

Lessons From a Commercial



Have you seen the new Lincoln commercial starring Matthew McConaughey? The actor is promoting Lincoln's new MKX crossover SUV – without saying a word! Apparently the producers felt that McConaughey's aura, accompanied by smooth jazz and flashy clothes would tell the story. I'll admit, this is an especially effective 30-second commercial. You aren't distracted by mumbled words or obnoxious hype. Just a simple story ANYONE can follow and understand. As a result, people are talking and sales are up!

Memo to the Church: What do people see in our membership? What silent message do we convey to those who know little about Dearborn Congregational Church? Is our brand of Christianity attractive?

Not long ago I was having lunch in a local restaurant. At a nearby table, a young man sat quietly reading his Bible. Occasionally, he would take a sip of his coffee and then pause to reflect on something he had read. It was a quiet and yet powerful witness. He was not ashamed of his faith in Christ. He was willing to be identified as a Christian.

In our efforts to invite friends to church or simply share our faith, are we sometimes guilty of mumbled words or obnoxious hype? I'm not suggesting that words aren't necessary for sharing the message of Jesus. But we can learn from a commercial – or even from a stranger in a restaurant: Our everyday actions will speak loudly. Do they reveal our love of the Savior? A quiet witness can reinforce our spoken words and convey the faith we have in the living God.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:9 NLT

- *Pastor Bill Kren*

Messages from the Diaconate

UCC Offering for "Neighbors In Need": Next Sunday, Oct. 4 is the official offering date for our annual UCC mission called *Neighbors In Need*. Special envelopes can be found in the pews. When you give to this cause, you support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. The 2015 NIN theme is "Unexpected Places" which connects to the work of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) to address centuries of injustice to tribes and Native American nations in North America. Please consider a donation today!

VIP Sunday: "A Tribute to Irene" -October 18:

Be sure to join us for a very special Sunday as we sing the praises of one of our most cherished and longest-serving members. Our guest of honor will be Irene Moxon who, among her many roles through the years, was head of Christian Education and Sunday School when the church was formerly Greenfield Congregational. Music director Brian Sampson will officiate the tribute and highlight Irene's accomplishments and impact she's had serving God and the place she's called "sanctuary" for over 50 years. It's a Sunday service you won't want to miss!

"Noisy Offering" -Sunday, Oct. 25: Make a child's day and give from the heart by dropping all of your loose change into metal cans passed around by the youth in attendance during worship service on the last Sunday of October. Our annual 'noisy offering' goes to support UNICEF and its many causes worldwide on behalf of children in need. So remember to fill your pockets with coins for the service on Oct. 25 and make it a 'loud' affair!

Volunteers on Sunday: We need people to help during worship service on Sundays in October. If you are able and available to lend a hand as an usher, liturgist, or fellowship host, please see Cheryl Brown or sign the volunteer sheet just inside the entrance to the Mayflower Room. Thank you!



Treasurer's Report for August 2015

Income- \$4,399.00
Expenses- \$19,026.83

Capital Improvement Fund - \$11,267.26
Investments with UBS valued at \$207,342.79

\$5000.00 was transferred out of UBS Investments to meet expenses

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

News and Updates

It's Finally Here!!!



Rummage & Bake Sale

The Annual Women's Fellowship Rummage & Bake Sale will take place THIS weekend—Friday, October 2nd from 9am to 5pm and Saturday, October 3rd from 9 am to 5pm. Please come by and do some shopping. Bring a friend! Bring two!

Bargains! Bargains!! Bargains!!!



Save the Date! Reserve a table!

Are you crafty, or have friends who are?

We will be having our 1st Craft Show on Saturday, December 5th.

Tables are \$20. Call Pat Stacho @ [313-381-1699](tel:313-381-1699) to reserve your spot.

Member News

The Miracle Worker, directed by Kirk Haas, and featuring Cole Haas, concludes its 3 weekend run this weekend at the Players Guild of Dearborn. Come see the inspiring story of Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan played out on stage. Call 313-561-TKTS for tickets. Or www.playersguildofdearborn.org

Also...just in time for Halloween... Valerie Haas is directing *The Addams Family the Musical* for the Downriver Actors Guild in Wyandotte. (Cole plays Cousin Itt in this one!) Call 734-407-7020 or go to <http://www.downriveractorsguild.net> for more information

OUR CHURCH AT WORK In October



Helpers for Sunday Services

Greeters:

- October 4 – Ian Haas
- October 11 – Ian Haas
- October 18 – Ian Haas
- October 25 – Ian Haas

Ushers:

- October 4 – Tom Brown & Ian Haas
- October 11 – Available
- October 18 – Available
- October 25 – Available

Liturgists:

- October 4 – Rufus Beardsley
- October 11 – Available
- October 18 – Available
- October 25 – 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
Gordon Grozdanoff	Medical Concerns
Arline Prois	Medical Concerns
John Adams	Medical Concerns
David MacKenzie	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
John B. Curtis	Medical Concerns

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Isabelle Hutton
- 7 Jane Haling
- 8 Pat Stacho
- 23 Arnie Schilbe
- 25 Suzanne Van Ranst
- 26 Ethan McAdam

Dedication of Flowers - October

- October 4 – Thomas Mawhinney
- October 11 – Available
- October 18 – Available
- October 25 – Available

Fellowship Hour – October

- October 4 – Available
- October 11 – Available
- October 18 – Diaconate
- October 25 – Available

DATES TO REMEMBER...

October	2-3	Rummage Sale	9-5
October	14	Trustees Meeting	7pm
October	15	Diaconate Meeting	7pm

A VIP Tribute

The choir sings a chorus often, “Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful, may the fire of our devotion light their way.” If you believe this premise, then the future of this church is secure, because we are blessed with many faithful, devoted servants who have dedicated their lives to the work of this great institution. I would like to highlight one who has sung this chorus many times, my dear friend Irene Moxon.

I cannot pen in a short article words that represent the work that she has done since she came on staff as Director of Religious Education in 1961. A big undertaking for her, because at that time there were 213 children in the Sunday school, 40



infants in cradle roll, and 22 in confirmation classes. Irene taught, went on youth group outings, picked curriculum, did teacher training, made sure all the classrooms and nursery were operational, and any other work that was not expected of her title, but the church expected her to do it because she was, “staff”. Many times the job was so demanding that it involved personal sacrifice because it took her away from her family, yet she still pressed on. In fact, she did so well with education that she was promoted in a short time to associate minister of Greenfield Congregational Church, where she was given the responsibility of filling in the pulpit for the minister when he was ill or on vacation; a role that has continued for over 50 years.

Anyone who has heard her preach has been inspired. With her English accent, she humbly delivers an eloquent sermon emphasizing one simple biblical truth. A clear, organized, concise message—a lesson many full time pastors could learn. (Present company excluded). I have heard thousands of sermons in my lifetime and Irene’s are some of the most memorable.

Irene’s resignation from the staff did not end her service. She has continued working in many roles, as Chairman of the Trustees, Chair of the Diaconate, Chair of the Music Committee, and many other official capacities too numerous to list. She has sung in the choir faithfully since I have been here and before, assisting me with the music and, most importantly, coming early and making coffee for choir rehearsal! She was enlisted as a cook by Lee Schilbe who taught her how to cook for large crowds. Together they would cook for the rummage sale crew, Palm Sunday brunch, and any other church function that required food. She continued doing so even after the death of her mentor and dear friend Lee.

And now a personal note, for over 15 years as music director here, Irene has been my go to person. She and I held the pulpit here between ministers sharing ideas and developing a program to keep the church going. All along she has offered me advice, support, been my ally (when church politics arise), my confidante, my friend and my sister in Christ. For me, and on behalf of this church, I thank her and ask God to bless her as her service continues.

~~ Brian Sampson

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

As many of you know, I have had some health issues the last few years, mainly due to advanced diabetes. My legs are the biggest problem, and I am currently enrolled in a trial program which hopefully will help with circulation and prevention of further blockage. I don't want to whine, but...

There are so many things I simply cannot do anymore. I cannot kneel to clean my bathtub or weed. I cannot climb the stairs as easily as before. I cannot clean the moulding in my kitchen.

But, on the bright side, there are even more things I don't HAVE to do. I don't have to kneel to clean the bathtub or weed. I don't have to climb the stairs to do the darn laundry. I can't even see my kitchen molding! See? Life's not so bad. I trust in God. Of course, I still lock my car.

When you think about it, it all boils down to acceptance. I may not move as fast as I used to, but I don't have to. That's one of the benefits of being my age. No hurry. Take your time. (Unless on your way to the bathroom or the doctor's office. I try to get to both places on time!)

I can no longer dance like I used to, but I make a mean meatloaf. Pete appreciates that so much more. He likes meatloaf; dancing not so much.

I cannot ice skate, jump rope, run marathons, or do the famous Rockette kick. But then, I never could. (Okay...once in a while, I may have tried

the Rockette kicking thing, in the privacy of my home.)

But I CAN be thankful for all I have. And I am! You have a choice...whine or wine. You know which one people prefer to share with you. Unless you're hanging with a bunch of whiners, you just gotta put on a smile and roll with it. God will always listen to your problems, most people don't want to hear it!

If there's one thing I'm sure of, it's that God has a sense of humor. How else can you explain life?? I've learned to never ever ask, "Really God? What next??" It'll just take it on the chin, and thank Him for going easy on me. Count your blessings too, people. I'm just sayin'...

