

Saints Alive!

Volume 17, Issue 7
September 2019
"Friends in Christ, Serving
Together with Love"



August 5—New Director of Children's Ministries

The Session of Avon Lake Presbyterian Church is thrilled to announce the appointment of Tarra Oppewall as our new Director of Children's Ministries, starting August 5. *Read more on page 3*

September 8—Rally Day

There is a lot happening in Christian Education, but first I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the warm welcome that you have given me as your Director of Children's Ministry. I am so touched by the kindness and hospitality of the members of ALPC. I am honored to work along side you to share God's love with our littlest visitors and their families.

Sunday September 8th, is Rally Day. Rally Day is an opportunity for us to recognize the start of the Christian Education program year and the return of our wonderful choir. We will celebrate outdoors after worship with food, games, crafts, and our first ever foam machine! Please join us for a joy filled time of fellowship.

September 14th and 15th is our church retreat at Beulah Beach. Please join us with your family as we will have programs for children and youth throughout our time at this beautiful lakeside venue. We hope to see you there!

We have an abundance of children's books that need new homes, especially copies of The Children's Bible in 365 Stories. Please stop by the table in the CE office and take as many books as you would like. After September 3rd, books that are not taken will be donated.

**ANNUAL
RALLY DAY**
children youth adult
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Tarra Oppewall, Director of Children's Ministries

September 14 & 15—Beulah Beach Retreat

**MISSION:
POSSIBLE:**
Living the Vision

RETREAT SIGNUP DEADLINE IS SEPT. 1!

The deadline to sign up for the retreat is fast approaching. We are very excited about this year's topic about finding our own visions for our church, related to seeing God's call in our own lives. We will enjoy movie clips and viewing opportunities that relate to this. Pastor Charlie will lead the adult sessions while Tarra Oppewall and Jay Knox will lead the sessions for children and youth.

This year's retreat will be Sept. 14-15. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. The costs for different age groups and accommodation options have been posted there, too. Adults will be \$90, and youth and kids will be \$30. We do not want these fees to keep you away, so if you would like to make special arrangements, contact Craig Shoemaker (honeypinefarm@windstream.net, 440-346-5389). There are some people who give extra to help families and individuals attend the retreat!

FROM THE PASTOR/ Charlie Swartz



Dear Friends,

What a great party my first Sunday back was! Thank you Jack Storm, for spontaneously getting everybody to stand and wave their bulletins as a way of welcoming me back home. I cannot tell you how happy that made me feel! It is so good to be back with you all after three months away on sabbatical study. I missed you all so very much.

I have seen with my eyes and heard with my ears that you all did good work when I was gone. You were very busy here keeping our mission going and I am so proud to hear about it all. I have been told that Pastors June Begany and Don Shank were just terrific at leading worship and visiting and taking care of us. It is clear that our office manager, Cindi Dansizen, did an outstanding job keeping everybody informed of all that was going on and connecting the leaders up with whomever needed them when challenges arose. She also led, with our Maintenance Director, Phil Stryczny's assistance, a complete and beautiful renovation of the church office. It is also evident that the members on Session did a wonderfully responsible job overseeing the life of our church. We hosted a very young Next Step staff which required a lot of additional oversight from the Mission Committee and staff as challenges presented themselves. HR did a great job in recruiting Tarra Oppewall as our new Children's Ministry Director, who began the week before I returned. How wonderful to come back to such a strong church. Well done all!

On the first day of my sabbatical, I began to write about the powerful experiences of dying, death, and grief and how God is intricately involved. I thought I was going to start writing a book for ministers to help them do funeral services, but people kept asking me to write a book to help them through grief. As I wrote and researched, I realized that thirty plus years of pastoral ministry has given me many opportunities to help people in times of death and learn how to be of help. I felt led by the Holy Spirit to change my focus from a professional audience to that of the average person.

Not having written or published a book, I needed to learn how to do that. I talked to people with experience and found out enough to get started. Initially, I wrote essays on aspects of grief. I went over the Bible drilling down on the stories of mourning to see what healthy grieving looked like in both the Old and New Testament. Thinking over the whole process of grief, I went back into my own experience of when my father died and the year afterward seeking insight. At times the writing flowed and I felt inspired, while at other times it was a slog.

After about a month, I sought help from knowledgeable people as I could see that writing isolated pieces was not going to become a good book. My Uncle, Dr. Richard Eaton, a professor with many books under his belt, advised me to write an initial outline and then to keep expanding it and expanding it until it gets so detailed that it begs to be written. So I stopped writing and began the laborious task of creating an outline. After many versions, I completed this skeleton of the book as my time drew to a close. What a sense of accomplishment that was! I began to write the first chapter and was pleased with the results.

The working title of my future book is, "Grief and Grace: God's Hope and Healing in the Face of Death." What I try to communicate in that title is the two conflicting thoughts which we hold in the time of death. The first is that death is the entryway into God's heaven. That is an event that prompts rejoicing and hope. The opposing thought is that death is the act which severs us from our beloved. That truth is hard, painful. I have observed over the years as a pastor that it is very hard for us to hold both truths as we anticipate our own death and as we move through the loss of a loved one. But when we are able to uphold both truths, hope and healing infiltrate our broken souls. Helping the reader find that healing is the goal of my book. I plan to complete the first draft by my 60th birthday.



(continued on next page)

FROM THE PASTOR/ continued

Tragedy struck in the middle of my sabbatical. My sister Julia's husband, Tim, joined us in Michigan for their vacation. He had not been feeling well for a couple of weeks. He sought medical help as soon as we saw him and discovered in a short period of time that he was suffering from an acute form of lymphoma. Within a week he was dead.

You can imagine the shock and pain that his wife, daughters and all of my family experienced at our loss. Tim and I loved each other very much and I still cannot believe he is gone. I was grateful for the opportunity to be a reminder of God's love and grace to my nieces and sister as they began to mourn, and grateful to help my entire family as I did his memorial service. It was, of course, ironic to me that the very things I had been pondering were what I was now living.

How will my sabbatical work benefit our church? In our Renewal process, we realized that we want to more significantly encourage our members in hard and lonely times. Our Deacons have decided that our Congregational Care Ministry can be strengthened for the task through training. I can envision taking what I worked on and creating training for how to better love people as they are dying or when they are on the journey of grief. I have a new sense of the importance of living in the truth of heaven and will preach sermons and design worship experiences around that great gift.

Being away from the church, I noticed two large things that do not happen outside of a congregation. I missed the presence of God that falls upon us in worship. Private prayer and study is good, but it does not ever compare to the spiritual experience of communal worship. Secondly, conversations and thoughts about how we take Jesus' words and make them real are not existent in general society. I missed those group activities of divine purpose, the meetings in which we think questions like, "How can we teach forgiveness to our children?" and come up with plans which we then enact. The church is just the best place to be. Praise God!

Happy to be back and grateful for the sabbatical,
Pastor Charlie

Welcome, Tarra Oppewall



The Session of Avon Lake Presbyterian Church is thrilled to announce the appointment of Tarra Oppewall as our new Director of Children's Ministries, starting August 5. Prior to joining the staff of ALPC, Tarra was the Sunday School teacher for 3-6 year-olds at Old Stone Presbyterian Church and preschool teacher with Sweet Kiddles Preschool on Pin Oak Parkway. Tarra and her husband, Chris, live in Bay Village, with their 3 children: Milan (15), Noelle (13), and Tyler (9). Tarra loves to read, catch up with friends over coffee, walk their family dog, and spend as much time with family as possible. Tarra loves working with children and considers it an honor to play a role in teaching kids how incredibly much God loves them. Please help us welcome Tarra to ALPC!

Our Mission Statement

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

In awe, we Receive God's Grace and Gospel.
In gratitude, we Respond with Worship and Servanthood.
In love, we Represent Jesus Christ
as we minister to transform lives
in family, community, and the world.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Creating a shawl or hat or scarf for someone in need has become a blessing to our church family as well as to all of the people in need who have received one of our gifts of comfort and love. Through knitting and/or crocheting, we have made hundreds of items to give to children, teens and adults who are in need.

Are you searching for a way to serve God in a new way? Come join us! We will teach you how to knit! Our group of wonderful ladies meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am at the church.

Questions? Please speak with any of our Prayer Shawl Ministry group. They are Eddie-Lou Bush, Barb Hall, Linda Kurak, Barbara Lehmkuhl, Lee Lohr, Lynn Morway, Kathy Navarro, Ruth Riha, Joyce Shramo, Beth Swartz, Carol Unger or call me, Carol Nussle. 933-2462.

Youth News

We are inviting the youth to join us at Beulah Beach and they are welcome to bring a friend. At the retreat, we will have a few lessons, plan out the Sunday service where the youth will share their experiences from this summer's mission trip, play games, and join the adults for all the fun Beulah Beach offers.



The youth will help lead the young children in the Rally Day activities which will include our first ever Foam Party.

The youth will lead Mission Trip Sunday Service on September 22.

Youth group Sunday school and Youth Group will begin weekly meetings on September 29th.



Church office news

Newsletter deadline

The deadline to submit articles to Cindi via email: alpresby@avonlakepc.org for the October, 2019 newsletter is **September 15**.

The Church office hours will change in the fall—beginning Tuesday, September 3.

Mondays through Fridays, 8:00 am until 4:00 pm

The church office will be closed on September 2nd for Labor Day.



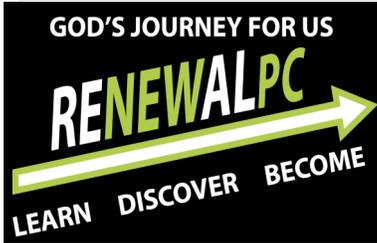
Renewal Journey in the Church office

Phil Stryczny, Jim Janis and I worked together to update and renew the church office this summer.

Stop in and take a look!

Cindi Dansizen, Office Administrator

Renewal Journey



Many thanks to all of the people who have been involved in the Renewal process. We began in the winter of 2018 focusing on our past strengths and successes and have moved through exploring our hopes & dreams for the future to discerning a vision that respects our past and looks forward to a future informed by God's will for our congregation.

Now is the time for all members, committees, staff, and ministry groups to live in this vision. As individuals and groups, we need to consider our roles in making this vision a success. How can we be inclusive, forgiving, welcoming, serving, compassionate, obedient, faithful and always learning? Have we as individuals or groups had any particular successes or challenges in these areas? Can we collaborate with each other to live the vision better?

In early October, each ministry group will have the opportunity to share these vision successes and challenges with each other in an open forum. If your group would like to have one of the Renewal team members drop in and discuss these issues before the October forum, please contact:

- Margre Lind Mills: 440-785-1160 margre.lind@gmail.com
- Carol Nussle: 440-523-0175 cnussle57@gmail.com
- Jo Ann Wainscott: 440-864-4866 wainscottjo@gmail.com
- Sybil Wendling: 440-453-1265 sybilwendling@hotmail.com

Financial Report

I'm sure you've all been enjoying summer activities, but now it's about time to get back to our usual fall activities. As you get back to activities, please be sure to bring your church giving up to date. If you need to check your pledge balance, please email our Financial Secretary, Lynn Morway, at lynnmorway@roadrunner.com.

Here is our financial status as of the end of July. Giving is behind budget and expenses are also behind budget but overall expenses are \$8,084 more than income.

	July YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income:		
Congregational Giving	\$178,557	\$191,031
Other Income	<u>9,738</u>	<u>9,375</u>
Total Income	\$188,295	\$200,406
Expense:		
Worship & Spiritual Life	\$77,737	\$75,682
Christian Education	801	5,031
Stewardship & Mission	3,561	3,383
Property	27,581	24,879
Support Staff & General Expenses	67,982	83,358
Youth Mission Trip (deposits)	6,952	3,500
Per capita Expense	<u>11,765</u>	<u>11,506</u>
Total Expense	\$196,379	\$207,339

There have been some questions asked about the Cornerstone Preschool finances. They have a separate budget from the church budget and are totally funded through tuition. This includes teacher salaries, the director's salary and any other expenses for the preschool. They have a set monthly amount that they pay to the church to help defray costs of utilities, custodial services, etc. that are shared with the church. This amount is included in other income for the church.

If anyone has any additional questions about our finances, you are welcome to ask Marcy Uhl, Treasurer or myself at any time.

Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair

Mission Matters

"Summertime and the living is easy" 🎵 🎵 **Not so for ALPC mission!**

This summer, we hosted over 325 missionaries and 9 staff interns with NEXT Step missions. (2 exceptionally large groups stayed at The Church of the Redeemer in Lorain.) ALPC groups, including Worship and Spiritual Life, Youth, Deacons, Serendipity Circle, Ruth Circle, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Mission Committee hosted Monday dessert socials for all our visitors. Ice cream treats were exceptionally popular. Special thanks to the Rose family for hosting a pool party for the NEXT Step staff. Friends of the NEXT Step Interns, John and Margre Mills, Bernadette and Phil Barnes, Barbara Schweitzer and Martha Love, Gary and Marcy Uhl, Kathy Leopold, Penny Helbig, Lynne Campsey-Clutter, the Kneiss Family, Jim and Beth Janis, Linda Kotowski and Terry Vine supported the staff with laundry, treats, advice, favors, and prayers.



We collected baby and toddler clothes needed at Blessing House in Lorain from not only members of ALPC but their friends as well.

Our congregation donated over 600 snacks to help supplement summer meals. Bags were distributed to pantry shoppers at CRS (Community Resource Services) to help families that are not receiving assisted lunches available during the school year. We also donated \$200 to provide healthy snacks for the kids in the LCM (Lorain Cooperative Ministries) sponsored STEM camp.



This summer, Kathy Leopold was a part of missions in New Mexico and Guatemala and Carol Madson volunteered at the Pace STEM camp in Lorain. Please ask them to share their stories.

Let's not forget our summer 2¢ a meal offering in July or our monthly Lunch Bunch lunches.

What's next you might be saying? Welcome back supplies for our Cornerstone Staff, Lunch Bunch lunches, Fall rummage sale including clothing donations to Leon's pantry and others and ...

Please consider being a part of our group. *We are especially in need of someone to oversee the Thank-a-Soldier or Peace Keeper mission in November.* **We meet the first Monday each month,** "When we lose one blessing, another is often most unexpectedly given in its place." C.S. Lewis

Let's welcome back our Cornerstone Staff with "Adult School Supplies"

Suggested items:

Disinfecting wipes, Mr. Clean sponges, band aids, tissues, Masking tape, "Scotch tape" sharpie markers (especially fine points ones) Adult size Fiskar scissors, "Post its" notes, **Velcro strips for hanging posters and flyers.**

Personal size: hand lotion and chap stick, cough drops, nut free Granola bars and snack size chocolates-also nut free.

Donations may be dropped off in the entryway. Monetary donations are welcome. Make checks payable to ALPC with a notation, "Adult supplies." There are 10 classroom teachers and 2 lunchtime aids.

Questions: Mission members including Beth Janis, Sue Mabe, Carol Madson, Marian Conn, Kathy Leopold, Jenni Stryczny and Jen Gavin.

Thank-you! **Needed by September 3rd.**



Presbyterian Women Rummage/Bake Sale

FALL RUMMAGE SALE 2019

THURSDAY, Oct. 10th and 11th 9:00 am-1:00 pm
FRIDAY, Oct. 11th 9:00 am-11:00 am (2\$-3\$ Bag Sale)



October and Fall are around the corner. Always beautiful! So PW's rummage/bake sale is happening soon! Please mark your calendars.

It is time to set aside gently used and **clean** items and donate to our largest fall fundraiser. You are the key to our success!!

*Church members are invited to shop
Wednesday, October 9th from 6-8 pm.*

HELP US SAVE TIME !!

Screen all items:

- ◆ Clothing condition- no stains or tears and definitely **CLEAN**. **Please sort and label clothing by size and gender.**
- ◆ Mark the **size** of any **bedding, curtains, tablecloths** and large rugs. It saves those working **SO MUCH TIME!!**
- ◆ ******* NO computers or TVs, or printers or monitors - Small electronics should be labeled "WORKS."**
- ◆ Household items, books and toys are welcome.
- ◆ Tools are welcome.
- ◆ Small furniture is ok. If you contact the church first.

Also, PLEASE consider baking for the **bake sale** on Thursday the 10th. Baked goods can be dropped off Wednesday evening, Oct. 9th in the kitchen or early Thursday morning, Oct. 10th, the day of the sale.



Consider helping in Hart Hall with this huge and fun event! **WE WILL NEED HELP ALL WEEK BEGINNING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6TH !! Watch for the orange poster in the lobby to sign up. Thank you.**

Welcome back Choirs

As I am writing this, there are exactly three weeks left before choirs get back into rehearsing. That's right. We begin on Wednesday evening, September 4th with our "welcome to the new program year" social time and practice. We would love to welcome some new people along with our regular group, so if you have ever thought about singing or ringing in our choirs, here is your chance to help us make music.

The schedule for the evening is:

- 6:45 Bell Choir
- 7:30 Combined social time (Everyone bring a goodie to share)
- 8:00 Chancel Choir

If you have any questions, please contact me at 440-933-9163 or mhomer@avonlakepc.org
I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and hearing about your summer.

Safety Committee

Hello All,

This is a good time to have a chat about what is going on regarding safety in our church. In a previous *Saints Alive!* article, I wrote about some things we would like to accomplish. We have had ongoing meetings and so far this is what we have done. So keep reading please.

We now have a buzzer system in the office and a camera in the entryway of the main entrance. This will allow Cindi or whomever is at her desk to see who is at the main door. Most of the time this will be in effect when someone is alone in the office. This will allow some judgment as to who the person is and what brings them to our church if they are not recognized. Again this would be when someone is mostly alone and/or the church is basically closed at the time.

At one of our Safety meetings, Mike Ciarrone demonstrated the use of a fire extinguisher as well as talking to us about some of the safeguards for the oven in the kitchen. Both very useful information in an emergency.

Julie Erker offered the walkie talkies she uses for Cornerstone to the Safety Committee to use on Sunday mornings. This enables the Site Monitors to stay in touch not only with themselves but with the class rooms used for Sunday School. We will have the walkie talkies on in these classrooms so the teachers can contact the Site Monitors if needed. This is the way the teachers can also be made aware of any safety issues.

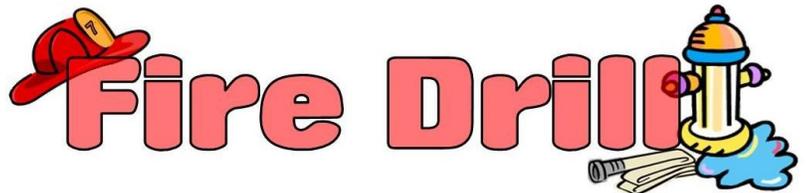
This past June, I attended a church service at Avon Lake United Church of Christ to observe a mock evacuation that they had. I was able to see how they handled an evacuation for a pretty large congregation. With the blessing of Rev. Begany, we decided to have an evacuation drill on August 11th.

The 6 Site Monitors that were there all had a certain job to do. I spoke for a few minutes, closing with describing how we would like everyone to exit the sanctuary. Moments after that, there was a verbal instruction that

everyone should exit the building due to a fire in the kitchen. At that time, the congregation started to exit. The Site Monitors were already at or going to their assigned doors to prop them open and assist. These were the two *exit only* doors on the south side of the sanctuary. One of the other Site Monitors instructed and guided those in the Sunday School room and those at the coffee service to also exit the same two doors in the sanctuary. In less than two minutes, everyone was out of the building and were at the meeting spot which is the new sign! I thought that was excellent and everyone did a great job.

As a committee, we will continue to discuss what needs to be done in certain situations. Different situations call for different measures. As with any committee, please know that you can join us in a meeting or just call me with any questions or concerns you may have. Remember we are all in this together.

Peace Be With You,
Jim Janis, Safety Committee Chair



Property Committee

Hello All,

I would feel bad if I didn't open this article with a big 'thank you' to Phil, our Maintenance Man. I realize that is his job, but he goes out of his way to get things done for anyone who needs help or has a problem. He also does everything he can to get the job done and try and save money for the church. So again Phil, thanks for all you do.



Property Committee (continued)

Property Committee



Being pretty new on the Property Committee, I'm beginning to understand all it entails. My first thought is that weeds never go away. So this is a good time to talk about one of our ideas. We have two outdoor issues that would be nice to take care of in the next month. The first is the weed problem, then the painting needed on the south side of the outside of the building. The idea would be to get some volunteers that would be willing to help with any of those projects. Volunteers could help with just one of the projects. We know another work day is coming but we also know weather can ruin that. Also, if we can finish these two projects, we would be ahead of the game and can concentrate on leaves and gutters for the fall work

day. If anyone is interested please contact me.

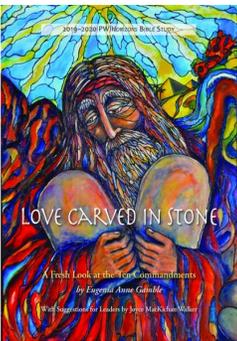
About our budget... We are currently over our budget as we have had a few surprises. We had to maintain the projector in the sanctuary which included two expensive light bulbs. We also had to hire a landscaper to cut the grass. He gave us a good price and cuts the grass as needed when there is a hot spell and the grass doesn't grow as well. We have set some projects aside for now which include better lights in the parking lot and replacing the water fountain.

Take a walk around church and see the new looks. The office has been painted and rearranged and it looks great. Also the tile floors and carpeting have been cleaned and look new. Again this is due to Phil working so hard on these projects. The library looks modern and new thanks to Jay Knox and Phil and their handy work. Sorry I don't know for sure who all worked with Jay on this project but thank you.

In closing, I would like to "explain" our shed. It has been pretty common the last few years that it gets filled with items that have no home. We need to store numerous items that get used every year such as the Christmas items and the snow blower. Prior to Next Step's arrival this past summer, we were unable to walk through the shed. Items were placed all over the entire floor and stacked pretty high. Please let me or another member of the Property Committee know that you would like to put something in the shed. Also please attach a note saying who put the item in the shed and when. Thanks for your cooperation.

Peace Be With You,
Jim Janis

Church Small Groups



Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle, is a group of women who meet monthly for Bible study and friendship as we grow in our faith together. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am at the church. Our study book this year is **Love Carved in Stone**; A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments!

Come join us as we learn together how to be more mindful of God's direction for our lives. Questions? Ask anyone of the following Ruth Circle members: Nancy Albrecht, Linda Kurak, Barbara Lehmkuhl, Sue Linson, Sue Maloney, Ruth Ann McCarbery, Janet Parker, Sharon Smucker. Carol Nussle, 933-2462.

Men's Lunch Group

The Men's Lunch Group will change to the 4th **Tuesday** of each month beginning August. 27. Everyone is invited. Please contact Tim Kurak for information 933-2615.



MEN'S GROUP

Session Highlights

The Session met on Aug. 19. Highlights of their meeting were:

- ⇒ The Deacons examined and are defining their ministries in fellowship planning and outreach.
- ⇒ Pastor Charlie shared more about the book he started during his sabbatical leave.
- ⇒ Learned more about Session's role as Vision Coordinating Council in implementing the Renewal goals.
- ⇒ Carl Douglas Cleaning has been contracted on a monthly basis until we find a new janitor.
- ⇒ Positive feedback has been received about our summer pastors Revs. Begany and Shank.
- ⇒ The Coffeehouse Worship is not a separate service, and continues to be tweaked and developed.
- ⇒ The shed and most areas of our building have been cleaned up in advance of the start of our program year.
- ⇒ The paint and landscaping on the front of the church will be spruced up to present a more welcoming appearance.
- ⇒ The Aug. 11 evacuation drill went very well, and another is planned.
- ⇒ Walkie-talkies have been placed in the Sunday school rooms to facilitate communication in emergencies.
- ⇒ Funding from Second Harvest for Lunch Bunch was greatly reduced, so one of the special offerings will be designated to support it.
- ⇒ Tarra Oppewall will start a Prayers for Moms group at ALPC.
- ⇒ Youth Mission Sunday has been moved to Sept. 22.

Elizabeth Shoemaker, Clerk of Session



Evangelism

The Evangelism Committee has accepted the responsibilities for reaching out to the community as well as developing inclusive and welcoming actions and projects for our church membership.

As written in the Presbyterian "Book of Order," the work of Evangelism should include telling all the good news of Christ Jesus and to proclaim in deed and word that Jesus gave himself to set people free. And, we are to tell people everywhere to believe in and follow Jesus and invite them into the community of faith to worship and serve the triune God.

Throughout the past year, our committee has mailed letters to everyone who has purchased a home in Avon or Avon Lake. These letters are welcoming all to the community and invite them to visit our church. The letters also have the pamphlet "I Was A Stranger & You Welcomed Me..." which includes information about our church.

We were very successful in our participation in the Memorial Day Parade. Fifteen people representing our church handed out 200 flyers to Avon Lake families along the parade route. All of the flyers were gladly accepted when given to the people.

Beginning in April, all of our church members were asked to write their birthday date on the Friendship Pad in the pews. This was the beginning of our special project to have all members of our church receive an inclusive "Happy Birthday" message from our church and signed by Pastor Charlie. Although during Pastor Charlie's absence some may have received a card signed by others, the acceptance of this idea has been exceptionally positive. Some members and especially a child was made to feel very special to think that they received a birthday card from the Pastor of their church!

We welcome everyone to join us in continuing to reach out to the community and our own church membership as we tell of the love of Christ Jesus by both word and deed. As we join together to celebrate Rally Day and begin a new church year, we look forward to new projects and ideas that will reflect our love of Christ Jesus and each other.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Graves, Chairperson of Evangelism Committee

Worship & Spiritual Life



The ALPC worship committee summer highlights began on May 19 as we said Shalom to Pastor Charlie and Reverends June Begany and Don Shank. As we said good bye to Pastor Charlie, his keys to the church were ceremoniously passed to Beth Shoemaker, our Clerk of Session, by Judy Mitchell, the Stated Clerk of our Presbytery. We said good-bye to Charlie and family as he began his three month sabbatical, a time to renew his

spirit and an opportunity to focus on special projects.

Rev. June Begany served us for 8 weeks in May, June and August. During June's time with us she preached about the meaning of the symbols that make up the Seal of the Presbyterian Church. Her calls to worship and prayers reminded us of our vision and goals. We tried new elements, some out of our usual comfort zones, as we joined hands as a church family in our benedictions, and waved our bulletins, rather than clapped, to show appreciation for special music. Rev. Don Shank served us in July. During Don's time with us he also reminded us of our renewal and vision as he preached about the Geography of our Spiritual Journey. Don also helped us to be more inclusive by using the ecumenical version of the Lord's Prayer. We very much appreciate the spiritual leadership provided by June and Don this summer. In addition to preaching, they both provided home communion and visitation, and, as needed, served as a sounding board for staff and Session.

In July, we began a coffee house style worship location in the CE foyer, where we live stream the worship service taking place in the sanctuary on a large screen TV. Beverages, snacks and casual sitting provide a relaxed atmosphere where toddlers, teenagers and those young-at-heart have attended. We have not publicized this worship location option outside of ALPC yet, as we continue to work out the kinks, but we do hope that this may become an easy way for folks in the community to experience and be welcomed into God's family through our church. This idea is the brainchild of Jeff Spenser, a new Deacon and member of WSL, and we thank him for bringing this idea to reality. In the next few months, we will continue to work with CE, Cornerstone, Property and Evangelism to focus on better seating, outside publicity, more consistent video and sound, as well as increased utilization of the TV. We always need folks to video the sanctuary worship so it can be viewed on Facebook and the Coffee House TV. Please see Margre Lind Mills (440-785-1160) if you can help with video or Coffee House in general.

Circle of Smiles

For 2019/2020 meeting year, Circle of Smiles will meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 PM, studying Love Carved in Stone.

2019/2020 Meeting Year Schedule

Thursday, September 12, 7 PM at Penny Helbig's house. Chapters 1 & 2.

Thursday, October 10, 7 PM at Karen Francy's house. Chapter 3.

Thursday, November 14, 7 PM at Terry Vine's new condo. Chapter 4.

Thursday, December 12, holiday dinner organized by Michele Cold, time and location TBD. No reading/catch up.

Thursday, January 9, 7 PM at Susan Reighard's house. Chapter 5.

Thursday, February 13, 7 PM at Margre Lind Mills' house. Chapter 6.

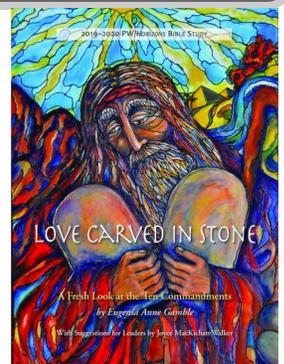
Thursday, March 12, 7 PM, At Sandee Seib's condo. Chapter 7

Thursday, April 9, meet for Maundy Thursday service at church 7:30 PM. We may decide to meet another time that month or skip. If we meet, Chapter 8.

Thursday, May 12, 7 PM at Chris Chase' house. Chapters 8 & 9 (only 9 if we meet in April).

Thursday, June 11, dinner organized by Carol Unger, time and location TBD.

Please contact Susan Reighard (440.823.1238 or nyskiier6@gmail.com) with questions or a copy of our study book. We'd love to have you join us!



Sunday Worship
10:00 am
(440) 933-6240
www.avonlakechurch.com
www.facebook.com/avonlakepc
alpresby@avonlakepc.org

Pastor
Custodian
Director of Children's Ministries
Director of Music
Director of Preschool
Financial Secretary
Lock-up Custodian
Maintenance
Office Administrator
Treasurer

Rev. Charles E. Swartz
Carl Douglas
Tarra Oppewall
Muriel Homer
Julie Erker
Lynn Morway
Ed Homer
Phil Stryczny
Cindi Dansizen
Marcy Uhl