

August/September 2017

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## A WORD FROM TOM, THE INTERIM

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One of the many amazing things I have found while serving the dozen or so congregations who have been inflicted with my presence, is their ability to respond to needs. And it doesn't matter if that need is support of a family in crisis or a critical financial challenge caused by an aged church building or the spiritual challenge of a church "fight" – in every case, it has been my experience that somehow, somehow the congregations manages to open its ears and hear that voice which embodies the UCC mantra that God is still speaking!

Sometime back I was part of an ecumenical group which included a Rabbi and a Unitarian minister. One of us was bemoaning the lack of response by our congregation to some need (I don't remember who brought it up or what the issue was just the general notion of a worship leader complaining/whining/bemoaning the state of her or his congregation) and then one of us (I wish I could be sure and say it was me but that would be probably untrue) made the statement "what's odd about congregations is they all muddle along until they're confronted with some crisis, great or small, financial or spiritual, and then suddenly it so often seems someone or some group steps forward and does something. AND we realized that something was more than likely what's needed and the challenged is met, the crisis surmounted, the budget balanced, the roof fund oversubscribed! Sometimes it's a major act of kindness or financial generosity but so often it's a simple act of kindness or support.

Now that's a long and wordy introduction to the idea that too often when faced with challenges congregations forget their histories. And those histories are filled with wonderful stories of the response of the congregation to crises large and small from the need for luncheons after funerals to emergency repairs of a furnace or kitchen floor, living or vibrant or dynamic congregations persevere. Remember

though the stories of the gospels or the exodus or all the Biblical accounts. No one responds to whining/bemoaning/complaining ministers/worship leaders. The response whether of God, Jesus, or others always follows a statement of need and a willingness to act. The manna needed to be gathered, the lame needed to get up, and people needed to dare to walk between the parted seas – in every case the story tells of a need clearly stated and an act of courage based on faith done in response to fulfill that need.

The next time you hear me or anyone else bemoaning the soon to be death of this congregation or the soon to be unmet crisis let us ask "what's the need, how can it be met, and WHAT CAN I DO"?

See you in church or sometime soon I hope.

*Tom, the Interim*

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## NEWS REGARDING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:** In order for us to have Sunday school, we need Teachers. If there are no teachers there can be no Sunday school whether it is on Sunday or Wednesday. Please consider helping out by teaching a class. Teaching assignments are for a limited time and there is plenty of help available with lesson prep, etc. Also, the curriculum is designed for last minute prep and implementation. Please consider teaching for a few weeks this coming school year. **AND ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 5:00 PM WE WILL BE HAVING AN ORIENTATION SESSION FOR ALL TEACHERS. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING!! QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO TOM AT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR ON MY CELL PHONE 414-510-4262.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ON A WEDNESDAY??** Don't forget, beginning September 13<sup>th</sup>, we change our Sunday school to Wednesday Evening at 6 PM (following Confirmation Class). There will be offerings for young people and adults (see below)!!!!!!!!!!!! Join us and bring a friend!!

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## STUDY GROUP

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### **500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant**

**Reformation:** In 1517, Martin Luther published his "95 Theses" which marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. 500 years later even clergy folks like me know little about this event and its history. Beginning on Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM as part of our Wednesday Christian Ed programming, we will begin a study group on the Protestant Reformation. This opportunity will use materials from the United Church of Christ publishing "house" and be an opportunity for members of Peace UCC and anyone else interested in spending 45 minutes to an hour, once each week thinking about the history of the Protestant Reformation. If you are interested in joining us, please let me (Tom) know so I can make sure we have enough materials for all!!

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to Brandon Wachal and Rebecca Rice who were married on June 24, 2017. Brandon is the son of Kay & Gene Wachal and grandson to Sandy Kuchenbecker. We pray God's richest blessings on them as they begin their life together.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE & KARLA MILLER** as their daughter, Katie, was wed to Jared Plate. The couple was married on Saturday, July 29, 2017. Again, the Peace family, wishes for God's blessings for this recently wed husband and wife.

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## MEMORIALS FROM THE ZANDER, KUCHENBECKER & DEFFKE FAMILIES!

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**THANK YOU TO** Carla Zander who purchased an outside LED light in loving memory of her husband, Noel Zander. We truly appreciate your kindness.

**WE RECEIVED TWELVE NEW FELLOWSHIP TABLES** in loving memory of Don Deffke. As we use these tables throughout the coming years, hopefully we will always remember Dorothy and Don Deffke as a continued remembrance of their love for Peace Church.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Lillian Kuchenbecker for donating the cost of re-landscaping the area around the bell tower in loving memory of Harland. Please take a moment and look at the beautiful engraved bench that was also donated. How appropriate, since Harland was always "the keeper" of our bell tower.

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## EXTENDING GRATITUDE...

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**WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE** that we received the final payout in the amount of \$88,432.82 from the estate of Roman and Janet Gennigen. This amount will be added to our original \$85,000.00 for a grand total of \$173,432.82. How blessed we have been that the Roman and Janet remembered Peace Church in their will!!

**WE ALSO HAVE BEEN BLESSED** that the family of Robert Hensel remembered Peace Church with a \$400.00 donation in loving memory of Robert. The family requested that the \$400.00 be used towards the roof. Thank you to the Hensel family!

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## **SYMPATHY & PRAYERS**

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The funeral service for Florence Irene Moede was held here at Peace U.C.C. on Monday, August 7, 2017. Florence was a member of Peace Church since April of 2014. Prior to joining Peace Church she was a faithful member of Zion United Methodist Church in Reedsville. Florence passed away on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at the Garrow Villa. Please keep the Moede family in your thoughts and prayers.

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## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO BEGIN**

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Our confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes will run from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. We welcome our returning students and our new class of confirmation students for the start of our 2017/2018 year. Our returning students are: Ian Aplin, Bryant Barth, Bryce Barth, Dale Klika and Paxton Krahn. Our first year students are: Rachel Fischer, Morgan Janas, Derek Vande Hey and Aubrie Williams. Please keep our young adults in prayer as they begin their new year of studies.

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## **FALL SCHEDULE TO BEGIN**

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Signaling the end of summer, our fall schedule will resume on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. After a three month break, our Christian Education classes will once again be in full-swing. We will kick off the Christian Education year with an Ice Cream Social. Please be sure to mark your calendars! The first official class will begin on Wednesday, September 13. Class time is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

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We will be "kicking off" our Sunday school year on September 10<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is willing to donate any of the following items, please sign-up on the sheet located in the fellowship hall or e-mail Kathy at [peaceucc1@frontier.com](mailto:peaceucc1@frontier.com) or leave a message on the answering machine - 756-3334.

- 1 – pail of Vanilla Ice Cream
- 1 – pail of Chocolate Ice Cream
- 2 – jar of cherries
- 2 – whipping cream (cans)
- 1 – gallon white milk
- 1 – gallon chocolate milk

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## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017!**

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The church came alive with the voices and laughter of children during the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> for our annual Vacation Bible School. We were blessed to have seven students that were eager to dig into reading from a different book of the Bible each day and then draw posters of what they had learned. The four days allowed them time to bake cookies and deliver homemade cards along with a bag of fresh cookies to members of Peace at both Garrow Villa and West Haven. To learn more about our church and how we offer something for all ages, the children made additional cards to be mailed to friends and members of our congregation. As part of their outreach we measured and investigated just how "big" the little home will be in Haiti that the church is building thru Food For The Poor and then constructed a Lego house to represent the comparisons to their own home. In addition the children built bird houses as ways to take care of our environment, spent time learning about the Baptism of Jesus as well as their own, and learned how to bake unleavened bread used in Communion. It was a fun and busy time as seven young people came together in the Lord's House to learn, sing, bond and play.

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## **A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!**

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Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked over the summer months to keep our church and church grounds looking so nice! From the lawn to the flower beds to the windows and doors, everything has again looked so terrific! Thank you to everyone for whatever you did that we may be proud of our beautiful building and grounds!

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## AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE HOUR TO BEGIN

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Coffee Hour will begin on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> with an Ice Cream Social. In keeping with tradition, there will be coffee hour after Sunday Worship throughout the school year. The sign-up sheet for volunteers to host/hostess a Sunday is available in the fellowship hall. If you have never hosted a coffee hour, how about “buddying” with someone else and learning how easy it is? Thanks, in advance!

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## OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED

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### **OUR NEW PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE:**

Thank you to the following members who were willing to serve on our Pastoral Search Committee. Below is the list of the committee, alternate and the liaisons from the Council and Pastor/Parish committees.

Committee Members: Paul Cooney, Janel Feldner-Klika, Brian Horn, Greg Loose and Tony Reese

Alternate Member: Laurie Sommers

Liaison from Council: Todd Schneider

Liaison from Pastor/Parish: Kay Wachal

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## SCRIP

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**Since January of 2017, the Scrip program has given \$1,000.00 to our General Fund to help pay our operating expenses for the church.** So, with your dedication of purchasing Scrip on a regular basis, we can continue this trend in helping with the paying of our general operating expenses from our Scrip profits. Thank you to all who purchase Scrip, but if you have never used Scrip, please call the church office and Kathy will explain how it works. We all need to buy groceries to feed our families and gasoline for our vehicles. What a great way to start using Scrip by purchasing gift cards to your grocery store and purchasing gift cards to your favorite gas station.

Scrip may be purchased after Worship every Sunday or you may stop at church whenever Kathy Daun is in the office.

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## FINANCIAL GIVING

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### May, 2017

Sunday School Children - \$35.77  
Loose Collection – \$87.01  
General Fund - \$3,605.05  
e-giving - \$2,594.50  
Bulletin sponsor - \$60.00  
Initial Offering - \$3.00  
Women’s Guild paid for Dry cleaning - \$25.99

### June, 2017

Sunday School Children - \$2.00  
Loose Collection – \$11.10  
General Fund - \$2,160.00  
Wednesday Worship General Fund - \$152.00  
e-giving - \$2,518.50  
Bulletin Sponsors - \$30.00  
Scrip Donation into General Fund - \$1,000.00  
Memorial Fund transfer to pay for Tables (Deffke) - \$1,763.53  
Land Rent/Into B & G Savings - \$600.00  
Strengthen The Church Collection - \$53.00

### July, 2017

Sunday School Children - \$18.00  
Loose Collection – \$40.00  
General Fund - \$2,935.00  
Wednesday Worship General Fund - \$110.00  
e-giving - \$2,707.50  
Bulletin Sponsor - \$30.00  
Vacation Bible School Registration - \$40.00  
Memorial (Noel Zander) for LED Light - \$262.80  
Sale of Tables - \$40.00

### UPDATE FROM JANUARY – JULY, 2017

**Money taken from savings to help pay regular operating expenses amounted to: \$8,600.00. From that total transferred \$6,700.00 was from the total profits from the 2017 Chicken Fry.**

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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### Pre-School/Grade 2:

September 13 – Please sign-up  
September 20 – Please sign-up  
September 27 – Please sign-up

### Grades 3-6:

September 13 – Please sign-up  
September 20 – Please sign-up  
September 27 – Please sign-up

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## CONFIRMATION PARENT HELPER

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September 13 – All parents to attend  
September 20 – Aplin Family  
September 27 – Klika Family

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## GREETERS

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August 20 – Bob & Carol Lowe  
August 27 – Roger & Lois Schwahn  
September 3 – Lillian Kuchenbecker  
September 10 – Paul & Sue Cooney Family  
September 17 – Bob & Carol Lowe  
September 24 – Amber Horn-Leiterman Family

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## ACOLYTES

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August 20 – Collin Greve & Trae Williams  
August 27 – Derek & Chloe Vande Hey  
September 3 – Nick & Nathan Loose  
September 10 – Brynn & Aubrie Williams  
September 17 – Jacob, Emma &  
Nathan Schneider  
September 24 – Madeline Cooney,  
Grant & Trent Leiterman

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## COFFEE HOUR

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September 10 – Ice Cream Social  
– **need volunteers**  
September 17 – **need volunteers**  
September 24 – **need volunteers**

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## SUNDAY HELPERS

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August 20 – Sandy M Kuchenbecker  
August 27 – Dawn Voight  
September 3 – **need volunteer**  
September 10 – **need volunteer**

September 17 – **need volunteer**  
September 24 – **need volunteer**

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## LAY READER

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August 20 – John Seefeldt  
August 27 – Lois Schwahn  
September 3 – Rev. Tom Williams  
September 10 – Sue Cooney  
September 17 – Tony Reese  
September 24 – Amber Horn-Leiterman

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## USHERS

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August 20 – Roger Schwahn  
August 27 – Duane Loose  
September 3 – Paul Cooney  
September 10 – Tony Reese  
September 17 – Roger Schwahn  
September 24 – Duane Loose

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

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### Wednesday, August 16, 2017

6:00 p.m. – Wednesday Evening Worship

### Sunday, August 20, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

### Wednesday, August 23, 2017

6:00 p.m. – Wednesday Evening Worship

### Sunday, August 27, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

### Sunday, September 3, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

### Sunday, September 10, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday worship with Communion  
10:00 a.m. – Ice Cream Social

### Sunday, September 17, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
10:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship

### Sunday, September 24, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship/Mini-missions  
Deacon Dennis Bennin (Food For The Poor)  
10:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship

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## **UP-COMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

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August 16 – Wednesday Worship at 6:00 p.m.

August 20 – Council meeting immediately after Sunday Worship

August 23 –  
Sunday School Teacher's meeting at 5:00 p.m.  
Final Wednesday Worship at 6:00 p.m.

September 10 - (Sunday School Kick-Off) Ice Cream Social, immediately after worship

September 13 –  
5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Christian Education Class  
(Sunday school)  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Study Group led by Rev. Tom

September 20 –  
5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Christian Education Class  
(Sunday school)  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Study Group led by Rev. Tom

September 24 – Mini-Missions with speaker  
Deacon Dennis Bennin (Food for the Poor)

September 27 –  
5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Christian Education Class  
(Sunday school)  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Study Group led by Rev. Tom

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## **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

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August 4 – Don & Barb Wittmann  
August 8 – Glenn & Cindy Riha  
August 8 – Lance & Lacey Kalies  
August 8 – Thomas & Elizabeth Horn  
August 9 – Jerry & Debbie Schuh  
August 12 – Joe & Sandi Barth  
August 14 – Travis & Emily Tiede  
August 20 – Andy & Dara Schuh  
August 22 – Christopher & Amanda Barth  
August 31 – Bill & Jessie Saenger  
August 31 – Ron & Sandy Kuchenbecker

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## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

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August 1 – Karen Gertz  
August 1 – Tim Krahn  
August 5 – Chloe Vande Hey  
August 6 – Todd Reese  
August 6 – Liam Neuman  
August 8 – Sandy M. Kuchenbecker (Mrs. Ron)  
August 10 – Becky Fischer  
August 12 – Carol Reese  
August 15 – Baleigh Schwahn  
August 15 – Donna Poye  
August 18 – Chuck Bain  
August 18 – Cameron Reese  
August 18 – Sawyer Burich  
August 21 – Gerald Durkee  
August 23 – Lori Horn  
August 24 – Tami Sucevic  
August 25 – Karen Loose  
August 27 – Jerry Schuh  
August 28 – Debbie Schuh  
August 28 – Lillian Kuchenbecker  
August 29 – Morgan Janas  
August 30 – Glenn Riha  
August 30 – Chuck Burich

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## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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September 2 – Michael Horn  
September 6 – Emily Fischer  
September 6 – Danielle Burich  
September 7 – Emily Tiede  
September 14 – Bill Kees  
September 14 – Devon Schmitt  
September 16 – Lawrence Bohman  
September 16 – Masyn Kalies  
September 18 – Bob Ruppenthal  
September 20 – Ann Vande Hey  
September 21 – Alex Cooney  
September 21 – Nick Loose  
September 22 – Sophia Krahn  
September 22 – Vivian Sucevic  
September 24 – Laurie Sommers  
September 25 – Sandy Meyer  
September 26 – Landon Schuh  
September 27 – Gabrielle Barth

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## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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September 3 – Steve & Karla Miller

September 6 – Brian & JoLynn Schuh

September 18 – Duane & Karen Loose

September 19 – Bob & Carol Lowe

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## JUST RECEIVED WORD! WE WELCOME A NEW LITTLE ONE!

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We would like to welcome into the world Mateo Raymar Tiede, the son of Emily (Kees) and Travis Tiede. Mateo was born on Thursday, July 20, 2017. He weighed in at 7 lbs, 4 oz. We would also like to congratulate Bill & Margo Kees on becoming proud grandparents.

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## MISSION AND OUTREACH

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While we are enjoying time away from hectic routines and finding ways to relax and drink in our short season of summer, your church remained plugged into ways to spread God's word and reach out to those in need. It seems impossible that August is almost half over and we need to be looking ahead to fall, winter and long-range projects BUT we must!

**Dates to Remember:** September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mini Missions collection will kick off the building of a home in Haiti and Deacon Dennis Bennin will be speaking on behalf of Food For The Poor who will facilitate the construction.

**Mini Missions:** Your monthly Mini Missions took a summer break, but not before collecting a record breaking amount of \$183.52 in coin and bills, with an additional \$200 in checks. The grand total of \$383.52 was matched by the Missions and Outreach and also the Garden Committee so each of the three Relay for Life teams from Peace received this amount. Endowment also donated \$1,000 towards this worthy cause – so combining Mini Missions, additional donations after that Sunday, and Endowment's gift the three teams each received \$726.85! What a beautiful way for our church to

rally behind the American Cancer Society's efforts in finding a cure for cancer and also attending to those fighting or have fought their battle with this disease.

September's Mini Missions will be Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be the official kick off of our "Building A House in Haiti Project." Deacon Dennis Bennin will be speaking on behalf of Food For The Poor and give details on the construction of the home.

If you have ideas for future Mini Missions, please pass them to any Mission and Outreach Committee member: Barb Wittmann, Laurie Sommers, Stacey Barth, JoLynn Schuh or Carol Lowe.

**Back to School Project:** The first delivery to Patches of your Back to School supplies was done on August 8<sup>th</sup> and additional trips will be made as items come into the church. A special thank you to those that have made the first day of school a special event for students by providing them with new backpacks and school supplies.

Items always in demand are: spiral notebooks (wide line), crayons, colored markers, pencils, calculators, black pens, erasers and backpacks.

**Please remember:** Our church collects school supplies throughout the entire year which allows us to pick up items when they are cleared out - we are all for saving money!

**Annual Sales Update:** Once again your church opened our doors and grounds to three days of opportunities to raise money for Missions Projects, but more importantly to give people the opportunity to see our facilities, be greeted by members and friends of Peace so they get acquainted with us and to offer a view of what we have to offer potential new members. The Rummage Sale generated \$904.68 - this could not have been possible without your donations and hard work. The Brat Fry brought in an additional \$354.25 after expenses. These two amounts will be the foundation of the new home we will be building in Haiti thru Food For The Poor.

The Perennial Sale generated \$3,017.21 after expenses and is used for many different Mission Projects. The first \$1,000 was given to Paul Mullet for his continued therapy after an accident, with other monies designated for church water bills, Christmas Love Baskets, and other local and global projects. These are YOUR mission and outreach projects and only happen because YOU are involved with generous hearts and willing hands.

**Building House in Haiti:** As we snuggle under our soft, warm covers at night we are conscious there are others that have nowhere to even call home, more or less have covers on a bed. You wonder how just one person could tackle such a huge problem, but you can make a difference by joining together to build a home in Haiti for a family that perhaps will receive their very first safe dwelling. We have been involved with Food For The Poor in the past, completing several projects and even an entire home in 2010. It's time that we reach out and share our resources again and as a church give a gift of a home to a family very much in need.

On September 24th we have the honor of having Deacon Dennis Bennin speaking on behalf of Food For The Poor at our service. Deacon Bennin will share personal witness about Food For The Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love and care for one another. He will speak on how the project provides direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Be sure and join us on Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> as we welcome Deacon Bennin and hear his inspirational words of how we can accomplish great things.

**New Picnic Table:** On our beautiful grounds and gardens stood an old, well used and weather beaten picnic table – it whispered "Take time to rest upon my benches."

But the members of the church screamed "oh please don't do that – the boards are rotten and will not safely hold even a child's weight." Well, a wonderful craftsman named Dean Schmitt noticed our problem and built us a beautiful new picnic table – one that will surely hold an entire family! A truly deep appreciation to Dean and Diana Schmitt for this grand gift – thank you! Take time to sit upon the benches and rest.

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## STEWARDSHIP

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Please take a moment and fill out the 2018 Stewardship Commitment Form. We are asking all members to prayerfully consider how they can serve their congregation in 2018. We welcome back all forms anytime between now and Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, which is dedication Sunday.



