



In 1961, meteorologist Edward Lorenz entered a microscopically different value into his computer model: .506 rather than .506127. He discovered that it had drastically altered the results of his weather prediction. His subsequent paper titled, "*Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?*" officially coined the term "the butterfly effect." The theory is that small events can have significant consequences.

Rather than come up with a list of New Year resolutions, I've decided I'll keep my focus on the day-to-day events of the pastorate. Many times, they are the small events. Events that seem insignificant – but may well lead to significant consequences.

A kind word.

A sympathetic nod.

A simple prayer.

A hug or warm embrace.

An act of volunteerism that goes unnoticed.

These small, Christian actions can have significant consequences in Kingdom Work. I wonder if this is what Jesus had in mind when he said to his disciples: "*Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones.*" (Luke 16:9-10)

Commenting on this passage, one Biblical scholar noted that this is a simple parable of Christian prudence or good sense, that even the simplest of events (like the flap of a butterfly's wing) can result in an amazing outcome – changes and transformations that will glorify God and benefit His Kingdom. We may not see immediate results – but we pray that God will use our small contributions for His glory.

In 2017 I will strive my best to be faithful in the little, insignificant things, and remain diligent in the big projects!

Praying for a very happy and prosperous New Year at Dearborn Congregational Church!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Pastor Bill

## **Messages from the Diaconate**

**January 8 – Taking Down the Greens:** Please plan to help us take down the Christmas tree, the greens in the chandeliers, and store away the decorations for another year.

**Volunteers for Sundays in January:** Please see Cheryl Brown and let her know when you can serve as usher, liturgist, or fellowship host or just add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Mayflower Room. It's just that easy. Thank you for your support.

**Healing Service:** On Sunday, January 8, 2017, during our Morning Worship Service, there will be a Healing Service. At the appointed time, Pastor Kren will invite anyone who would like a special prayer for healing, to meet him at the front of the Church. They will receive anointing oil and prayer and then return to their pew. The oil is an important symbol God gives us, but no special powers are transferred – prayer to God is what is special and powerful. It is sincere prayers which God hears and responds to. Please be in prayer, leading up to this special service.

**The Lennon Pregnancy Center:** On Sunday, January 29, 2017, Katherine Lennon, Director of the Lennon Pregnancy Center, will be our special guest during the Morning Worship Service. She will give a brief presentation during the Announcements portion of the service, on the work of the Center.

The Lennon Pregnancy Center is an organization meeting the diverse needs of people who face unplanned pregnancies. They offer resources for pregnancy and parenting and unconditional counseling and support. Their mission is to enable parents to choose life for their unborn children and to raise their children in loving families.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** Church by-laws call for a single Annual Meeting to be held in January each year.

Our next Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2017, in the Mayflower Room immediately following the regular worship service. **ALL MEMBERS SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING!** We'll be asking for approval of the 2017 Budget, as well as nominations and electing Board and Committee members. Major issues affecting the congregation will also be addressed. Copies of the proposed budget are available in the church office and on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary. Reminder to all Board and Committee chairpersons: 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 e-mail or as a hard copy, to the office by Friday, January 13th. They can be placed in the Secretary's mailbox.

**NOTICE: Counters Needed!** - Dearborn Congregational Church is looking for one or two people willing to count and to record the Sunday morning offering after the service is over. The role of Counter is a very important role in the church. We have an immediate need for a backup to our regular Counters or, ideally, two people who would be willing to rotate with our other "counter teams" on a monthly basis. Expert instruction will be provided. If interested, please see either Jim Haling (e-mail: [jh12253@peoplepc.com](mailto:jh12253@peoplepc.com)) or contact John Peters, Moderator, by phone: (313) 495- 1871 or email: [joopett13@hotmail.com](mailto:joopett13@hotmail.com) Thank you for serving the Lord!

**Fish & Loaves Food Pantry** -We encourage ALL members and friends to donate non-perishable food items to our collection baskets in the church sanctuary. The Diaconate recently voted that all of our future donations be delivered to the Fish & Loaves food pantry in Taylor. This organization was first launched by an ecumenical group of churches, led by St. Paul United Church of Christ in Taylor and their Pastor, Rev. Geoff Drutchas. As a client-choice facility, Fish & Loaves allows families and individuals to shop every eight weeks in an attractive setting organized like a grocery store. A wide range of canned goods, refrigerated and frozen foods, dairy products, and seasonal produce are offered at no cost to clients. This client-choice model affirms the dignity of the families and individuals served. Since opening its doors in 2008, the Fish & Loaves Pantry has assisted more than 9100 households and over 13,000 men, women, and children. They distribute over two million pounds of food annually.



## **Treasurer's Report for November 2016**

Income- \$7,261.00

Expenses- \$10,002.75

Capital Improvement Fund - \$12,539.66

Investments with UBS valued at \$123,933.18

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



## I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2017...once again the promise of a better year. I for one, continue to believe that. Did you make your annual resolutions?

Well, cancel them. I suggest that, this year, we make New Year's Gratitude Statements. Only we don't write all the statements at once.

You know that brand new calendar we all get? Before you set it on your desk, hang it on your kitchen wall, or wherever you put it...Mark each page, the first of EVERY month with a heart. (yes, a ♥ as sappy as it sounds. Stay with me...)

Now, every month when you flip the page and see that heart, I want you to write something you're grateful for. No more fretting over breaking a resolution. See how this works? No stress in 2017...just gratitude.

It'll be much easier than getting stressed about those ten pounds you resolved to lose, if you're grateful you don't have twenty pounds to lose.

I will admit some days are a real challenge. I have a list of suggestions for you. Keep it handy, just in case:

\*Be grateful your family has never been on Jerry Springer. (If they have, be grateful not many people know.)

\*Be grateful you are healthy. I know most of us have aches, pains, all

sorts of health issues, but we're still healthy. If you're blessed with minor issues, be grateful! (And take the time to pray for those who are not!)

\*Be grateful we don't have to deal with political debates for at least four years. Regardless of your views of the outcome, let's be grateful it's over!

\*Be grateful your children are going through the same things with their children that we did! (Told you...hahaha)

\*Ladies, be grateful for knee-highs, rotisserie chicken, and an occasional valium.

\*Men, be grateful your wife has an occasional valium.

You all know that saying, "When life hands you lemons, etc..." Who says we have to settle with lemonade? There's also lemon meringue pie! We need to be good to ourselves, and then pass it on. Gratitude attitude.

There are going to be days when we have to dig deep to find that feeling of gratitude. But dig! Is your cable working? Still got running water, inside toilet, heat, refrigerators with food inside?

See how easy this is going to be?

I'm grateful you took the time to read this! I'm just sayin' ...

Happy New Year!