

“See then that you walk circumspectly [using good judgment], not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time ...” (Eph. 5:15-16a NKJV)



Not a day goes by and I don't hear myself saying, or at least thinking, "I wish I had more time." The role of a pastor is one of facing deadlines. It seems like I'm incessantly trying to calculate driving times so that I'm not late for a meeting. At home I find myself carrying out personal routines and meeting self-imposed deadlines. In my office I have a large "2014 Yearly Planner." It is a constant reminder of what I need to do – plan to do – and wish I had done!

Can you relate? Has modern living enslaved you to time? Do you feel you have lost real freedom to care for your family, your Church and your own personal needs? In an attempt to ease the stress of modern day work, I propose three venues in creating time.

First, create some relaxing time. If you must – pencil it in on your "Daily Planner" as "*Relax Day!*" My scheduled day off from the office and my professional duties is Saturday. This is my freedom from the weekday work routine. It is my duty to ritualize this day as a day of relaxation - unless I'm traveling to that next appointment!

Lee Iacocca once said: "If you want to make good use of your time, you've got to know what's most important and then give it all you've got." Why not "*give it all you've got*" on your "*Relax Day*" off? Find a quiet place where you can unwind, reflect on God and rejoice in His salvation?

Second, you must create sacred time. These are moments between workday meetings, scheduled appointments and the structured time of professional work when you pause to enjoy God's presence. It may be a few seconds before opening a door and entering a meeting. While your hand is on the doorknob, close your eyes and take a deep breath. Tap into the divine-human relationship. In these moments of embracing your Creator, recognize God's blessings and grace.

Third, you can create time in your community and outside of your professional circle. This will help you see the unfolding nature of life in a new way. Life unfolds moment by moment and affords you wonderful opportunities to discover the stories of others, imagine yourself in the shoes of someone else and to learn that the other story is surprisingly similar to your own.

This month I volunteered to host a meeting of ministers who represent congregations in Dearborn and who are outside of my professional circle. Looking at my calendar, I am now wondering why I made this commitment. I've got so many projects and appointments and obligations. I suspect that this will be an invigorating experience that not only will help me to value my time, but also to realize that I am not alone in my struggles with this thing of *redeeming the time...*"

Returning to that verse from Ephesians, it ends with this thought: "*...redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*" John Wesley wrote that we Christians should be "*Buying every possible moment out of the hands of sin and Satan.*"

This is Christian time management. This is redeeming the time!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Bill

Messages from the Diaconate

UCC Offering for "Neighbors In Need": Sunday, Oct. 5 is the official date of our annual UCC mission offering for *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. In 2014, the focus is on improving literacy and basic reading skills through an all-church initiative called "Reading Changes Lives". Please consider a donation today!

"Noisy Offering" on Sunday, Oct. 26: 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. 26 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 Sue Wilson or sign the sheet in the Mayflower Room. Thank you!

Sad News

We are saddened by the passing of Ellis W. Mangrum, husband of Pat Mangrum, father of Valerie Haas, and grandfather of Ian and Cole Haas. He passed away on September 13th. The family returned to his hometown of Kosciusko, Mississippi for his funeral and burial.

The family wishes to thank everyone from Dearborn Congregational Church for their support, their love, and their thoughts and prayers.



Book Club

The Book Club is reading *Sing for Home*, by Jodi Picoult. The next Book Club meeting will be October 13th.



Rummage & Bake Sale

The Annual Women's Fellowship Rummage & Bake Sale will take place THIS weekend—Friday, October 3rd from 9am to 5pm and Saturday, October 4th from 9 am to 5pm. Please come by and do some shopping. Bring a friend! Bring two!

Bargains! Bargains!! Bargains!!!



OUR CHURCH AT WORK In October

Helpers for Sunday Services

Greeters:

October 5 – Ian Haas
October 12 – Ian Haas
October 19 – Ian Haas
October 26 – Ian Haas

Ushers:

October 5 – Pete Stacho &
Fred Bachert
October 12 – Available
October 19 – Available
October 26 – Available

Liturgists:

October 5 – Rufus Beardsley
October 12 – Marge Manspeaker
October 19 – John Peters
October 26 – 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
Edith Schwartz	Medical Concerns
Pat Stacho	Medical Concerns
Family of Ellis Mangrum	Bereavement



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 5 – Teresa Curless
October 12 – Available
October 19 – Available
October 26 – Marge Manspeaker

Fellowship Hour – October

October 5 – Available
October 12 – Available
October 19 – Available
October 26 – Available

DATES TO REMEMBER...

October	3 & 4	Rummage Sale	
October	8	Trustees Meeting	7pm
October	9	Diaconate Meeting	7pm
October	13	Book Club Meeting	7pm

I'm Just Sayin'...**...with Pat Stacho**

Do I Expect Trauma...D I E T.

Oh yeah, we're talking trauma. I am currently in the throngs of a new career, professional Weight Watcher. I am able to show new members perseverance, showing up every week. I am teaching them how to deal with setbacks. (Screaming in the shower is a basic coping skill.) I know what to do, and what not to do. Sounds easy enough, I conquered other skills. I stay away from bars, for the most part. I no longer try jitterbugging at said bar. Arthritis aside, I still can control the urge. The juke box is no longer a threat! I recognize traffic lights, try to observe them too. But there are some things I am having a problem with. Mainly desserts, portion control, self-control, loving my own cooking...and Italian food...any Italian food!

It has been a life long struggle. I was a chubby kid, mom referring to me as the "healthy" one. ("She's such a good eater.") In my teens...well hormones, right? There was about six months or so when I actually was able to tuck my tops in, and looked good....very good. I know that sounds quite conceited, but it's true. Of course, that led to my 1st child, which led to "baby" fat. I had to stop using that as an excuse when my son said, "Give it up, mom. I'm 16." And I have stretch marks from that kid.

I have tried all the popular diets, but I am once again at WW. I was asked to leave a few years back because I was continually having big Mac attacks during the meetings.

I am so much more restrained now that I am older.

So please, if you see me at fellowship, sneaking extra goodies....ignore me. I do not want to brag, but I could become a Weight Watcher spokesperson. No...really it could happen. A whole new advertising strategy. "Don't let this happen to you....follow the plan." But, what if I have a different plan? How 'bout that Florine?

Enjoy your fall...eat at the picnics and potlucks. Winter will be here before you know it. I'm just sayin'



News about a dear friend...

For many Protestants in America, the last Sunday in October is celebrated as Reformation Sunday. Reformation Sunday honors Martin Luther's bold action on October 31st, 1517. On that date Luther posted his statement of faith, known as the 95 Theses, on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, thus beginning the Protestant Reformation. In some parts of Europe, Reformation Day is a civil holiday celebrated on October 31st, a day to commemorate the vast social and political change that resulted from Luther's actions.

REFORMATION SUNDAY – OCTOBER 26



REFORMATION DAY—OCTOBER 31

On the eve of All Saint's Day ("All Hallows Eve," or "Halloween"), in 1517, a young Augustinian monk nailed ninety-five theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. This was not unusual; the castle church door was something of a community bulletin board or listserv at the time. The monk, Martin Luther, wanted to debate corruptions he had noticed in the church. That was not an unusual move either; many people had noted problems in the church in those days and suggested ways to correct them. But there was something unusual about Luther. He probed the church's troubles more deeply than others. Luther saw that the root of the problem was that rather than offering Christ to the people of God in Word and sacrament – the means through which Christ promised to be with his people – the church was pointing people to relics, pilgrimages, and humanly devised rituals like penance as a way of finding God. Ultimately, people were unable to know the love of God because they didn't know if they were good enough.

Luther proved to be the right man at the right time – the consummate "man for the hour." He sought to unearth Christ, and as he did so, he rediscovered the teaching of the Apostle Paul: God accepts us not because we are becoming better people through our own efforts, or because we adhere to church traditions that are only tenuously related to Scripture. Rather, God accepts (or justifies) sinners freely and graciously because Jesus has died for our sins and rose again on the third day. Luther declared that salvation is found in Christ alone, and received by faith alone. We are not saved by our works; rather, we do good works because God's Spirit is already at work in us, applying Christ's finished salvation to us. At the center of the Reformation was a recovery of the biblical gospel, and with it a biblical understanding of the church and the means of grace. Salvation is based solely on Christ's person and work as God-incarnate, our Lord and Redeemer. Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace alone. We are justified (or forgiven) through faith alone, apart from meritorious works.

Other "reformers" before Luther had tried to restore the church's purity, but none of them had reached for so radical a solution. Luther's views caught wind and began to spread over Europe like wildfire. Soon, Reformational churches were popping up all over. Cities and rulers began to declare their allegiance to be the Reformed movement. As the Reformation began to spread, it became apparent that God was doing a mighty work of renewal amongst his people. A new era was dawning.

Thus, Reformation Day should be more than a celebration of a five hundred year old event. We should not only look back to the early Reformers with great appreciation, praising God for the way he used them to bring renewal and revival to his church through their labors, sacrifices, and bloodshed; we should also look forward with eager hope and prayerful expectation, asking God to give his church yet another Reformation. The sixteenth century Reformation is not an endpoint, but a new starting point for the church.