16 5-8pm TOPS 5:15-8pm Vacation Bible School	17 5:15-8pm Vacation Bible School 7pm Women's Choir Practice	18 5:15-8pm Vacation Bible School	19 6:30-7:30pm Vacation Bible School Closing Program	20 RESUME FROM VBS! 
21 Father's/Men of the church Sunday 11:45 DEACONS 	22	23 5-8pm TOPS	24 7pm Sanctuary Choir?	25	26	27
28	29	30 5-8pm TOPS	<div>Twin Lakes Park big pavilion</div> <div>   </div> <div>PARIS CITY BAND CONCERT</div> 			


JUNE 28, 4:30 =
All-Church Outing =

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gareth Christian Blair
Georgia Kreckman
- 4 Scott Blair
- 5 Tony Grimes, Jr.
Pat Bell
- 7 Susan Farris
- 8 Rick Spung
Rhonda Craun
Dawson Hebermehl
- 9 Sheryl Clark
- 10 Minnie Blair
Johnathon Franklin
- 11 Paul Koehler
- 13 Alexandra Weston
Debra Jipp
Tom Ballard
- 17 Amber Farris
Paul Ruff
- 19 Mabel Benson
- 20 Andrea Boerema
- 21 Beth Ruff
Zach Gough
- 22 Maurice Johnson III
- 23 Stephanie Benefiel
- 24 Krayten Trogon
- 25 Steve Benefiel
- 26 Barbara Bergdolt
- 27 Steven Vestal
- 28 Jeff Boland
- 30 Richard Willis

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES


- 3 Bill & Rhonda Craun
- 7 Roger & Louise Ruhman
- 15 Tom & Joanna Hebermehl
- 18 Terry & Barbara Bergdolt
- 19 Alan & Christie Russell
Robert & Alice Sprague
- 23 Steve & Debbie Benefiel
Tom & Lou Ballard
- 28 Steve & Jane Blair
- 30 Brian & Jessica Blair



"We Remember Parents"

In spring and summer, we remember mothers and fathers with special days. Find the parents of these Biblical children. Check the verses given for help.


Joash (2 Kings 11:2)	A
Obed (Matthew 1:5)	B
Joseph (Genesis 35:22-24)	C
John-the disciple (Matthew 4:21)	D
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	E
Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:6)	F
Jezreel (Hosea 1:4)	G
Esau (Genesis 25:28)	H
David (1 Samuel 16:19)	I
Jacob (Genesis 25:28)	J
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	K
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	L
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	M
Jesse (Matthew 1:5)	N
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	O
Joseph (Genesis 35:23-24)	P
Isaac (Genesis 21:3)	Q
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13) ...	R
Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1)	S
Solomon (1 Kings 2:1)	T
	U
	V
	W
	X
Jesus (Matthew 1:18)	Y
James (Matthew 4:21)	Z



Mary, Zebadee
Ahaziah, Boaz, Jacob, Zebadee, Zechariah, Gomer, Hosea, Isaac, Jesse, Rebekah, Elkanah, Moses, Hannah, Obed, Zipporah, Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth, Saul, David,

The size of your mountain is determined by your perception of it. If you think it's unconquerable, then it is. If you think you can overcome it, then you can.

Play an **A-B-C** Game



Number of players:
1 to 2

Equipment: none!

As you travel by car or train or bus look out of the window. The object is to find all the letters of the alphabet in order, starting with A. Find them on signs, license plates, trucks, anywhere! The first player to find them all wins. Or work together just for fun!

Another ABC game to play is to find things that begin with each letter. Find things created by God or made by people through God's guiding hands!

