

## Quick! Gimme Some Patience!

This morning, in my e-mail “In Basket” – a tempting offer! Normally, I just delete things from Groupon.com without opening. But this had my attention: “National Burger Day Deals!” I love a good burger. Not the McDonald, Burger King variety – I’m talking GOOD. Hot off the grill, juicy, with lettuce, tomato, Juneo, onion and mustard. I’m talking fresh ground beef on a soft, sesame seed bun. My mouth was watering as I opened the e-mail.

So what pops up? An advertisement to purchase a 20-Piece Stainless Steel BBQ Tool Set. I don’t want to order and wait for a tool set, and then fire up the grill, cook up some ground beef and .... you get the picture. I thought I was getting a coupon for dollars off at some great burger place. I thought “INSTANT GRATIFICATION” when all along Groupon.com was offering “PAY AND WAIT!”

We humans are hardwired for instant gratification. We are a society of “I want it – and I want it NOW!” It’s a powerful force that drives us to experience pleasure, fulfillment, and even a good tasting burger – without delay. And it’s affecting us in the work of the church.

It’s no secret that the Christian church is in decline. A recent Gallup poll revealed that less than 20% of Americans regularly attend church! Mainline denominations are reporting a significant decline in their numbers. Small churches are merging. Many are closing their doors. So in a desperate attempt to reverse the trend – pastors are attending workshops on Church growth, buying the latest books on how to turn things around, purchasing and employing gimmicks in an effort to attract visitors. They focus on a one-time instant cure for church growth ... and rarely does it work. So they give up and close up. I believe there is a process in church growth. It’s one of working, praying, trusting AND waiting. The Psalmist encourages believers to “Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.” (Psalm 27:14 NLT) This is not an easy assignment. Waiting for God tests our patience. Waiting for God when we want immediate results can lead to doubt. We June think that God has let us down! But waiting, working, praying, reaching out and trusting in His faithfulness, is what we must do. Waiting can transform us into a people of growing faith and the end results can be that the Church continues on in ministry. Doors do not close. Growth is experienced. Faith is triumphant!

I guess I’m writing all this to give me encouragement in ministry. I’ve battled the temptation to employ an instant-gratification gimmick. When you are the pastor of a small, struggling church, you want to contribute for positive change. And at Dearborn Congregational we are a hard working group with dwindling resources. Our financial obligations are large and our weekly offering is small. Where once we had two services and the sanctuary was full – now our Sunday Worship attendance is down and empty seats are everywhere. Lord – help us to remain positive and focused! Remind us that You are interested in stretching our faith, developing our patience and building Your church in Dearborn, Michigan!

*Pastor Bill*

## Messages from the Diaconate

**Outdoor Service -this Sunday, May 31!** Come and join us as we gather OUTSIDE for worship service this Sunday! Weather permitting, chairs will be set up on the lawn, Pastor Kren will preach from a podium, a makeshift altar will be erected, and Brian will play the piano as the congregation sings from the hymnals.

Afterwards, hot dogs will be grilled under a tent and we'll enjoy a picnic lunch - 'potluck' style.

Please bring a dish to pass! Hope to see you all there!

**Volunteers in June:** The Diaconate respectfully asks you to consider serving as an usher, liturgist, or fellowship host on one or more Sundays. If you can help out, please sign the sheet in the Mayflower Room or see Cheryl Brown. Your volunteering is deeply appreciated!

**Father's Day -June 21:** We are planning to give away something special again this year to the men of the church in honor of all the fathers in our church family, so mark your calendars and be sure to come and worship with us on Father's Day.

**Detroit Churches Tour - June 26:** Save the date and join us for a morning of fun and history as we embark on our 4th annual Tour of Detroit Churches on Friday, June 26. (Note the day of the week is Friday, NOT Saturday!)

Arrangements have been made with 2 Detroit Catholic churches -St. Anne's, the oldest church in the city established in 1701, and the Cathedral of St. Paul on Woodward & Warren.

Each tour will be docent-led and focus on architectural and interior details as well as noteworthy events and key leaders in each church's past. There is no admission for the tour, but a Free Will offering of \$3.00 per church is suggested. The first tour begins at 9 am and the second one at 10 am. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 am and drive down to St. Anne's together. Carpooling is encouraged, as we've done in the past. In addition, we invite

everyone attending to eat lunch at the Traffic Jam restaurant near the Wayne State campus afterwards. The entire outing should last until about noon.

**'One Great Hour of Sharing' Result:** Thanks to the generosity of our members, we raised \$230 for the 'One Great Hour of Sharing' mission offering in March.



## Treasurer's Report for April 2015

Income- \$6,298.31

Expenses- \$10,314.07

Capital Improvement Fund - \$12,084.55

Investments with UBS valued at \$239,734.23

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

### **A Note of Thanks**

I shall never find enough words to tell you how much I appreciate all the loving gifts of food and cards, and even English newspapers, that were showered upon me during my recent illness. The loving kindness I received from members of our congregation is something never to be forgotten.

Thank you, all of you. It's so good to be back!

~~ Irene Moxon

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK

### In June

#### Helpers for Sunday Services

##### Greeters:

June 7 – Ian Haas  
 June 14 – Ian Haas  
 June 21 – Ian Haas  
 June 28 – Ian Haas

##### Ushers:

June 7 – Available  
 June 14 – Available  
 June 21 – Available  
 June 28 – Available

##### Liturgists:

June 7 – Marge Manspeaker  
 June 14 – Valerie Haas  
 June 21 – Available  
 June 28 – 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
Sean Goldie	Medical Concerns
Daniel Less	Medical Concerns
Irene Moxon	Medical Concerns
Gordon Grozdanoff	Medical Concerns
Arline Prois	Medical Concerns
John Adams	Medical Concerns
David MacKenzie	Medical Concerns



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Keith Meadows  
Kevin Schilbe
- 3 Dr. Alice Lindsey
- 9 Robin Hansen
- 11 Andrea Schilbe
- 16 Gordon Grozdanoff
- 24 Carol Labonowski

## Dedication of Flowers - June

- June 7 – Schilbe Family
- June 14 – Available
- June 21 – Mark & Susan Dobronski
- June 28 – Available

## Fellowship Hour – June

- June 7 – Available
- June 14 – Available
- June 21 – Available
- June 28 – Available

## DATES TO REMEMBER...

- |      |    |                   |     |
|------|----|-------------------|-----|
| June | 10 | Trustees Meeting  | 7pm |
| June | 11 | Diaconate Meeting | 7pm |

## I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

This month's article is a departure from the norm. The original thought for this column was to interview members once a month. There must be some fascinating stories we do not know about. However, response was not forthcoming. Thus, "I'm Just Sayin'" was the alternative.

I am pleased to announce, after threats, pleading, and repeating threats and pleading, I got some feedback. I asked the men what we would be surprised to learn about them. Rather dangerous ground, don't you think?

So, in honor of Father's Day, here we go!

My first responder was JOHN PETERS. John has traveled across 4 states: Missouri, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Michigan. The amazing thing is that John never ran out of gas! Did I mention John biked across those 4 states, camping in tents along the way? Way to go, John.

MATT HALING taught himself how to use a sewing machine, and sews on occasion. I June ask for lessons, Matt.

MAC McADAM, a man of few words to be sure, surprised me with his response. I was rather shocked that Mac kept a 12 gauge shotgun in his locker in high school! Curious? Personally, I found his answer so eloquent, and interesting, I made copies to share. Pick one up at the table in the back of the sanctuary. Shotguns in lockers, is just a sampling of his answer. You won't be disappointed.

PASTOR KREN spoke of his mother, a great cook...but not so much a baker! As a young boy of 10 he innocently asked her to bake him a homemade apple pie. Mrs Kren's answer was

for him to learn how to bake one. (God bless you, Mrs Kren. I love your spunk.) Pastor claims he can bake a pie better than Grand Traverse Pie Company! I say...prove it.

JIM HALING, dear, sweet, dependable Jim Haling. Perhaps the most shocking confession I received. Jim always knew he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. Frank was a mechanical engineer, and a good one! As a young boy of 12 or 13, Jim knew that's what he wanted to do. Why, oh why then, did he drop out of engineering school half-way through? To start his own business repairing cars and restoring classic vehicles!! Frank must have been so pleased. Luckily, Jim had that "V-8 moment" within a year. Steady paychecks seemed more important.

RUFUS BEARDSLEY. Need I say more? Rufus declined my request. It June have something to do with the statute of limitations, I'm not sure.

PETE STACHO. I could share any number of things, but I had better not. I will tell you that when he was in the USAF, stationed at St Anthony Radar Site in Newfoundland, he was a disc jockey....spinning sounds, chatting to anyone within hearing distance. (About 115 captive airmen.) PS in the PM. My hero!!

Thanks for making this easy for me, gentlemen. Happy Father's Day. See you next month.

