

A Lesson From the Parking Lot

A few weeks ago, contractors went to work repairing the church parking lot.



The deteriorating section has been in disrepair for some time. The Board of Trustees has monitored the area and, early in the year, they decided it was time to hire an expert who would fix our problem.

After soliciting bids from some contractors, one company, and their estimate bid was selected. King Kurb Asphalt Co. of Brownstown, Michigan agreed that they would cut and excavate approximately 5,400 square feet of bad asphalt and replace it with 5,400 square feet of the good stuff. It seemed like a simple job. Cut and dry. Out with the old and in with the new.

A few hours into the repairs and what we could not see with the naked eye was revealed to us when the excavator peeled back the old asphalt. And again, to the naked eye it just didn't look that bad. The expert workers discovered that the "bad" went far deeper than expected. Years of rain and melting snow and washed away the existing base, leaving a soft, spongy soil and gravel mix that had to be removed and replaced with several inches of new gravel. The added cost was staggering but necessary. And when King Kurb has completed work we will have a new section of parking lot that will serve us well! Outwardly it will look great, with new asphalt and newly painted parking lines. Inwardly, though we won't be able to see it, we will all know that the base is filled with new gravel and it will serve us well!

This process has reminded me of my ministry and my responsibilities at Dearborn Congregational Church. There are things I can do ... and things I will leave to an expert.

I have been called to faithfully preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to call the lost to His saving grace. I will prayerfully prepare sermons and teach Bible studies. I will also heed some good advice from St. Francis of Assisi, a monk who lived at the end of the 12th Century. St. Francis taught young men to ***“Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.”***

What a great reminder to us preachers that we live our faith so that seekers will follow us, as we follow Christ. And above all, knowing that ***“the human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9)*** and that man’s sin problem goes much deeper, I will call upon an expert excavator to reveal what is hidden in the heart.

When our contractor dug into the old asphalt and revealed a deeper problem of decay – the answer was to replace the old with the new ... **before** repaving the area. Paving over the “bad” and giving us something cosmetically pleasing to the eye was NOT an option!

My concern is for all members of Dearborn Congregational and their relationship with Jesus Christ. I will continue to preach and pray a gospel message, and I will ask that God’s Holy Spirit (the Holy excavator) peel back hearts and reveal a much deeper need.

Jesus promised, and He has given us ***“... another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.”*** My prayer is that God’s Holy Spirit will continue to dig and excavate the impurities that weaken ... and that He fill us with His holiness!

A parking lot project has reminded me that lessons in ministry go far beyond the seminary!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill".

Pastor Bill

Messages from the Diaconate

Pulpit Switch – October 23

Rev. Kren will be switching pulpits with Rev. Drutchas on October 23. Rev. Drutchas will here to deliver the sermon to us while Rev. Kren delivers his sermon to St. Paul in Taylor. Please be here as we welcome Rev. Drutchas back to our Sunday worship.



Treasurer's Report for August 2016

Income- \$4,969.00

Expenses- \$9,562.23

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 16,762.66

Investments with UBS valued at \$174,984.65

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

Noisy Offering – October 30

Start saving your loose change for our Noisy Offering Collection for UNICEF on October 30. This is our annual offering when we collect coins in metal buckets, so we hope to hear a lot of noise! Silent dollar bills will also be gratefully accepted.

90th Birthday Celebration – October 30

Four very special ladies have reached a milestone birthday this year – 90 years! To acknowledge this grand achievement we are taking the opportunity on October 30 to congratulate Marge Manspeaker, Irene Moxon, Edith Schwartz and Jane Haling. Plan to help us honor and celebrate these special birthdays during worship service and with cake and ice cream during Fellowship.

Volunteers for Sundays in October

Your help is needed on Sunday mornings. Don't wait to be asked. Please see Teresa Curless and let her know when you can serve as usher, liturgist, or fellowship host or even better just add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Mayflower Room. It's that easy. Thank you for your support! Your Diaconate appreciates it.

Rummage and Bake Sale,

October 7-8:



We are finally ready for our annual rummage sale! We do still need do baked goods donated for the Bake Sale.

Please bring your goodies to the kitchen on October 6th.



Happy Baking!!

OUR CHURCH AT WORK In October



Helpers for Sunday Services

Greeters:

October 2 – Ian Haas
 October 9 – Ian Haas
 October 16 – Ian Haas
 October 23 – Ian Haas
 October 30 – Ian Haas

Ushers:

October 2 – Rufus Beardsley & Pete Stacho
 October 9 – Available
 October 16 – Available
 October 23 – Available
 October 30 – Ian Haas & Cole Haas

Liturgists:

October 2 – Fred Michales
 October 9 – Available
 October 16 – Available
 October 23 – Valerie Haas
 October 30 – Available

PRAYER LIST



| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bernice Hartling | Medical Concerns |
| Shirley Fedraw | 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 |
| Colleen Grozdanoff | Medical Concerns |
| Annika Koch | Medical Concerns |
| John Langley | Medical Concerns |
| Kathy Gideon | Medical Concerns |
| Cathy MacKenzie | Medical Concerns |
| Mary Ellen Matchynski | Medical Concerns |
| Family of Wayne Boyd | Bereavement |

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Isabelle Hutton
 3 Jay Carter
 3 Ray Carter
 7 Jane Haling
 8 Pat Stacho
 23 Arnie Schilbe
 25 Suzanne Van Ranst
 26 Ethan McAdam

Dedication of Flowers - October

October 2 – John Peters
 October 9 – Haling Family
 October 16 – Available
 October 23 – Available
 October 30 – Available

Fellowship Hour – October

October 2 – Diaconate
 October 9 – Diaconate
 October 16 – Available
 October 23 – Available
 October 30 – Available

Dates to Remember:

October 7 & 8 Rummage & Bake Sale 9am-5pm
 October 12 Trustees Meeting 7pm
 October 13 Diaconate Meeting 7pm
 October 23 Guest Minister: Rev. Geoff Drutchas
 October 30 Noisy Offering for UNICEF

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IS IN
HOT WATER !!

Really. We have hot water in the kitchen. HOORAY!

No more boiling water to clean up after fellowship or special events. Pastor Kren no longer risks illness from drinking his morning coffee in an unwashed cup. (Although, I am sure, he rinsed it out.) It'll be good to have hot water to do so. Nancy's hot water for Sunday tea will be much quicker. I invite you all to stop by and check it out. Be careful, remember, we now have HOT water. And you are certainly free to clean up at any time.

A new hot water tank....a simple thing to be sure. But what a blessing. A minor miracle....but it's our miracle. Think of all the simple things we take for granted. Sliced bread....there's something we take for granted. Slap on some Oscar Mayer bologna and mayo...yes sir, that's lunch!

There are lots of things we have to make life easier: stoves with ovens & microwaves, refrigerators, icemakers, vacuum cleaners, washers & dryers. Of course, men take all that for granted, too! They take for granted that WE will use them!

The truth is, our little hot water tank has taught me a lesson. Be grateful for the little things. A shower that stays the

right temperature for your entire shower. TV that has different channels, and an off switch. A cookie jar to fill, and someone to share your cookies with. (It's ok to hide the good ones.) A church family who cares about each other, and a Pastor who cares about all of us. That's a big thing!

When Brian plays the piano on Sunday, and we sing together, it's not such a little thing, is it? We all have so many "little" things we can be grateful for, we just have to take a deep breath to remember. Oh, and pizza....don't forget pizza!

So, speaking on the behalf of WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, we're happy to be in hot water with you! Stay tuned for future miracles...I'm just sayin'...





Don't forget to save your loose change for our Noisy Offering. On October 30th, we will have a special offering for UNICEF in the form of coins collected in metal buckets. The money goes to support UNICEF-the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. The noise of the offering is joyous, but we will also gladly accept the quieter paper money ☺

