

OUR PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

The Solanco Fair Parade was last night. I didn't go to it this time just because Kristine wasn't able to go along. She had stuff going on at her congregation in York. I sure enjoyed seeing people's pictures of the parade on Facebook today. I always enjoy eating at the Hoffman Building. They have great meals and my favorite is the open face hot roast beef sandwich. I look forward to that all year long. And of course I enjoy walking around and seeing people and being seen by people. We sure do have a great fair!

Our fair marks for me the start of our Autumn and Winter schedule at Middle Octorara. Our Adult Church School is featuring various topics and is being taught by Barry Girvin, Dan Henry, and myself. I've found it to be quite interesting. We've talked about Middle Octorara past, present, and future. We've talked about some "hot button" issues. We've talked about the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and what it means for us today. We've talked about patience. Virgil Roark led a class about his mission trips.

We're also getting ready for our annual events like our Turkey Supper, our Senior Citizens Dinner, our Shrine Church Worship Services, our PW Bazaar and Thanksgiving Worship Service and meal.

Our Worship Services will include our choir singing again each week. I'll be planning services that will be focused toward national holidays, Christian holidays, and seasonal times.

We have a lot going on at Middle Octorara. And I'm going to boldly ask you to have all of this on your schedule. And, would you please make church school and worship your priority on Sunday mornings? A lot of time and effort is put into planning and preparing the lessons and services. Yes it really does make a good difference when people are attending and participating. When you're not there you are truly missed. Please come to Middle Octorara first and make time afterward for other activities and events.

We need to be with each other folks. We need each other to encourage our Christian Faith as we talk about what's going on in our lives, our families, and in the world. We need to support each other so our faith will grow and mature. We need to see and hear each other worshiping God as we give God praise, honor, and glory in our services.

Scripture tells us that it was Jesus' habit to be in Synagogue each week to worship. We should follow that example and also be in church each week.

Autumn blessings,
Rev. Douglas Hileman, Pastor

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

CHOIR

Choir has begun!! Reserve your seat in the choir loft today before they are all taken!! Practices are at 7:00 on Monday evening. There's always room for one more member!!

DEACONS

24 thinking of you cards were signed and mailed in September. Next meeting is Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Turkey Dinner

October 14th is the date of our annual turkey dinner at Middle Octorara, sponsored by the MO Pres. Women. Much help is requested the week before and the day of the dinner. Check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex for a time to help the day of the dinner. Please check the dates and times below to see if you can fit any into your schedule:

October 10, 11, 12, 13 – begin at 1 PM to remove cooked turkey from breasts. Call Shirley Miller with questions: 786-3690

October 13 – begin at 10 AM peel potatoes. Call Nancy Harnish with questions

October 13- table/chair set up and décor 9 AM Call Boni Henry 717-687-8554

October 14 – bring pie donations to church by Saturday lunchtime, so the helpers have time to cut them. We need approximately 50 pies (notify Deb Hoover) for the dinner. Come to help as per sign-up sheet (on bulletin board in Narthex)

Holiday Bazaar

Our annual Bazaar is planned for Saturday, November 4th. This is always a fun event when folks in the community come to shop for Holiday items and just have a fun day out with friends.

Baked goods are always welcomed for sale. If you'd like to donate a baked good, please bring it to church by 8 AM on Nov. 4th.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!! We are in need of folks to make some items to sell at the Bazaar. We are getting together on October 16th and 17th at 1 PM to make craft items. Please come and join us for afternoons of fun as we 'craft' together.

Thanksgiving Meal for Congregation

It's our way of saying 'thank you' to the congregation for your constant support. On November 19th, MOPW will be leading the Worship Service, then inviting all to the Social Hall for our MO Thanksgiving meal. This would be a great time to invite someone from the neighborhood – perhaps someone who would be spending the Thanksgiving holiday alone.

We look forward to enjoying our MO Thanksgiving with You.

SESSION

All hands on deck! Sunday, October 22nd is an important day in the life and future of our congregation. After the worship service, Session will provide a lunch for all.

After the lunch, we will divide our large group into small cells, each led by a Session Member. Our job will be to 'brainstorm' and discuss ideas that we can use to further the Kingdom of God at Middle Octorara. We want to still be leading a vibrant church in 10 years, when we will be celebrating our 300th birthday. And, we feel God will lay upon our hearts what he wants us to do. We are asking all of you to participate, as God works through us all, not just the Session, Deacons and Trustees. Each of us plays a significant role in the life of MO.

We look forward to a very profitable day with all, as we allow the Spirit to guide our conversations as we plan for exciting times ahead.

MIDDLE OCTORARA – SERVING CHRIST SINCE 1727

Again this holiday season, we will give everyone the opportunity to participate in the "Extend a Blessing" Event on Sunday, November 21. Details will be in the bulletin a few weeks prior to the event.

TRUSTEES

The painter has begun painting the outside doors and windows. The storm windows to the stained glass windows have been removed in preparation. A couple of the ladies will wash those storm windows while they are out.

We are trying to keep after things before they become problems. There is another section of wall behind the church that may soon be repaired before it falls over. The new drain field for the church house is in.

And we have set Saturday November 11th as church work day, when we clean up the leaves, etc. Lunch will be served. Rain date is November 18th. Put this on your calendar. All help is needed!!

THIRD SUNDAY

A few months ago, Pastor Hileman was greatly inspired when he attended another church which holds a 'contemporary-type' Worship Service every Sunday. He came home from that service believing it would be a good way to offer a change for our congregation once a month. We now know this different kind of service as the **Third Sunday**. There is no bulletin to follow. Worshippers follow along on the overhead screen for singing and reading. It is felt, having no bulletin makes the tone of the service less structured, more informal and more relaxed.

You might ask, 'What is the Third Sunday all about?' Here is a brief explanation. Third Sunday begins with no formal prelude. Instead the congregation sings of 3-5 songs and hymns. Participants are encouraged to stand if they care to. This is followed by a bucket offering, a way for us to collect funds for a special gift we will send to a charity or needy cause at year's end. The regular offering is collected after we sing two songs, 'I Believe in Jesus' and 'In Christ Alone'. After that the pastor informally delivers the Scripture and Message. The Third Sunday service ends with an Amen and Benediction.

After the service, the congregation comes together in the Social Hall where we eat a scrumptious pot-luck meal. When the meal is over, those who wish, stay to be treated to a movie.

The Third Sunday experience is intentionally very different than our regular Sunday morning form of Worship. Pastor Hileman, with Session's approval, has felt this might be a good change of pace once a month. We recognize that this type of service is very different, but it is Session's hope that offering another form of Worship would be a change of pace, appreciated and perhaps accepted.

Third Sunday is in the process of being re-evaluated. We know that God appreciates our worship, no matter how it is done. We recognize the new Third Sunday format has been a source of unrest for some, and that was not our intention. But we also know there are some who like the contemporary style service once a month. We would appreciate any input from the congregation about your thoughts as to what we can do to tweak the service to serve our congregation as best we can.

Let's continue to worship our God together with our wonderful church family.

THE SESSION

MISSIONS

LOCAL

School has started, don't forget the food bank "Sweep" program. Also we are collecting toys for the toy drive for Solanco children and items for the mothers and fathers packs for Christmas for the food bank. These are due by December 3rd. Thanks once again to the best southern end givers of their hearts. *(James said, "What is faith without good works?")* My favorite passage.

Nancy Harnish

MISSION MUSINGS

Did you ever feel like you don't focus on God enough? This Tuesday is our Fall Extravaganza Day where I work. It, along with our Spring Customer Appreciation Day in March are our two biggest events of the year. I was thinking today about how I have been so focused on our upcoming big day that I have not been putting God first. In Douglas's sermon this morning he spoke about how the Israelites even after God had recently parted the Red Sea to save them were already complaining. They were more focused on their troubles than focusing on God who could help them. Sometimes I am like that looking at the problems instead of focusing on God who is THE problem solver.

What does that have to do with Missions? I believe if you and I would turn to God first when we need solutions to problems we would we have more time and energy to help others. We should focus on how BIG our God is instead of how big our problem is.

If we listen to the apostle Paul and pray without ceasing we may focus more on helping others than being overwhelmed with our problems. We all have problems but when we turn them over to God they often become smaller as He becomes our great problem solver. Then don't forget to thank and praise God for answering your prayer.

Just as He provided quail and manna for the Israelites He will provide for you. Remember He calls us to share His message of grace, goodness and love with others. Pray right now that God will guide you through the problems at hand and then look to focus on sharing His message of salvation with those you meet in your daily life.

As I have said many times not everyone is called to go overseas or even to another state. There is much need right here in our own community. We each meet people every day who need a smile, some words of encouragement, a hug or some gesture of love to help them through the day.

In the coming months there are lots of opportunities to serve right here at M.O. In October is the Turkey Dinner, Senior Citizen Dinner and the Crop Walk. In November is the Bazaar and the Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection week. Sign up now to help with these events that help others.

Then thank and praise God for the blessings He has showered on you.

Ezekiel 34:26

Dan Henry
Mission Committee Chair

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

This and That

In my role as president of the Octorara Covenanter Presbyterian Foundation, I thank all of you who helped make the Annual Scottish Festival a great success. Wonderful volunteers, good weather, and better public relations paid off in a big way allowing our efforts at maintenance and restoration at the Shrine Church to move forward. Please take a look at the work on the cemetery wall at the Shrine Church. Thanks to two generous donors who chose to remain anonymous, Jim Funk has been able to transform an eye sore to its former glory. Our next event at the Shrine Church is on Sunday, October 29, at 3:00 PM. Our Annual Worship Service and Celebration will feature a dedication of our new pulpit designed by Rob McCullough. He will speak about the design and historical accuracy of the pulpit. The “Kirkin’ O’ Th’ Tartans” and special music will also be part of the service.

Speaking as a lifelong member of Middle Octorara, and a person who prays that we have a future, I call attention to Sunday, October 22. All members will receive a letter explaining the goals for the day. After Church there will be a meal provided by Session, after which we will form small groups led by Session members to discuss plans for a future that will hopefully lead to a vigorous congregation when we celebrate our 300th anniversary in the year 2027. If you care about Middle Octorara and its future, your attendance and involvement is a must!

Speaking as a church historian, it was brought to my attention that Sunday, September 17th, was the 300th anniversary of the Synod of the Trinity. On September 17th, 1717, the first synod meeting in the United States was held in Philadelphia, and it is from that origin that the Synod of the Trinity was formed. Geographically, the Synod includes Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and a small part of Ohio.

So, what does the Synod do? It’s a question that is asked by many, and oftentimes the answer is not totally reflective of what synods in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are charged with. With that in mind, what follows is a description of the governing tree that exists within the PCUSA:

CONGREGATIONS

*The task of a congregation is to do mission.

*In the Book of Order it says a “congregation reaches out to people, communities and the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to gather for worship, to offer care and nurture to God’s children, to speak for social justice and righteousness, to bear witness to the truth and to the reign of God that is coming into the world.”

PRESBYTERIES

*The task of a presbytery is to support the mission of its congregations.

*The Book of Order describes a presbytery as being “responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love and witness.”

SYNODS

*The task of a synod is to assist the presbyteries in supporting their congregations.

*Synods can provide a newly re-necessary oversight function, checking presbytery power when it is abused.

*The Book of Order says. “Synod is responsible for the life and mission of the church throughout its region and for supporting the ministry and mission of its presbyteries as they seek to support the witness of congregations, to the end that the church throughout its region becomes a community of faith, hope, love and witness.”

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*The Book of Order defines the General Assembly as one that “constitutes the bond of union, community and mission among all its congregations and councils, to the end that the whole church becomes a community of faith, hope, love and witness.”

*It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

*The General Assembly seeks to protect the church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of the theology remains true to the biblical standards in the historic confessions.

*The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in the community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.

I will leave it up to you to reflect on how well these bodies have carried out their duties.

THIS- N-THAT



Fun Facts about the Pumpkin!

A pumpkin is really a squash and is a member of the Cucurbita family which includes squash and cucumbers.

Six of the seven continents can grow pumpkins including Alaska! Antarctica is the only continent that they won't grow in.

The self-proclaimed pumpkin capital is Morton, Illinois where you'll find the home of the Libby Corporation's pumpkin industry.

The Irish brought the tradition of pumpkin carving to America. The tradition originally started with the carving of turnips. When the Irish immigrated to the U.S., they found pumpkins a plenty and they were much easier to carve for their ancient holiday.

Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A and the flowers are edible.

The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.

In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.

Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.

The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.

The Connecticut field variety is the traditional American pumpkin.

Pumpkins are 90 percent water.

Eighty percent of the pumpkin supply in the United States is available in October.

Native Americans flattened strips of pumpkins, dried them and made mats and used seeds for food and medicine.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

October birthdays

- 1 – Lucille Wilson
- 3 – James Phipps
- 5 – Clyde Dubble
- 6 – Mike Hoover
- 10 – Hunter Musser
- 11 – Paul Trout
- 12 – Sue Herr
- 14 – Herb Girvin, Julia Mowrer
- 15 – Brandon LeFevre
- 16 – Casie Garver, Doug Landis
- 17 – Gretchen Deming
- 19 – Jerry Garver
- 24 – Josh Keene
- 28 – Shirley Miller

November birthdays through the 4th

- 4 – Jim Bueche, Jane Trout

October anniversaries

- 3 – Paul & Beaty Armer
- 12 – Jeff & Annie Frackman
- 19 – Jeff & Kathy Roland



TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR TO DATE GENERAL FUND AND BENEVOLENCE FINANCES September 30, 2017

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	11,178.28	108,988.23	9,705.12	101,597.90	103,401.61
Benevolence	492.32	5,292.44	503.00	5,940.00	

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

Sept. 3-	General Fund	1,314.36	Benevolence	126.00
Sept. 10-	General Fund	1,952.00	Benevolence	96.00
Sept. 17-	General Fund	2,171.05	Benevolence	98.00
Sept. 24 -	General Fund	1,889.25	Benevolence	163.00

An additional \$2,378.46 General Fund money and \$20.00 Benevolence money was received by mail (manse rental, etc.).

This was a big expense and a small income month which equals a very small ending balance. We will see what October brings.


Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer



October Happenings

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m. Deacon Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7
Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m. Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Oct. 11	Oct. 12 Session, Deacon, Trustee Mtg. Pizza 6:30 Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Oct. 13	Oct. 14 Turkey Supper 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 15	Oct. 16 Crafting 1:00 p.m.	Oct. 17 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m. Crafting 1:00 p.m.	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21 CROP walk Sr. Citizen dinner 4:00 p.m.
Oct. 22 Luncheon Church future talks	Oct. 23	Oct. 24 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m.	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28
Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m. 	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4 Annual bazaar 8:00 – 2:00