

Pastor’s Column

Routine and spontaneity -- life operates between these two poles. Summers at Messiah are a wonderful combination of routine and spontaneity.

Thru the years you’ve developed these summer routines. Choir sings its final anthem. Day Tim-ers have their last meal. You bless geraniums on Memorial Day weekend. Lanny changes the sign for service times. Sunday school and forum go on summer hiatus. For ten years now we’ve en-joyed evening prayer and a solstice sunset at Red Brook. (I can still hear Dick Johnson’s beauti-ful bass voice singing outdoors under the blue, summer sky.) This is the 4th year in a row for your community garden. VBS is typically in July. This year VBS meets July 16, 17, 18. Council and committees often skip July because of 4th of July. Recently a youth trip to Waldameer has been part of the summer routine. A highlight of summer is the August church picnic at Saybrook Township Park.



Those are routines. Messiah is also very spontaneous. I’ve often observed that about this congre-gation. You are willing, on short notice, to turn into a new opportunity and embrace a new mis-sion. So, two years ago you hosted Fuller Bicycle tour. You gave them the best dinner and breakfast on their tour. Last year you hosted Brass on the Grass. Last year you led a great glue stick project for AACs – we stopped counting after you brought in over 3,500. This year brings yet another spontaneous activity on our calendar. A Christian non-profit theater group from Cleveland will come to Messiah July 29th. They will present dinner theater in our fellowship hall. I think it will be a dinner mystery thea-tre.

Routine and spontaneity are patterns all our days. Routines include: shop for groceries, cut the grass, do the laundry, brush your teeth, get a haircut, wash behind your ears, floss your teeth, rotate the tires on the car, oil the garage door rails, vacuum the rug, scrub the tub, load the dishwasher, commute to work, set the alarm, go to bed.

Spontaneity includes: let’s go out for dinner tonight, let’s go visit that park this weekend, let’s watch that show everyone is talk-ing about, let’s move the hydrangeas, it’s time to buy a convertible, that piece of art work would look really good in the living room, it’s time for a new hair style, I think that tattoo really says who I am, etc.

We certainly know God is a God of routine. Seasons change. Planets spin. Whole galaxies orbit. Combine two hydrogen mole-cules with one oxygen molecule and you always get water. Forgiveness is spoken, again and again and again. The cross of Christ reveals the heart of God, time after time. The Spirit is poured out at Holy Baptism: gifts are given and another person is joined to Christ crucified and risen. God is as reliable as a small block Chevy V-8.

God also has spontaneous, unexpected moments. Those stories in the bible are the best stories. God bargains with Abraham about sparing Sodom. God listens as Moses protests his speaking inadequacies. God refers to Cyrus the Persian as messiah. Je-sus will sleep when they least expect it, in the middle of a storm.

Routine and spontaneity make for stability and creativity. Routine is the bedrock for creative spontaneity. Spontaneity puts life into life. We are both.

Welcome Home to Messiah
Pr. Meranda

Fuller Housing Bicyclists

By: Rick Ranta

Once again, Men of Messiah are help-ing to provide meals for cross country cyclists. The cyclists arrive Monday, July 30. We are not sure yet as to how many cyclists will be coming..

We are asking for assistance in serv-ing and providing parts of the dinner and breakfast for this group.

More information will be available in Church announcements or contact me at 964-7987.

Thank you for your support and help.



Prospect Avenue Renovation

The renovation of Prospect Avenue on May 11 sent seismic shock waves thru our building.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) responded to our call by taking external and internal video of our build-ing.

ODOT placed a measuring device at the jack hammering. The device indicated that the shock waves were within ac-ceptable range

Theology on Tap
August 8, 2018

Redbrook Vespers Well Attended

About 45 people attended the Redbrook Vespers held recently. Pastor Meranda led the group in the singing of the Holden Evening Prayer. He then reviewed a very enlightening list of significant events and the year they occurred. In the pictures be-low, clockwise from the lower left, members in the buffet line getting their appetizers. Members at the Vespers included L to R, Michael Shaffer, Herb Watts and Norma Williams and Jeff and Sue Burkholder. Everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy the



evening. Our sincere thanks to Tina Tallbacka for making Red-brook Boat Club arrangements and to the people who helped her set up the appetizers.

Church Mouse Heard:

That Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage He didn’t have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn’t have to hear about the way his mother cooked.



Whitney Stained Glass Studio Continues Their Work



Whitney Stained Glass Studio contin-ues their work on our Church.

Pictured to the left is their scaffold set up outside the choir loft window for ease in removing the glass to go back to their studio in Cleveland for restora-tion.

In the picture at the right, Whitney employee Pete Wells, holds one of the stained glass sections from the choir loft window.

We are very fortunate to have an anonymous donor and the Messiah Lutheran Church Foundation funding this window restoration project.

The project is now about 75 percent completed.



Fuller Center Bicyclists
By: Cathy Carle

Men of Messiah serve Monday dinner and Tuesday breakfast. The Fuller Center for Housing is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. Founded in 2005 by Millard and Linda Fuller, who together founded Habitat for Humanity in 1976, the Fuller Center has built or repaired over 4,142 homes. Do-nations can be made to the Fuller Center for Housing, attn: Bike Adventure, P.O. Box 523, Americus, GA. 31709.



Fuller Center bicyclists visited our Church in 2015. Here their lead-ers are giving instructions prior to departing Messiah. The group also had a brief devotional prior to leaving.

Choir Has A Picnic



The Church Senior Choir had a picnic last month. Hosted by our director Julie Hunt and her husband Kevin, it was at Lake Shore Park in the Rock Garden pavilion. Shown above are choir members L to R Manette Nelson, Rhana Wehn, Will Greenawalt and Brenda Greenawalt. It was a very nice party with lots of good food enjoyed by all who attended. Choir members were invited to bring a spouse or guest. Our thanks to Julie and Kevin for their generosity.

VBS July 16 Thru 18

Vacation Bible School is July 16 thru 18 this year at Messiah. The theme of this year’s event is “God’s Creations”. We begin with a meal at 5:30 pm then continue with study, song, and projects until 8:00 pm.

VBS is under the leadership this year of Emelia and Shyanna Lindberg. If they ask you for assistance at VBS, please say “Yes”, with a joyful heart!!!

In the picture below, Cheri Cassady is seen leading last year’s participants in a VBS song. Cheri was the music coordinator for VBS 2017.

The 2018 version of VBS is open to all children in pre K through middle school.



Messiah Lutheran Church
615 Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Messiah Messenger

July 2018

Worship:
9:30 am - Sunday
Adult Sunday Forum
Resumes In The Fall



Welcome
Home To
Messiah



Produced For The Members and Friends of Messiah
Lutheran Church, 615 Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004
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The Rev. Dr. Michael Meranda, Pastor
Phone: 440-998-7321

Church Mouse Listened To:

Samuel Taylor Coleridge as he said “the love of a mother is the veil of a softer light between the heart and the heavenly Father.”

