

November 2016

LAKE SIDE



A monthly publication of Lakeside Presbyterian Church



BEHIND THE SCENES



“Change comes not from the top down, but from the bottom up.”



Dear Church Family,

“Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts.”

This marvelous sentiment was included in a memo from Daniel Patrick Moynihan to president-elect Richard Nixon in January, 1969. Moynihan, who served as a Democrat in the United State Senate, was about to serve in Nixon’s first administration.

Less than half a century later, these words are being tested. Indeed, some have said that we live now in a time when facts are relative and truth is abused. Political behaviors we would not have tolerated in years gone by, test us almost daily in the current election season.

The only question, it seems to me, is whether we’re going to continue allowing this into our future. I certainly hope not, and no matter how the elections turn out, I hope we can work together to restore trust in institutions such as the U.S. Constitution and the heart of our democracy.

I’ve been struck by the reporting which finds the same trends in the nation that we’ve seen for many years in the church. While the national face of each suffers dramatic atrophy of principles and strength, the underlying foundational communities exhibit strength and provide hope.

We see this in the church, where local congregations, such as our own, are enjoying vitality. Change is in the air: we don’t do church much the way we did generations ago, but we’ve held on to aspects of worship and polity which embrace our strength while moving forward into being the church God is calling us to be.

Change comes not from the top down, but from the bottom up. Change which responds to God’s call to our faithfulness requires a local response, a congregational sense of direction.

Those who report on communities around the nation find similar reasons for hope. Local communities are experiencing change, but what is taking hold involves facing the facts we can all agree to and embracing the principles we all can celebrate as our strength.

In short, how do we affect change? Those who claim that they’re going to affect change by a vote at the national level seem to be ignoring the vitality of our nation and our way of life. Painting a bleak picture which is not at all the experience we can point to in daily life is not the way to go. Embracing the strength of character and power of hope visible in the lives of very real people is always the best way forward.

We’re each entitled to our own opinion. And so we vote. But facts are much more sacred than recent rhetoric has allowed. When we are anxious and afraid, the strength of our culture is in working together with people we know and live among to build up the institutions and communities within our reach.

Change comes from the ground up. Consider the church, our own church, and the vitality of our faith community. If you want to allow your faith to affect how you vote, notice how God moves in the church to bring about needed change and to restore hope. Join me in praying that people of faith and all in our community can express opinions but come together on the facts.

See you in church!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris".

Faithfully,

THE SESSION

The Reverend Chris Torrey
Moderator and Pastor

The Reverend Louisa W. Umphres
Associate Pastor

ELDERS

Class of 2017

Nancy Faulconer
Rene Howard
Larry Lewis
Martha Maier
David Stuenkel
Mark Zumhagen

Class of 2018

Sandy Cambron
John Deye
MJ Hayman
Sally Harvey
Cliff Peale
Mark Woodrum

Class of 2019

Mary Lou Blake
Jerry Blesch
Paul Cameron
Tom Feronti
Linda Glover
Carrie Holloway

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2017

Carolyn Bergs
Rob Bruce
Gary Davis
Rosemarie Deye
Annie Lee (Youth Deacon)

Class of 2018

Tim Dingler
Carla Smith
Keli West
Leslie White

Class of 2019

Brad Clark
Ginny Clark
Fran Feronti
Kim Simpson

“Cover: construction progress on Lakeside’s new kitchen.”

Lakeside member, Todd Kirchoff, introduced many Northern Kentuckians to the wonders of locally produced honey. Lakeside Life interviewed Todd to make his story more widely known.



LL: When did you first know you were interested in bees? And why bees?

TK: I grew up on a farm and we had a few hives for about two years, but the bees died due to wax moths. A few years ago, I was drawn back to the farm to spend more time with my parents, and my father and I needed an activity to do together. This led to the bee hives. We started with two hives then five then fifty. I decided this needed to become a business or I needed to cut back. I teamed up with Ron Spille and eventually School House Bees was created. (The name came from the old Visalia school that we purchased and renovated to become a honey factory.)

LL: Do you have other animals?

TK: Cats and dogs but in my opinion dogs come first.

LL: What is the connection between your hives and the honey sold at Lakeside Presbyterian?

TK: I view the sale of our honey as something that fits in with the natural and fair trade products the church already sells, but also as a church donation.

LL: As a doctor, are there health benefits to locally produced honey that make it better to consume than store-bought brands?

TK: The honey needs to be regional and raw to be of benefit. Natural honey has pollen content that can help with plant allergies.

LL: There have been news reports in the past several years about something called “colony collapse.” What is it and have you had any problems with your colonies?

TK: This is due to many factors, mostly because of insecticides and varroa mites weakening the queen and the colony. We lose about twenty percent of our hives each winter due to these factors and due to the cold. We’ve been trying to prevent or lower the losses by treating the hives for the mites and by trying to keep them on farms that don’t use much in the way of pesticides.

LL: Is it true that you take your bees south for the winter? Is it like a vacation for the bees, or do you need to do it to preserve the colonies?

TK: They travel to Mississippi for pollination services on berry farms (blueberry, raspberry, blackberry) and for some fruit tree orchards, and so the colonies remain strong. They return in April, having spent about four months down south.

LL: Are you able to tell when your bees have found a new flower source? Does it show up in the taste?

TK: Yes, the honey locust trees that grow in our area produce a clear honey but when that’s mixed with the other spring flowers (such as honeysuckle), the color turns a lighter yellow. There is a difference in taste also, depending on the source of the pollen for the bees. People may also notice that a lot of commercial or pasteurized honey has a burnt taste. We don’t pasteurize our honey since the taste and the health benefits would be compromised.

LL: Is beekeeping hard work? For someone who’s never had a hive, is it something that can be done in the backyard? How many hours a week do you put into their care?

TK: Anyone can have fun with bees in the backyard. It will cost about \$500 for a complete setup. Most beekeepers are willing to help “newbees” get set up. For me, the bees and the honey company have become a second full-time job, but it doesn’t take much time to have a hive or two in the backyard.

LL: Do you have a spiritual connection with what you’re doing with bees? Is there something about it that answers a higher calling?

TK: I find it very humbling to work with God’s creations, and I get to work outdoors in nature. I’ve also been able to connect with more people while developing and running this business.

LL: If you had one wish as a beekeeper, something you’d like to tell everyone in Northern Kentucky about what they can do to make bees happier, what would it be?

TK: I would tell them to stop treating their lawns with insecticides and herbicides. This would make nature much happier and beautiful wildflowers might cover their lawns.



To visit the Spille Honey website, please go to: <http://www.spillehoney.com/index.html>



An Advent Carol

BY LOUISA W. UMPHRES

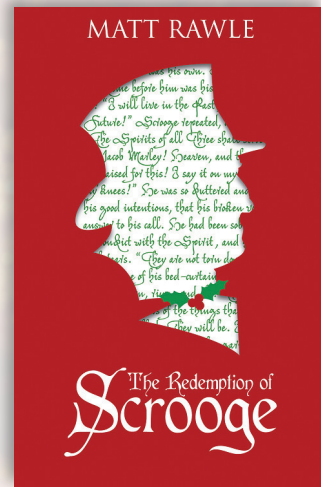
In 1843, Charles Dickens introduced the world to his iconic character Ebenezer Scrooge. Released only a few days before Christmas, *A Christmas Carol* has become a true December 25th classic. But beyond being a beloved Christmas tradition, Lakeside is wondering if this year *A Christmas Carol* might also be an Advent story – a story about preparing the way of the Lord.

On the night before Christmas, Scrooge encounters ghosts from his past, present and future. During Advent we, too, are called to look into our past, present and future. As we prepare for Jesus' birth, we look to ancient scripture and to the story of God through time. We take stock of our world and our lives as they are here and now, acknowledging the places of dark and fear and brokenness. And we anticipate a future world where God's peace and hope reign.

Along with our annual traditions like lighting the Advent wreath, decorating our sanctuary, and celebrating through Lessons and Carols, this Advent we are embracing the story of *A Christmas Carol* as modeling our own Advent journeys. The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee will organize a trip to see *A Christmas Carol* performed. We will incorporate parts of the story into our special evening worship on December 7th. Adult Education will offer a series based on the new study by Matt Rawle, "The Redemption of Scrooge."

Through each week, we will follow Scrooge's own night journey:

- Week One, November 27 – "Bah! Humbug!"
- Week Two, December 4 – "The Remembrance of Christmas Past"
- Week Three, December 11 – "The Life of Christmas Present"
- Week Four, December 18 – "The Hope of Christmas Future"

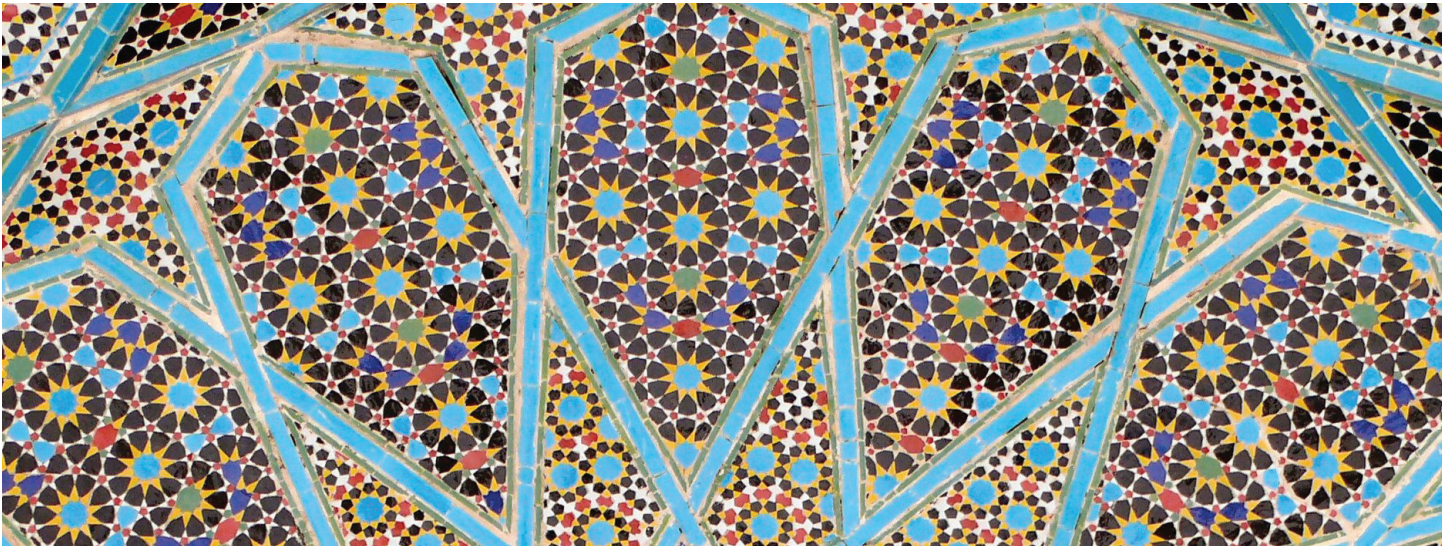


In his study, author Rawle points out:

Advent is like living in the wilderness between what was and what will be. Living into this tension, remembering God's promises, and depending on faith become spiritual disciplines that keep us from becoming Scrooges ourselves. Even though the Promised Land may seem far off, we hold tightly to the promises of our God, for "he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23 NIV).

However you choose to engage this coming Advent season, we hope that it will be a time of prayer and preparation. Dickens' novella ends saying "it was always said of [Scrooge], that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!"

This year, may we keep Advent well and truly prepare the way of the Lord!



Interfaith Northern Kentucky

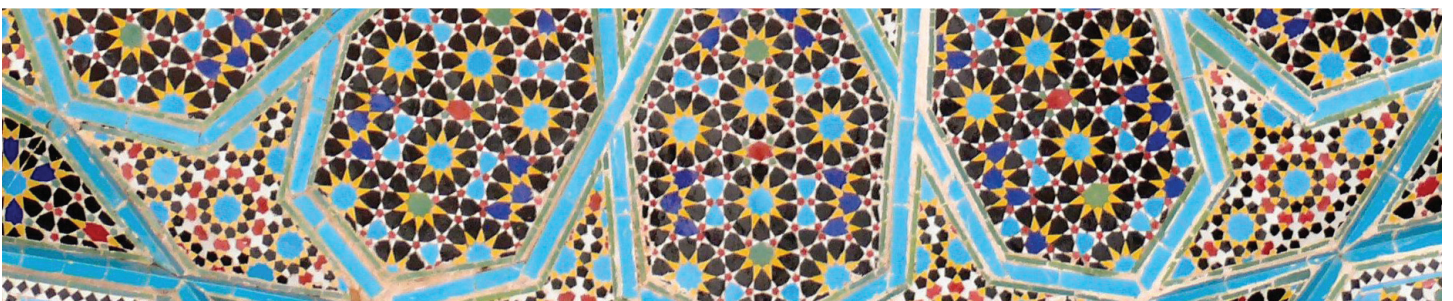
BY LOUISA W. UMPHRES

Last winter, anti-Islamic rhetoric was on the rise and our country saw renewed antagonism toward Muslims. At Lakeside, we were inspired to reach out to our own Muslim neighbors, first inviting a speaker from the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati and then finding neighbors even closer to home.

Since 2014, fellow Northern Kentuckians have been praying and worshiping behind the Florence Mall at the Islamic Center of Northern Kentucky. In January, I met with one of their imams, Joseph Dabdoub. Open to the idea of further dialogue, Joseph offered the Islamic Center of Northern Kentucky as a venue for more gatherings. Together, we reached out to neighboring Christians and members of the Islamic Center to organize an interfaith meeting at the mosque.

Our first meeting last winter boasted some forty plus participants representing seven different places of worship. Catholics, Disciples of Christ, and Presbyterians along with our Muslim brothers and sisters discussed the possibilities for further dialogue at this time in the life of Northern Kentucky. Inspired to continue to get to know one another, we met again in May. At our May gathering we dreamed up future partnerships. We proposed bringing our youth together, meeting for meals, doing service work together, and hosting discussions or educational events. We dubbed ourselves "Interfaith Northern Kentucky" (INK) and left hopeful about the new bonds being created in our community.

That hope continues as we look toward next steps. Right now, we plan to bring together women of different faiths to meet and form friendships. We have tentative plans to gather together for a shared meal soon. Much is yet to be realized, but we can feel the Spirit move between and within us as we endeavor to forge true relationship between God's people at this time and in this place. I hope you can join in this new journey!





It's More Than A Holiday

Veterans and non-veterans alike share a connection with the eleventh day of the eleventh month every year. But in the age of selfies and Snapchat, it's harder and harder to stop long enough to repay this debt we owe. So, here's a proposal. This year, on Friday, November eleventh at 11am, no matter where you are, pause what you're doing long enough to say thank you. A silent thank you will suffice. But you can say thank you to someone standing next to you in line, or you can say thank you to the person at the stoplight next to you. Or you can say thank you to the person in the next cubicle at work.

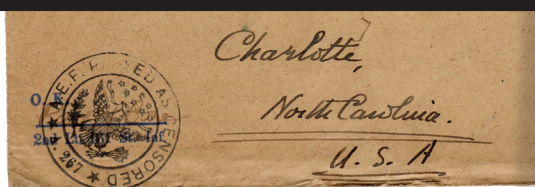
Why do we do this? At the end of World War One the nation was grieving for its dead sons and daughters, those lost in a war to end all wars. The official end of that war was signed at Versailles in June of 1919, but the widely recognized end of that war occurred on November 11, 1918. The armistice agreement that stopped the shelling and shooting designated the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month as the moment both sides agreed to stop killing.

There are no veterans alive who survived World War One, but there are plenty who fought in WWII and Korea and Vietnam and the Middle East. Veterans Day honors not just those who gave their lives in wars around the world as does Memorial Day, but also those who today live next door, or work down the hall, or bag our groceries, those who survived our country's worst conflicts and came home to restart their lives as veterans.

Veterans Day shouldn't be a long-forgotten tribute like some cold bronze statue in a park, but should be alive with the thanksgiving we can all share with those who served in each and every branch of service, men and women who left home and donned a uniform to shoulder life and death decisions. So, pick up your phone and set a calendar appointment with an alert to remind you to say thank you, a big thank you this November 11th at 11am.



person
 ordinance
 take
 took the
 looking.
 written
 I hope I
 ty very



soon.
 All the different divisions of the army are
 marked by some sign. The soldiers of the
 First Division wear a T, the 42nd
 Division has a rainbow flag so we will
 all the others. The soldiers around

We met on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, for our stated meeting. Here are highlights of that meeting:

1. Elder MJ Hayman opened the meeting with a reading from Luke 10 which she repeated, in a style adopted by our Transformation team as they work with Presbytery. At the end of the meeting MJ gathered the concerns we shared and led our prayers concluding the meeting.

2. We welcomed Craig Loscalzo from the Generis program. Generis helped us manage raising funds to accomplish the first parts of the Jubilation program. When the kitchen is completed, the full income received for Capital projects will be roughly \$700,000. The Stewardship Committee recommends that we use a Generis program called One Fund. This program adopts a two-year budget cycle which we would begin in 2017. Dr. Loscalzo's presentation was helpful and detailed. Key aspects of One Fund:

- It replaces separate General Fund and Capital Campaigns with a single fund drive.
- Educates the congregation in the spiritual discipline of giving, encouraging members to advance up the "generosity pathway" which culminates in proportional and extravagant giving (tithing and beyond). Seeks to have all members make some financial commitment.
- Changes the budget cycle from one-year to two-year.

Session voted to adopt the OneFund approach and authorize the Stewardship and Finance Committees to draft a contract with Generis that could be brought back to the Session for approval.

3. We received reports from each committee of Session. Some reports were in writing; others were presented verbally.

4. Bob Lee, Church Treasurer, presented financial updates in writing. We had a strong August but September was less strong. Committees have managed to work with much less than what was budgeted for this year. While this saves money in the short term, it curtails the strength of the church and limits programs the committees believe would cause growth. Part of what is attractive about the One Fund program is that Session would be able to actually work with the approved budget going forward.

5. Generally, we encourage contributors to strengthen giving to the church. For the most part, we find that those who have made a pledge are right on target for the year. We encourage the congregation as a whole to help us accomplish the support needed to make the church strong.

6. Session next meets on Wednesday, November 9, 2016.

-Highlights provided by Chris Torrey,
Moderator of Session



STAFF

J. Christopher Torrey
Pastor

Louisa W. Umphres
Associate Pastor

Stephanie Nash
Director of Music

Thomas Miles
Organist

Claire Miller
Children's Education

Susan Meyer
Administrative Assistant

Desma Borland
Accounting Assistant

Cindy Sheehan
Preschool Director

LAKESIDE LIFE

Emily Butler
Art Director

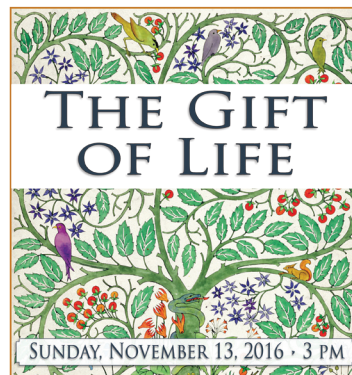
Sterling Pratt
Editor

Chas Hungler
Web/Media

Contributors:
Stephanie Nash
Chris Torrey
Louisa Umphres

| music |

November 13: "The Gift of Life", a regional premiere of John Rutter's new work presented by the Northern Kentucky Community Chorus. Tickets available online at nkychorus.org or by calling the church office.



2690 Dixie Highway
Lakeside Park, Kentucky 41017

(859) 341-1963

lakeside@lakesidechurch.org
www.lakesidechurch.org