

# A JOYFUL NOISE !

September 2014

## **FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER**

As one of Benzonia's/Beulah's newest residents, I was pleased to accept from Carol Dye a copy of Bruce Catton's book, *Waiting for the Morning Train* (subtitled, "An American Boyhood"). The book is what it says it is: Bruce Catton's autobiographical remembering of his Benzonia boyhood at the turn of the twentieth century.

This is part of what he has to say about the onset of adolescence.

The present hardly exists, and there is no past; nothing but the future matters, and although it is so close that it dominates the mind it seems faraway [*sic*].

Until it actually arrives one is actually marking time . . . .

I like that way of putting it. It's fifty years since I was fifteen, but Bruce Catton's adolescence sounds a lot like mine.

And the present "hardly existing"? "Nothing but the future matters"? "Marking time" until the future gets here? Sounds a little like interim ministry, at least to me.

I've been here two months now, and about all I can say for sure is, Things have changed. My feet are on the ground, more or less, and this church's leaders and I have begun to try to get past "marking time" so we can get the future here as soon as is reasonably possible. You'll hear more about it sooner rather than later.

For now, though, let's disagree a little with Bruce. The present more than hardly exists, and the future isn't all that matters. Your job? Sunday morning. Worship of God in Jesus Christ is the unique, identity-forming act of the Christian Church. Sacraments and song and silence, prayer and preaching with people present-past, present and future come together in worship, and it matters.

God is good. See you in church (and bring someone with you!).

~ Dr. Charles Guerrero

## **Bible Study**

A 14-week Bible study on the book of Luke will begin on Wednesday, September 17, and continue through Wednesday, December 10 (except November 26, Thanksgiving Eve). Come for potluck at 6:00 and stay for "talkluck" after we eat. See you there (and bring somebody with you!).

~Chuck

## **Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting**

by Andy Case

The board of trustees met on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> to conduct the financial matters of the church. The fiscal year-to-date finances has inched into the red. We are still hopeful that we will be able to balance by year's end. An extensive update was given on the capital campaign expenditures and its contributions to many great improvements at the church, such as the new north sanctuary windows and the sealing and striping of the parking lot. The 2014 stewardship campaign will be beginning in October. Please keep an eye on your mailbox for more information! The formation of a search committee to find a permanent pastor was discussed. If you have any questions or ideas please let a board member know.

## ***The Beaded Moccasin***

*by Cath Kelder*

Last month we talked some about the brain. There is so much to be said for this wonder organ. Do you know that the human brain contains more neural connectors than all the known atoms in our universe. We talked last month about how looking for patterns helps to keep the brain active. Now I'd like to explore the role of music in brain health.

A Japanese genetic researcher found that the different gene sequences of any given organ of the body can be transposed into musical melody. For instance the eye plays a beautiful tender lullaby. Christine Stevens, a music therapist, says that listening to and participating in music heals the body/mind/spirit by helping to align all three promoting stress reduction, contentment and sense of community. KEEP SINGING THOSE HYMNS on Sunday, in the shower or wherever. When I am driving to Illinois and lose Interlochen reception somewhere near Pentwater, I start singing hymns and continue without almost any repeats to Grand Haven.

If you want to learn more about music and its healing role Christine Stevens' book Music Medicine is a great read. Find time each day to either sing or listen to music. May each of you have a wonderful September. I've put out a new word search. This one has only one word, RIDE. Have fun!

## ***What's New in the Library***

*by Roxane Miner*

***How to Go on Living When Someone You Love Dies*** The following is quoted from another review... "Mourning the death of a loved one is a process all of us will go through at one time or another. But whether the death is sudden or anticipated, few of us are prepared for it or for the grief it brings. There is no right or wrong way to grieve, each person's response to loss will be different. In this compassionate, comprehensive guide the author leads you gently through the painful but necessary process of grieving and helps you find the best way for yourself" Thank you, Hal, for this addition to our library.

***The Winnowing Season*** This is book #2 in the Amish Vines and Orchards series by Cindy Woodsmall. When their orchard is destroyed by a tornado, three young Amish people decide to make a new start in Maine. Not only will they be rehabilitating an abandoned orchard, they will be establishing an Amish community. Love is in the air as these young people meet one challenge after another. This was an anonymous donation.

Reminder to the younger readers among us...there are three books that may help calm the "back-to-school" jitters:

***Amelia Bedelia's First Day of School***

***First Grade Here I Come***

***The New Girl***

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS -**

	<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>	<b><u>NURSERY</u></b>	<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>
<b>September 7</b>	Deacons	Chris Gehring	Gerri Thornell
<b>September 14</b>	Sunday School	Carol Dye	Alan and Joanne Applehof
<b>September 21</b>	Carol Dye	Barb Brian	Bob Ward and Joyce Barnes
<b>September 28</b>	Jo Bahry	Chris Jones	Pat and Earl Schopp

**Head Usher: Bill Bos**

## ***Women's Fellowship***

There is no Women's Fellowship meeting in September. The first meeting of the fall will be Wednesday, October 1, at 1:00 p.m. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Circle 1 will meet on Wednesday, September 17, at 1:00pm at The Cherry Hut. This will be an organizational meeting for the coming year. Please let Chris Stone know if you plan on attending. Call 882-5205 or email: [chrisstone47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisstone47@gmail.com)

## ***Buildings and Grounds Report***

*by Carol Dye*

Progress – as you can see – is being made! Sanctuary windows have been installed and parking lot sealed and striped. Completion of the landscaping and painting of the exterior windows are scheduled, but not complete.

We have also been working with ASCOM on upgrading the current sound system in the sanctuary and adding a recording device so that CD's can be made of Sunday worship services and also of special services, such as memorial services. This will give us the opportunity to share these services with folks who cannot attend.

Big thank you to Andy Wagner who currently runs the sound system. However, Andy cannot be at every function. Dave from ASCOM has suggested that we have 3 to 4 people trained to use the system so that we can make the best use of our resources. Would you be interested in helping with this? You would need to participate in the training – then, be available to run the sound system when needed. Please let us know if you could help with this.

Thanks again to all who are making these improvements possible and if you ever have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

## ***Nursery Schedule***

It is time to do the nursery schedule for 9/1/13-8/31/14. There is a few people who are not available to do it this year so that puts more burden on the rest of us. We are trying to hire someone to do this job but have no candidates to date. This service is important to the church if we want to attract young families. We have several young ones right now all about the same age which sometimes makes it necessary for two people to be in the nursery.

Please let me know if you are able to help with this program. I know some of you are gone for the winter and some of you sing in the choir so I try to schedule accordingly. If you are unable to commit to a Sunday by yourself would you be willing to be a helper on an occasional Sunday when there is too many children for one person to handle? Please contact Chris Stone at 882-5205 or email: [chrisstone47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisstone47@gmail.com)

**LIVING WITH LOSS:** All of us carry and process the burden of grief from time to time in life. This group is now meeting monthly on the last Sunday of the month. If you or someone you know could benefit from being with others on this journey, please join us on the last Sunday of the month in the library after worship.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN:** On the north side of our church property is a beautiful memorial garden for members and friends of the church who would like their cremated ashes interred on our sacred grounds. For \$500 you may reserve a square-foot plot that covers future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone along the walkway. Donations for perpetual care are welcomed.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kay Fischer
- 3 Mary Thompson
- 8 Pete Moss
- 8 Jerry Slater
- 9 Andrew Wolowiec
- 10 Patricia Swanson
- 13 Joyce Barnes
- 15 Samantha Weaver
- 15 Patricia Forrester
- 16 Jennifer Olney
- 18 Muriel Williams
- 18 Barbara Brewer
- 19 Cath Kelder
- 21 Ardith Jones
- 22 Myrt Maddock
- 24 Rosemary Miller
- 28 Doc Wagner
- 30 Mary Ellen Wagner



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Chet and Shirley Jones
- 8 Bud and Peg Strong
- 9 Bill and Cynthia Schnarr
- 11 John and Doris Marshall
- 11 Gordon and Anna Nordbeck
- 13 Mark and Kim Weaver

## IN YOUR PRAYERS

You are invited to remember in your prayers some of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living, or are facing health concerns. This month please remember:  
 Pink Rearick at The Homesteader;  
 Mary Hopkins at Paul Oliver Long Term Care;  
 Gordon Nordbeck at The Maples;  
 Rosemary Miller at The Pines;  
 Helen Pickard, Pat Forrester, and Dee Lyons in T.C.  
 Homebound or facing health concerns: Marjorie Call, Buck Hall, Mona McElderry, Susan Lutes, Brenda Case, Jean Voight, Doii Burget, and Jerry Richardson.

We share our sympathy as Joan Richardson passed from this life to the next. Please remember Jerry Richardson in your prayers.

**Reminder:** If you, a loved one, or a church member you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that our minister may visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer contact the churches to let them know church members are hospitalized. The church wants to know so that we can support you during this time of need.

## FLOWERS

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers. If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up for a certain date. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 and we will order flowers from a local florist.



## UCC Sister Church of the Month

As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, in worship we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in August to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of Trinity Church, UCC in Northport.

## Children's Book Deposit

At the entryway from the parking lot, just inside the doors on the left, is a wooden cabinet labeled "Children's Book Deposit." The Christian World Service Board is working to enhance a new relationship between our church and Crystal Lake Elementary school by donating children's books for their library or to be given directly to the students. Please bring books you would like to donate and use the new cabinet at the church.

## ***Bibs or Aprons? Training at UNA Fall Meeting***

The UNA Fall Meeting in Clare on September 19-20 will provide a great opportunity to talk with other volunteers in the UNA and to receive training that will help you successfully launch some of those “Bibs or Aprons” projects you have been considering.

### Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 p.m.

Provided by the UCC Insurance Board, *Boundary Training for Volunteers* is a “must” for all those saints in our churches who work with our youth, in our food pantries, or in other programs. Learn how to protect our members and guests, and how to protect our churches from litigious situations. **This is a crucial topic for our churches.** Our Board of Trustees members will find this training provides new tools for nurturing a healthy church environment. A member of the UCC Insurance Board, Jim Jenson of Indianapolis, Indiana, will be covering topics that include: Concepts of Boundaries, Power Levels and Vulnerability, Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporting, Sex Offenders in the Congregation, Social Networking and Boundaries, and Self-Care for Lay Leaders.

The training is free. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Due to travel time, you are welcome to “Brown Bag” it. Snacks will be provided by the UNA.

### Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>

Morning Workshop: *Social Media and the Church* will be presented by Sara Keinath, a member of Cadillac UCC. She will be sharing how she has used social media to work with 4-H extension offices throughout the state, and will show us how to use social media to build our church community.

Afternoon Workshop: *The Effect of Personal Trauma on the Role of the Church: The Supportive Church*, will be presented by Linda Fletcher, Lt. Col. U.S. Army, retired. A former Army nurse, Linda is the founder and Executive Director of *A Matter of Honor*, a non-profit organization that focuses upon the impact of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD, upon the families and communities of those who suffer from this disorder.

Perhaps you are thinking, “We don’t have many military members returning from combat in our midst, what does this topic have to do with our church?” However, many of do have children and grandchildren who have served in Vietnam and the Middle East. PTSD also effects community members who have been victims of events such as child or sexual abuse, violence, or natural disasters. Learn how you can support their healing.

You won’t want to miss Linda’s presentation. This is such a great *Bibs or Aprons?* opportunity, the Executive Council has moved the *Church Safety* workshop to our Spring Meeting in Cadillac.

UNA Fall Meeting registration forms are available on.....

Your \$15 registration fee includes all three workshops, Friday’s snacks, and Saturday’s continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, please give me a call @ (989) 657-5749

Pat Leahy,  
UNA Coordinator

# SEPTEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	<b>1</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>2</b> 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>3</b> 12 Noon - AA-Barn 3:30 Deacons	<b>4</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 12:00 LOWV	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>8</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>9</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>10</b> 12 Noon - AA-Barn	<b>11</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 12:00 LOWV	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>RALLY SUNDAY</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>15</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>16</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>17</b> 12 Noon - AA 1:00 Circle 1 at the Cherry Hut 6:00 Bible Study	<b>18</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>19</b> 12:00 LOWV	<b>20</b> <b>Benzie Home Health Care Lunch</b>
<b>21</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>22</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>23</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>24</b> 12 Noon - AA-Barn 6:00 Bible Study	<b>25</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>26</b> 12:00 LOWV	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Living with Loss	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

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## ***A Joyful Noise! September 2014***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Dr. Charles Guerreno ..... Interim Minister  
Chris Stone .....Treasurer  
Mary Rodriguez.. .....Financial Secretary  
James Sheets.....Church Moderator  
Carolina Jones .....Christian Ed Coordinator  
Jessie Zeller ..... Custodian  
Nancy Eggleston .....Secretary

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