

A Miracle in 2016!

I'll never forget the class! It was a course on Egyptian history, relating to the Old Testament. The instructor was an expert in this field. He was tough and demanding. (I managed a "C" for my final grade.) He expected excellence from his students. He was also the type of professor who considered himself very enlightened in the ways of truth and very eager to show this enlightenment to members of his class.

One day we had a most "enlightened" lecture on Moses, the parting of the Red Sea, and the destruction of Pharaoh and his army. Our progressive professor informed us he was going to open our eyes to the "reality" of miracles in the Bible.

"It can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown that the Red Sea in that area was only 10-inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across."

Members of the class sat quietly – absorbing this new information. Then, one young man raised his hand and declared: "Wow!" "God is greater than I thought! Not only did He lead the whole nation of Israel through the Red Sea, He topped it off by drowning the whole Egyptian army in 10-inches of water!"

As we begin a new year of ministry in Dearborn, some of us may be wondering about the future of our church. After all, we are a small congregation with limited funds. And many "experts" in the field of church growth are forecasting a continuing trend of change and downsizing. A few are even suggesting that the Christian church is either dying or dead!

Despite all the gloom-and-doom, I am firmly convinced that we have a future and there is a reason to be hopeful! Why would God, after all, these years of blessing Dearborn Congregational, suddenly abandon his church? And it is his church – we belong to Jesus Christ. He knows what he's doing. And this includes an occasional miracle!

Would he give our church a miracle? Would we realize an answer to prayer? Would the "seas" part as we prepare for another year of ministry?

The task ahead is a difficult one. Our many projects in 2016 will demand that we continue with a great faith and hard work. But if we "keep on keeping on" and we pray and we work and worship as a Christian family, there will be songs of praise to God for our miracle!

I'm praying for 2016 and for the mighty hand of God to move! I believe in our own miracle and I sure wish my professor could be here to witness what only God can do!

Pastor Bill

Messages from the Diaconate

"Taking Down the Greens": On Sunday, Jan. 3, we kindly ask anyone who's able to please pitch in and help take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and the Mayflower Room following the service and fellowship. The un-decorating shouldn't take that long with enough helpers. Many hands make light work!

Volunteers in January: We need people to serve on Sundays. If you are able and available to lend a hand as an usher, liturgist, or fellowship host, please see Sue Wilson or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Mayflower Room. Thank you!

Pizza & Game Night -Jan. 28: Be sure to get in on the fun on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 6:30 pm - the time of our 2nd annual "Pizza & Game Night!"

Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite board or card game and the congregation will split up in groups to engage in friendly competition in the Mayflower Room. Snacks and refreshments, including coffee, will be served. Hope to see you there!

Altar Flowers Sign-Up: There is a new altar flowers calendar for 2016 in the sanctuary on the bulletin board to the left as you enter. If you wish to dedicate flowers in memory of a loved one, simply put your name and dedication next to the Sunday of your choice, if that date is available. You may also call the church office or send the secretary an e-mail at dccucc@gmail.com to make a request. The cost to purchase altar flowers for a Sunday service is \$15. Payment can be put in an offering envelope and marked "altar flowers". Also, please pay in advance.

Member News

Valerie Haas and Cole Haas are featured in the cast of *Cheaper by the Dozen* at the Players Guild of Dearborn. The show opens January 8th and runs for three weekends. Come and see the antics of the Gilbreth family as Mr. Gilbreth tries to impress upon his 12 kids the importance of efficiency through motion study. Tickets are available on the website: playersguildofdearborn.org Or by calling 313-561-TKTS



Treasurer's Report for November 2015

Income- \$11,087.19
Expenses- \$9,840.72

Capital Improvement Fund - \$11,292.26
Investments with UBS valued at \$202,026.97

\$4,980.00 was transferred out of UBS Investments to meet expenses

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

Annual Congregational Meeting Meeting

Our by-laws call for a single Annual Meeting to be held yearly in January. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 24th, 2016. We are asking for approval of the 2016 Budget, as well as elections of boards and committee members. Copies of the proposed budget are available in the Church office and at the rear of the Chapel.

A reminder to all Boards and Committees that an annual report of the past year's activities needs to be in the Church office in time to be printed before the Annual Meeting. With this in mind, please make sure your report is delivered, either through email or as a hard copy, to the office by January 19th.

Arnie Schilbe
Chair of the Board of Trustees

OUR CHURCH AT WORK In January



Helpers for Sunday Services

Greeters:

January 3 – Ian Haas
January 10 – Ian Haas
January 17 – Ian Haas
January 24 – Ian Haas
January 31 – Ian Haas

Ushers:

January 3 –
January 10 – Available
January 17 – Available
January 24 – Available
January 31— Available

Liturgists:

January 3 – John Peters
January 10 – Available
January 17 – Available
January 24 – Available
January 31— Available

PRAYER LIST



| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bernice Hartling | Medical Concerns |
| Shirley Fedraw | Medical Concerns |
| Bunny Hoganson | Medical Concerns |
| Geri Sampson | Medical Concerns |
| Suzanne Van Ranst | Medical Concerns |
| Dotty Klein | Medical Concerns |
| R. Ferguson Family | Healing, spiritual guidance |
| Gordon Grozdanoff | Medical Concerns |
| Arline Prois | Medical Concerns |
| Pauline Gourlay | Medical Concerns |
| Barbara Allen | Medical Concerns |
| James Shippee | Medical Concerns |
| Colleen Grozdanoff | Medical Concerns |
| Family of David MacKenzie | Bereavement |
| Family of Larry Jabtecki | Bereavement |

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Toni Boyd
8 Linda Haling
10 Patricia Mangrum
11 Linda Berndt
27 Cole Haas
30 Marilyn Beardsley

Dedication of Flowers - January

January 3 – Available
January 10 – Haling Family
January 17 – Richard Bolton
January 24 – Available
January 31— Available

Fellowship Hour – January

January 3 – Marilyn Beardsley
January 10 – Available
January 17 – Available
January 24 – Available
January 31— Available

Dates to Remember:

January 3 Taking down the greens—after worship service
January 13 Trustees Meeting 7pm
January 14 Diaconate Meeting 7pm
January 24 Annual Meeting after worship service

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

It's a brand new year! Clean slate...fresh start...all those clichés. My year is most definitely going to improve. Last month, December 6th to be exact, I did a nose dive in the church parking lot. My secret crush gave me a hug, and literally swept me off my feet! (Ladies...be cautious around Jim Haling....I'm just sayin')

By the time Pete turned around, I had a sprained ankle, bruised nose, skinned knees, and a broken wrist. I will be wearing a fashionable purple cast on my right arm throughout January. That's right....My RIGHT arm, my dominant arm.

Minor detail...until I tried to butter toast, dice onions for dinner, brush my teeth, comb my hair, make the bed, get dressed, put my bra on, (front closure helped solve that one), I didn't realize how dominant that hand was. And I am rather proud of my efficient use of toilet tissue. Too much information, I know, but try using your left hand, only your left hand, and you'll soon understand my enthusiasm.

On the plus side, Pete has been a blessing. He has pitched in and is really trying. BUT....it's going to be a long six weeks! Really long. That's my BINGO hand.

He always asks, "You need a hand?"

Funny the first 50 times; not so much anymore. And, believe it or not, he doesn't get the irony in that stupid question.

Emptying the dishwasher has evolved into a major event. "Honey, where does this go?" I bite my tongue; I really want to tell him where to put that spatula.

Needless to say, there were no Christmas cards sent from the Stacho household this year. So I'm taking this opportunity to wish all of you a blessed Holiday. (Better late than never.) I thank all of you for the cards, prayers, and kind words. February will be a better month. I'm looking forward to getting this hunk of plaster off my wrist. Until then, watch your step...I'm just sayin'...



(Feel better soon, Pat!)