

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor on Vacation

Please pray for Rev. Reichert as she travels to various UCC gatherings during the month of June. On June 8-10th Curran will be leading the music at the Illinois Annual Conference. On June 21-26th she will be attending the 26th annual General Synod in Hartford, CT. Joining Curran at Synod will be Kelly Autrey-Webber (who will be honored as one of three **Lay Women of the Year** from Illinois), Susan Hale, Wendy Brown, Margo Bertram, and Katie Morrison. While attending Synod Curran will be proudly representing OPUCC at the New Church Leadership Gathering on June 21st.

MISSION TEAM

Greetings from the Mission Team,

What glorious weather! I hope you are all taking some time to sit under a tree and do nothing.

Many thanks to all of you for making our first foray into fairly traded products a success. Mission made some dough for our projects and we can all feel good about helping beleaguered small farmers.

The film series will be taking the summer off, giving us a chance to recharge and research good films for next fall and winter. Please check out the back table where this past year's films are available for checkout.

Mission's big fund raiser for the year is the Harry Potter festival in July. We transform the Prouty Building into Honeydukes Sweet Shop and sell a wide variety of amazing magical treats. Adam received an enormous box of Belgian chocolate and has already begun making chocolate frogs. This year he hopes to make not only milk chocolate treats, but will branch out into dark chocolate and white chocolate as well. So come and eat a nice albino chocolate rat! Yum! Thank you to all of you who have nobly stepped up to volunteer again this year. The festival is

expected to attract upwards of 10,000 people this year due to the release of the new book and the latest movie. As a result we need lots more volunteers to help work in Honeydukes and bake wizard treats. There are also opportunities for acting in Ron's fabulous Ministry of Magic held in the Courthouse or St. Mungo's Hospital on Main Street. Please give me a call at 815-876-1106 if you can help with any of these options.

Please remember the food pantry this summer. They have requested Macaroni & Cheese for the month of June and in July they would like Peanut Butter and Jelly.

Peace to you all. Kelly

JUNE & JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 5	6:00 pm	Prairie Circle @ Ami's
June 6	8:00 am	Prayer group at Autrey's
June 7	6:00 pm	Choir at Webber's
June 10	9:30 am	Rummage drop-off @ OPUCC
June 11	9am-8pm	Rummage drop-off @ OPUCC
June 12	9am-8pm	Rummage drop-off @ OPUCC
June 13	8:00 am	Prayer group at Autrey's
June 13	9am-5pm	Rummage drop-off @ OPUCC
June 13	6:00 pm	Stewardship Mtg.
June 14	6:00 pm	Choir at Webber's
June 15	8-3 pm	Rummage Sale
June 16	8-noon	Rummage Sale
June 20	8:00 am	Prayer Group at Autrey's
June 21	6:00 pm	Choir
June 21-26		UCC Annual Synod
June 27	8:00 am	Prayer group at Autrey's
June 27	7:00 pm	Church Council
June 30		Senior High Mission Trip to W.V.
July 4		Independence Day
July 5	6:00 pm	Choir at Webber's
July 11	8:00 am	Prayer Group at Autrey's
July 12	6:00 pm	Choir at Webber's
July 14		Fox River Canoe Trip
July 15	11:00 am	Christian Ed. Picnic
July 18	8:00 am	Prayer Group at Autrey's
July 19	6:00 pm	Choir at Webber's
July 20	5:00 pm	Harry Potter Festival
July 25	8:00 am	Prayer Group at Autrey's

July 26 6:00 PM Choir at Webber's
July 29 Jubilee Sunday

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Some thoughts on Stewardship:

Being a generous person is one of life's great privileges. The definition of generosity might include sharing our time, talents, being hospitable, and of course, sharing our money. Generosity can be described as a personal trait that expresses our values.

People who give generously also receive many benefits. They can experience a sense of satisfaction, and a sense of opportunity and expectation. They feel good when they see the impact of their generosity.

So I pose this question: Are we at Open Prairie using all the resources at our command to become a more generous people; to fulfill God's purpose for our lives, for Open Prairie?

See you in church,

Patricia Wilson

CHRISTIAN ED

What's happening in Christian Ed?

1. Sunday School Teachers for June:

June 3: Kathy
June 10: Dawn
June 17: Wendy
June 24: TBA

2. We will be changing the format of Sunday school for the summer. We are picking a topic and focusing on it all month long by using familiar Old Testament stories as well as some of Jesus' parables to portray the lesson. We will be outside as much as possible each week. The topic for June is "On the Way". Stop in the Sunday school room anytime to find out what stories we will be discussing each week and see what the kids are working on.

3. Senior High Youth will be attending a low ropes course teambuilding activity on June 10th at Pilgrim Park. Watch for more information to come.

4. The Senior High youth will be leaving for the Mission Trip to Pipestem West Virginia on June

30th. We will be commissioning the group during the worship service on June 24th. Please plan to attend to wish our young people well as they travel outside of the walls of our local church and share their time and talents with others elsewhere.

5. Are you 30 and under? Do you like to canoe? A special gathering is being planned specifically for you on July 14th. We will be canoeing down the Fox River for the day and will stop along the way to share a meal together. What a great way to spend a hot summer day paddling and enjoying the scenic views of the Fox all while connecting with folks of whom you haven't seen in a while. More information will be posted very soon. If you are interested in going please RSVP to Wendy (wbrown_3@yahoo.com) and we will make sure you get all the necessary information as it becomes available.

6. Mark your calendars now for an all ages picnic which will be held at Zearing Park on Sunday, July 15th. We will meet at the park anytime after 11:00 a.m. and we will plan to eat at noon. It is being served potluck style but Christian Ed will provide the burgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers. We will be playing bags, softball, and enjoying each others company.

7. The Senior High youth will report on their Mission Trip during worship on July 15th.

8. A special thank you to everyone who helped to supply the goodies for the College Care Packages. We sent out 17 finals boxes to our college students who were finishing up their semesters. The brain food was much appreciated by all.

☺HAPPY JUNE & JULY BIRTHDAYS!☺

June 2 Tara Jagers	July 2 Wendy Brown
June 5 Jim Jarvis	July 7 Payden Aronson
June 7 Mary Forristall	July 10 Mimi Cofoid
June 14 Jim Hughes	July 12 Barb Ollila
June 15 Katie Forristall	July 13 Tina Aronson
June 15 Gary Klingel	July 14 Tanya Williams
June 16 Tori Bettasso	July 14 Scott Bickerman
June 24 Dee Dennick	July 20 Paul Goble
June 26 Frank Bouxsein	July 23 Victor Borst
June 27 Bea Borst	July 23 Lori Pettie
June 27 Jared Bartman	July 24 Amy Stalter

June 29 Tom Beneke

July 26 Kim Bettasso

Note: if you have any additions or corrections, please let Ami know.

HEALTH TEAM MINISTRIES

Preventing dehydration is a health topic perfect for summer thought. Contemplate it while you sip on a nice lemonade and peruse your OPUCC Newsletter. Would you like to be chomping on some watermelon too? Sure, but not if you are already dehydrated--watermelon is a natural diuretic. Sweating like a pig? Well, swine don't have many sweat glands and cool themselves in water or mud! Although we don't need to choose a mud bath, water is so important to us humans too. It is essential to human life: It forms the basis for all body fluids, including blood and digestive juices; it aids in the transportation and absorption of nutrients; and it helps eliminate waste. Dehydration can sneak up on you. The elderly and young children are at extra risk if lacking fluids. Illness, especially with diarrhea, vomiting and fever can lead to dehydration and cause symptoms such as weakness, dizziness and fatigue. Severe dehydration is a life-threatening medical emergency. Unfortunately, thirst isn't always a reliable gauge of the body's need for water, especially in children and older adults. A better barometer is the color of your urine: clear or light-colored urine means you're well hydrated, whereas a dark yellow or amber color usually signals dehydration. Other indicators are fatigue, decreased urine output, muscle weakness, headache, and dizziness or lightheadedness. To prevent dehydration, consume plenty of fluids and foods high in water such as fruits and vegetables. According to the Institute of Medicine, letting thirst be your guide is an adequate daily guideline for most healthy people. Fluids can be obtained not just from water but also from other beverages and foods. But, if you're exercising, don't wait for thirst to keep up with your fluids. Caffeine (lay off the iced latte); alcohol, medications, illness and certain foods can also affect your natural fluid balance. How much water/fluid is necessary? One suggestion is that men consume roughly 3.0 liters (about 13 cups) of total beverages a day and women consume

2.2 liters (about 9 cups) of total beverages a day. That's more than the formerly recommended 8 cups --8) 8 oz glasses--a day. This summer remember if you are vacationing and doing extra hiking or bicycling to hydrate before you start the activity and replenish fluids frequently during your adventure. Take plenty of water with you on your trek (the new backpack/fanny pack style water porting devices like CamelBak hydration packs are really great). If your travels take you to the mountains please know your body tries to adjust to high elevations through increased urination and more rapid breathing -- the faster you breathe to maintain adequate oxygen levels in your blood, the more water vapor you exhale. Staying well hydrated may reduce the headache and fatigue some of us flatlanders get in the mountains. Too much sangria? Alcohol assists in depletion of fluids because it affects our bodies by inhibiting anti-diuretic hormone and allowing the kidneys to release more urine. This is why you urinate more when you drink alcohol. The best remedy is prevention.

Above all have a great summer!

Source: www.MayoClinic.com

Let me end with a special note for motorcyclists. Wind evaporation can really dry you out. Wearing protective gear, while it seems hot at a stop, actually protects you from the elements of sun and the "wind" you create by moving through the atmosphere at 65 mph. Remember to hydrate on long rides. Using a CamelBak or other similar backpack or fanny pack style hydration system is a brilliant solution for this. Plus it cools you if you add ice--thus the reason for the large mouth systems! Also, if traveling through dry climates, wetting your garments below protective gear and opening all vents in jackets will create a swamp cooler, at least for a while.

God is Still Speaking
A Reflection by Sue Stumpf

As a teacher, summer vacation is not much different than the rest of the year for my spiritual

journey. Part of my personal spiritual discipline is to attend church and to also take time for reading texts that pertain to spiritual matters. I always take time to look at, listen to and sense the people and experiences that surround me every day. I deeply feel that God is still speaking.

This past year I have been reading Bishop Spong's writings with great relish. Part of the allure of reading Bishop Spong's words is that twenty years ago I had a priest in the Episcopal Church who called him "Ping Pong Spong". Needless to say our former Vicar did not think much of the post modern critical stance on theology that Bishop Spong had written about. So when I first picked up Spong's books it seemed almost as if I were doing something naughty! Far from being naughty, I found God speaking to me. When I got into the texts and embraced this theology I became convinced that God does speak to us through the Bible.

I have given Bishop Spong's theology much thought and have ascribed to the notion that we can not always take the Bible literally. But at many points we can still find a truth behind the remarkable stories that it holds. I especially like to think of the Old Testament as an odyssey or narrative of a people who are trying to define who they are and what their relationship is with God and each other. Since they only had their ancient culture, ancient prejudices, their ancient language, and oral retellings to describe their experiences, the stories seem fanciful, sometimes horrid, and often unbelievable. How can a post modern thinker who is on their own personal spiritual journey use the writings of an ancient people journeying in the ancient world?

I discerned that from reading writings of theological scholars the many and ill informed perspectives these ancient writers were recounting. With this knowledge I began to see the deeper truths that the writers of old were trying to convey.

I have learned many points of spiritual value from reading these stories. These spiritual experiences were written with the only cultural, language, and spiritual tools the ancients had available. With that insight I have learned the value of perseverance, faithfulness, respectfulness, and love. For example, the ancients thought that God was punishing them when they were not being faithful and loving to God. It is revealing that those people began to understand what was wrong relationship and what it would take to make things right again.

Today when we are not in right relationship with God and our neighbor we must first have to

recognize that problem. Then we have choices to make. Just as the ancients thought that through sacrifices atonement was achieved we can choose to offer apologies and choose to change our behavior. In other words we too can become aware and make the right choice to be in right relationship with God and our neighbor.

I also have other spiritual awakenings in my life as a teacher.

My work with struggling young children who are at risk of failing to learn to read provides me with many daily spiritual "Ah hahs". There is something awe inspiring, in watching a young child begin to learn. I am thrilled when I observe the child read fluently and he says, "This is easy, I can read!" With each little step, each new thing learned, the child hears from me how brilliant they have become. When they are at the end of their first grade journey they believe they are very smart and feel so proud of their accomplishments.

I see God in the eyes of a child. I hear God in the voice of a child who was at one time confused and discouraged. I feel God when the child is no longer afraid to try to read, because he thought could not learn.

Aside from my teaching experiences and formal reading and church activities I also keep a daily "look out" for when God is speaking. I try to keep my ears, eyes and heart ever vigilant in a search for those often small but sometimes profound happenings. I listen to and join in conversations. I hear profound words, phrases, thoughts, etc. These happenings often pop out and say, "Listen, this is God speaking!"

I also experience God with my relationships with friends and family. Being positive and cheerful is sometimes a very hard attitude to bring to ones world. A positive attitude bolstered by love is all I really have to give to the world. My family has gone through some horrible events. Even "tough love" has been part of the shifting of some of my family relationships. But through it all I tried to stay faithful, respectful, positive and loving. This has kept me in balance with my family. I learned this perseverance from stories of Ruth and Job.

When I listen to my friends words of friendship, wisdom, worries, and stress, I often hear God. I listen quietly. I can learn from their words. I offer to help, but I still listen. I listen and not judge. I see a smile, I feel a hug, I see a tear, and I remain quiet..... for God is still speaking. I hear a scream, a sob,, a sigh, a giggle, and maybe a guffaw. I laugh with them then I stay quiet. I listen. God is

still speaking. I offer a hand, a hug, a kiss, a pat on the back, or a "high five"..... but no words..... because God is still speaking..... to me.

INKJET RECYCLING PROGRAM!!!

The OPUCC Sunday School Youth are now collecting empty inkjet cartridges for recycling. We receive up to \$4.00 for each cartridge recycled. Cartridges can be deposited in our collection bin located underneath the bench in the lobby area.

Simply place your old cartridge in a plastic sandwich bag and deposit it in our collection bin. Most businesses simply throw their empty cartridges in the garbage so check at work to see if they would donate their would be garbage. The acceptable cartridges are listed below. Please note that no large laser cartridges are accepted with this program.

In addition to raising money for our camper scholarship program, recycling inkjet cartridges has a positive impact on the environment. Consider the following: Nearly 1 million inkjets are thrown into our landfills every day. Less than 5% of the cartridges produced are recycled. It takes 1000 years for the plastic to decompose.

Questions about the program can be directed to Wendy. Thanks for your support and for taking time to make your world a better place.

HP 21 (C9351AN)	Canon BC01	Lexmark 12A1970/5
HP 22 (C9352AN)	Canon BC02	Lexmark 12A1980/5
HP 93 (C9361W)	Canon BC05	Lexmark 15M0120
HP 92 (C9362W)	Canon BC20	Lexmark 17G0050
	Canon BC23	Lexmark 17G0060
HP 98 (C9364W)	Canon BX3	Lexmark 138400H/C
HP 51625A/G	Canon PG40	Lexmark 1380619
HP 51626A/G	Canon PG41	Lexmark 1380620
HP 51629A/G	Canon PG50	Lexmark 10N0016
(16,17)		
HP 51633M	Canon PG5	Lexmark 10N0026 (26,27)
HP 51640A	Lexmark 18L0032	(82)
HP 51645A/G	Okidata 52109301	Lexmark 18L0042
(83)		
HP 51649A/G	Okidata 52109302	Lexmark 31 Photo
HP C1816A		Lexmark 32 Black
HP C1823D	OnlyCompaq 337709	Lexmark 33 Color
HP C6578A/D	Compaq 337710	Lexmark 34 Black
HP C6614A/D/N	Compaq 337711	Lexmark 35 Color
HP C6615A/D	Compaq 337714	Lexmark 71 Black
HP C6625A	Compaq 337715	Lexmark 1990/5
HP C8765WN		Lexmark #1
HP C8766WN (95,135,343,855)	Sharp UX-C70	Black
HP C8767WN (96,130,853)	Dell 7Y743	
HP C9363W (97,134,344,857)	Xerox 8R7880/Dell 7Y745	
HP C9368AN	Xerox 8R7881	Dell J740 Color
HP C9369WN (99,138,348,858)	Xerox 8R7883/Dell J740	Black
HP C6628HP C6656	Xerox 8R712591/Dell A920	Black
HP C6657AN	Dell A920 Color	Apple M8041G/C
HP C6658AN	Dell J4844 Photo	Apple M3240G/C

HP C8727A Dell M4640
HP C8728AN Dell M4646

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, June 15, 8am-3pm
Saturday, June 16, 8am-noon

We need all members and friends of Open Prairie to help us make this year's rummage sale a success.

You can help in the following ways:

- ~Collect your treasures to donate (NO clothing, please)
- ~Work a shift (or 2) during the sale
- ~Bake goodies for the Bake Sale
- ~Spread the word...tell friends, hang posters, etc.
- ~loan card tables for the sale

Please note these dates:

(PLEASE drop all rummage at church)

Rummage drop-off: Sun. June 10, 9:30-noon
Mon. June 11, 9am-8pm
Tues. June 12, 9am-8pm
Wed. June 13, 9am-5pm
Bake Sale drop-off: Thur. June 14, 9am-5pm
Fri. June 15, before 8am

If you can help please call Donna Chelin and sign up for a time slot.
If you need someone to pick up your treasures please call Ami at church.



PLEASE REMEMBER:

*Summer Worship will be at 9:30 am during the months of June, July, and August.

*July is a Sabbath from all official church meetings.

THERE WILL BE NO JULY NEWSLETTER.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Office:

25 E. Marion Street

Princeton, IL 61356

(815)872-5150

mail@openprairie.org

Rev. Curran Reichert

308 Park Ave W

Princeton, IL 61356

(815) 872-1661 church phone

(815) 872-1515 home phone

revreichert@openprairie.org

Church Web Site:

www.openprairie.org



Open Prairie UCC
25 E. Marion Street
Princeton, IL 61356