



# PERRY PRES

A Publication of Perry Hall Presbyterian Church  
April/May, 2015

## April 2015 Pastor Message

Dear Friends:

Christ Has Risen!!! He has risen indeed! Those words filled the pulpits and sanctuaries of Christian churches across the world this past Easter Sunday. What a joyous time it was on Sunday morning, April 5 here at Perry Hall Presbyterian Church as we too shouted those words, listened to hand bells, the wonderful music and song of adult and children's choir, the fragrance of Easter flowers, heard the words of scripture, listened to the word proclaimed, and the joy of being together in worship and fellowship. We responded in offerings to The One Great Hour of Sharing. All together in praising the Lord and giving thanks to God. So let us continue to rejoice in this season of Easter time.

In addition to sharing the joy of the resurrected Lord, I want to share with you a summary of our Lenten worship and discussion times during these past weeks. As you may remember, folks gathered during the weeks of Lent for a simple supper to be followed by brief worship and meditation in the sanctuary with themes focused on the main areas of our church's life and mission together.

We began this Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 18 with worship and the imposition of ashes as we dedicated ourselves to a time of meditation, reflection and commitment at Perry Hall Presbyterian Church. Our next time together was February 25 at which time we focused on Christian Education. We talked about the people in our lives who had helped bring us to faith; how we learned the faith and what do we think is important for our children to know about the Christian faith. Then in reviewing the educational program of the church, we drew some conclusions and expressed some directions. We realize that what we are doing right now is not working well and that if families come to the church, many of them expect a strong Christian Education program. Most churches are struggling in this area and some churches have given up on Sunday school as a way of teaching the Christian faith. We concluded that we need more and better use of technology in the educational program of the church so we need to use videos, tapes, and

screens. It may be we help parents teach their children at home. We spoke about more Bible Study opportunities and short term Bible studies or studies on special issues of topics of interest. It was thought that sending out spiritual messages each week to all members of the church through the use of e-mails, cell phones, i-pods reminding them of church would be a way of increasing attendance and participation. People expressed a desire to begin a youth group and have it more like Youth for Christ/Young Life approach. A survey concerning Christian Education is already being undertaken.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, we focused on worship and music. Folks clearly want more in the way of creative worship, innovative worship to involve people in different ways in addition to sitting and listening. There was support for more contemporary music and livelier hymns; perhaps the use of taped music through the speaker system. It was suggested that during the passing of the peace we call people not in attendance and express the peace over the phone.

On March 11, we focused on the buildings and grounds of the church. Some thoughts included making the "scout" building back into a "youth" building; build up the playground; that we should stop the drive through; increase advertising for the golf course.

On March 18, the focus was on Mission/Outreach/Nurture. Folks expressed the hope that the Ministerial Association would be renewed; more contact with people not here in church; bring friends to church, do more local mission, Bible studies at home, publicity on Presbytery mission efforts that we can support; a Mission display board so we know what missions Perry Hall Presbyterian is supporting and involved with.

March 25 was centered on Stewardship and Finance. Brief discussion was centered on better use of church resources in terms of people and finding ways of increasing the financial income for the church.

This Lenten journey concluded on Maundy Thursday when we gathered for a simple meal and

**Interim Pastor – Rev. Joseph Condro**  
**Church Office – 410-256-5780**  
**Secretary – Kim Kalinowski**  
**Music Director – Nancy Barnes**

then worshiped in the sanctuary with the washing of hands, the Living Last Supper by The Masonic Lodge, and nailing of the cross and carrying it outside.

It was good to be together as we proclaim the Risen Lord. Thanks be to God!!!!

Peace,

Pastor Joe

### **Hymn Tunes: The Stories Behind the Melodies By Bob Barnes**

“Bunessan” (in the Scots Gaelic: Bun Easain) is a small village on the Ross of Mull in the south of the island of Mull, on the west coast of Scotland. Originally a small community of farmers in the Scottish farming tradition called crofting, the village had a mill, weavers and a small fishing fleet until the 1900s. It has only one hotel, The Argyll Arms, which also is the only pub in the area, a village hall which is often used for numerous dances throughout the year, two grocery shops, a craft shop, and a further small cafe/restaurant, Reef. The village has a thriving lobster fishery. Some of the largest lobsters in the west coast of Scotland can be found at the top of Loch Scridain, in an area known as "The Pool".

“Bunessan” lent its name to a hymn tune, originally associated with the Christmas carol, "Child in the Manger". Mary M. Macdonald, born 1789, died 1872, who lived in the nearby crofting community of Ardtun and who spoke only Gaelic, wrote her hymn "Leanabh an Aigh" to a traditional melody. When the words were later translated into English, the melody was named after the village by the translator, Lachlan Macbean.

Sometime before 1927 Alexander Fraser heard the melody from a minstrel in the Scottish Highlands and wrote it down so that it came to the attention of Percy Dearmer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Martin Shaw. In turn, these editors of the hymnbook *Songs of Praise* requested Eleanor Farjeon to write a further hymn text to the tune. This was "Morning Has Broken" and since 1931 the tune has become most familiarly identified with this hymn.

### **THE OLD FISHERMAN**

**Our house was directly across the street from the clinic entrance of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. We lived downstairs & rented the upstairs rooms to outpatients at the Clinic.**

**One summer evening as I was fixing supper, there was a knock at the door. I opened it to see a truly awful looking man. 'Why, he's hardly taller than my eight-year-old,' I thought as I stared at the stooped, shriveled body.**

**But the appalling thing was his face, lopsided from swelling, red & raw. Yet, his voice was pleasant as he said, 'Good evening. I've come to see if you've a room for just one night. I came for a treatment this morning from the eastern shore, & there's no bus 'till morning.'**

**He told me he'd been hunting for a room since noon but with no success; no one seemed to have a room. 'I guess it's my face. I know it looks terrible, but my doctor says with a few more treatments...'**

**For a moment I hesitated, but his next words convinced me, 'I could sleep in this rocking chair on the porch. My bus leaves early in the morning.'**

**I told him we would find him a bed, but to rest on the porch. I went inside & finished getting supper. When we were ready, I asked the old man if he would join us. 'No thank you. I have plenty' And he held up a brown paper bag.**

**When I had finished the dishes, I went out on the porch to talk with him a few minutes.**

**It didn't take a long time to see that this old man had an over-sized heart crowded into that tiny body. He told me he fished for a living to support his daughter, her five children & her husband, who was hopelessly crippled from a back injury.**

**He didn't tell it by way of complaint; in fact, every other sentence was prefaced with thanks to God for a blessing. He was grateful that no pain accompanied his disease, which was apparently a form of skin cancer. He was thankful for the strength to keep going.**

At bedtime, we put a camp cot in the children's room for him. When I got up in the morning, the bed linens were neatly folded, & the little man was out on the porch.

He refused breakfast, but just before he left for his bus, haltingly, as if asking a great favor, he said, 'Could I please come back & stay the next time I have a treatment? I won't put you out a bit. I can sleep fine in a chair.' He paused a moment & then added, 'Your children made me feel at home. Grownups are bothered by my face, but children don't seem to mind.' I told him he was welcome to come again.

And on his next trip he arrived a little after seven in the morning. As a gift, he brought a big fish & a quart of the largest oysters I had ever seen. He said he had shucked them that morning before he left so that they'd be nice & fresh. I knew his bus left at 4 a.m., & I wondered what time he had to get up in order to do this for us.

In the years he came to stay overnight with us there was never a time that he did not bring us fish or oysters or vegetables from his garden.

Other times we received packages in the mail, always by special delivery; fish & oysters packed in a box of fresh young spinach or kale, every leaf carefully washed. Knowing that he must walk three miles to mail these & knowing how little money he had made the gifts doubly precious.

When I received these little remembrances, I often thought of a comment our next-door neighbor made after he left that first morning. 'Did you keep that awful looking man last night? I turned him away! You can lose roomers by putting up such people!'

Maybe we did lose roomers once or twice. But, oh if only they could have known him, perhaps their illness would have been easier to bear. I know our family always will be grateful to have known him; from him we learned what it was to accept the bad without complaint & the good with gratitude...

Recently I was visiting a friend who has a greenhouse. As she showed me her flowers, we came to the most beautiful one of all, a golden chrysanthemum, bursting with blooms. But to my great surprise, it was growing in an old dented, rusty bucket. I thought to myself, 'If this

were my plant, I'd put it in the loveliest container I had!'

My friend changed my mind. 'I ran short of pots,' she explained, 'and knowing how beautiful this one would be, I thought it wouldn't mind starting out in this old pail.

It's just for a little while, till I can put it out in the garden.'

She must have wondered why I laughed so delightedly, but I was imagining just such a scene in heaven. There's an especially beautiful one,' God might have said when he came to the soul of the sweet old fisherman. 'He won't mind starting in this small body.'

All this happened long ago -- and now, in God's garden, how tall this lovely soul must stand.

The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'

Never

look down on anybody, unless you're helping them

up.

"Life

without God is like an unsharpened pencil

- It has no point."

## May, 2015 Pastor's Message

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May his grace and peace bless each one of us as we journey through life as the faithful and joyful people of God.

So much seems to be happening all around us. All of us were shaken and horrified by the recent riots and disturbances in the city of Baltimore. We continually pray those issues are resolved in a peaceful manner. We worry about attacks in the United States from terrorists like the recent attack in Texas. Last month there was a horrific train accident which resulted in the deaths of six people. Families worry about the health of loved ones. Others are concerned about the high cost of education while those graduating from high schools and colleges are concerned about the availability of jobs and the security of jobs to pay bills. There are scandals in our political and business communities and now we read a report that there is a rather large increase in our nation among all age groups who now classify themselves as non-religious. My point here is that it seems everywhere we look there are things to worry about and lose sleep over. I know we still have concerns and worries about our own church with respect to membership, finances, upkeep and who will be called as our next installed pastor. For some, it may remind them of that movie... "Stop the World. I Want To Get Off".

How do we deal with the world and all that is happening there and indeed all that is happening in our lives? For some, they hope it simply gets better or goes away on its own. Some indulge in risky behavior or get into drugs as a way of escaping.

But we are the people of God. We are the Disciples of Christ. Like Christ, we are the salt of the earth. Christ calls us to be ministers of reconciliation and peace. He calls us to heal the sick, to make the deaf hear and the lame walk and the dead to rise from the graves. For when the storms of life come and seem to overwhelm us or make us feel like our lives are sinking, it is this Christ who is in the boat with us, who journeys with us and who guides us.

The recent wording placed on the church sign this past month is very appropriate. It says, "Keep Calm and Wait on the Lord". But let us not think that the Lord is not doing anything. Our Christ is involved in all of what happens in life whether it be personal or worldwide. Our Christ is involved in healing, and peacemaking and guidance and reconciliation. Our Christ is combating violence and drug usage and

alienation and worry and disease and fear. And alongside of Christ, is the church; you and me here at Perry Hall. We faithfully try to be the people of God in the community in which we find ourselves.

We now will be celebrating the birthday of The Church, which is known as Pentecost. This was a time when the disciples, following the resurrection of Jesus but still fearful of boldly proclaiming the gospel, were in hiding. When the Spirit of God came upon them at Pentecost and they were blessed by the Holy Spirit, they left their hiding places, set aside any fears and began to preach and teach and minister in the name of their Lord. Thus, the birth of The Church.

Therefore, we too, blessed by the Holy Spirit, continue our ministry here at Perry Hall. The Holy Spirit guides us and counsels us and supports us in what we are called to do and be. This Holy Spirit will always be with us till the end of the age.

Thanks and peace,

Pastor Joe

## PRAYER CONCERNS

John Ahlfeldt	Rhodella Gurney
Martha Ahlfeldt	Lee Hickey
Kenny Avaritt	Dewey Gardner
Roland Avaritt	Marje Lentz
Cathy Barnes	Freedra Lester
Sandy Coradi	Zachary McNeill
Dawn Crist	Eric Michel
William Crosby	Gail Smith
Lillian Elligson	Skip Snyder
Eileen Hickey	Chris Strobel

## Those Serving in the Armed Forces...

Capt. Matthew Simon, Ft. Hood. TX;

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Douglas Coppola, NJ Nat'l Guard, 50<sup>th</sup> 1BCT;

Gen. Ferdinand B. Irizarry, Ft. Bragg;

John Daniel Collins III, Seal Team 7, Afghanistan;

PFC William Peterson, Pensacola, FL

## Quilt of Holes

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in every-day life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light.

An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at

the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, 'Every time you gave over your life to Me it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles.'

Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.'

**May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!**



## SUDUKO

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**OUR CHANCEL FLOWER CHART** hanging on the back wall is ready for your dedications. Please be sure to use the pen in the envelope hanging by the chart. If you have any special requests for your flowers, please contact Nancy Zahn – [Nzahn47@gmail.com](mailto:Nzahn47@gmail.com). Thank you

**DAKOTA MISSION AND MINISTRY** Perry Hall Presbyterian has long been the leader in the Presbytery in organizing and being involved with the Dakota Mission and ministry with Native Americans. This year, the Highland Church and Rev. Jack Carlson, have contacted Perry Hall Presbyterian to see if we might have some folks interested in attending this year. The main work is leading and teaching elementary age children. Cost is about \$750.00. Peter Condro will be representing our church. We hope to have a fund raising event at the golf course for this but donations are always appreciated to lower expenses.

**THANK YOU** to those who have given to help us replace the weed eater for the church. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**~~~DON'T FORGET TO BRING IN CANNED GOODS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANK! THANKS!!!~~~**

We made our second delivery this year to the Food Bank. Thank you to all of those who continue to donate. As a reminder, this is why we give. Matthew 25: 34-35, "Then the King will say to those in his right hand, 'Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in.'"



**Happy Birthday wishes go out to all of the congregation who celebrate during the months of March and April.**



**Happy Anniversary to all of the congregation who were wed during these months.**

Our birthday and anniversary list is being audited to be sure we don't miss anyone. Please excuse us for not mentioning your name.

## Hymn Tunes: The Stories behind the Melodies

### AURELIA

Aurelia, the hymn tune to which we sing “The Church’s One Foundation,” was written by Samuel S. Wesley for John Keble’s wedding hymn “The Voice That Breathed O’er Eden” in 1864. That year it was also included in “A Selection of Psalms and Hymns” which was edited by Charles Kemble and Samuel S. Wesley as the setting for “Jerusalem the Golden”, “Brief Life Is Here Our Portion”, and “For Thee, Oh Dear, Dear Country”.

The work ‘aurelia’ comes from the Latin “aurum” meaning gold, referring to “Jerusalem the Golden”. The tune was first used with “The Church’s One Foundation” in the Appendix to the “Original Edition of Hymns Ancient and Modern”, 1868 and has become firmly associated with this text. This information was accessed at <http://songsandhymns.org/hymns/tunes/detail/Aurelia>.

Frederic March starred in a movie called “One Foot in Heaven” about a Methodist preacher. In one scene it is a rainy afternoon and March goes up into the church tower to play the carillon. He sits at a keyboard and with his hands and feet he plays this tune. The music is so inspiring that the camera shows people coming out of their houses to stand in the rain and sing the hymn.

**ATTENTION COMMITTEES AND  
THOSE INTERESTED IN  
SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO THE  
PRES!!**

**Please submit your articles by May  
31<sup>st</sup> to be included in the June issue of the  
Press**



### Deacons

No Report

### Outreach

Outreach has been working on an ad for the Kingsville 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade to help bring attention to the church and the golf course. We are also sending cards to our shut-ins and those who are sick. If you know of anyone who is sick or in the hospital please notify a member of the Outreach Committee.

### Personnel/Nominating

No Report

### Pastor Nominating Committee

We are working diligently to find a permanent Pastor. Please keep us in your prayers so that we make the right decision for PHPC.

### Properties

No Report

### Worship

Communion June 7, 2015

### Missions

No Report

### Miniature Golf

Open on week-ends until school is out

### Next Session Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.