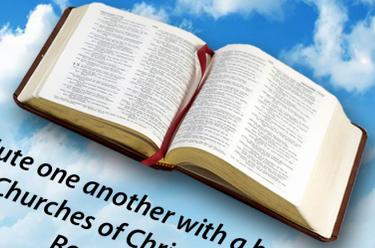




The Relator

August 2018



*"Salute one another with a holy kiss.
The Churches of Christ salute you!"
Romans 16:16*

Volume LXX – EDITION 12



Cosma's Corner

*"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."
Psalm 121:1-2 NIV*

I am not sure why it does, but it seems to fade from our memory no matter what our age while we face any obstacle whether great or small ... that we serve a God who is over all.

The vantage point and advantage point for any army in battle during the time of the Psalmist would have been the high ground. The psalmist was looking for someone to fight his battles and so he peers through his struggles to the high ground to see who has the vantage point and advantage to rescue him. Of course, if the Psalmist was King David, as most suppose, then he would have been adequately familiar with this battle strategy of the high ground, and most likely as general of armies would have used this powerful vice of advantage himself.

However, David was most successful when he was aware that his gaze fell short when he only looked to the mountains or

to the great men and kings of the mountains to receive his assurance of protection and power. His gaze fell short because it looked to the creation instead of the Creator for strength. No matter how awesome the creation ... the designer is more so! Failure to see beyond the creation is failure to see at all. For Faith is beyond the physical majesty of the mountains and the great heroes contained within them. Faith must be placed in only One who is greater than what we see.

However, what we see in creation should begin to open our eyes to the Creator of the visible.

Too many times we are distracted by what we see because we think we can conquer creation and have mastery over it. Of course, even our Creator said to *fill the earth and subdue it*. Yet, in our exuberant pride we forget only He can grant permission by His power. What we determine obstacles God has determined as stepping stones that bring us closer to him so that what was once invisible becomes visible.

Don't settle for faking your way through the eye chart of creation. Allow the power of the invisible Creator to transform your sight.

It is interesting that many of the Psalms first direct our attention to creation to direct our attention to God. Even the early church in the spirit of the power and praise of the psalms would begin their prayers and doxologies with focus on God the Creator. (See Acts 4 & Romans 11)

Remember as God's special, unique, and most awesome creation made in His image, you should have 20/20 vision because you have your Father's eyes. (Yeah, I said it).

From One Major Creation to Another



Also speaking of creation, remember for 'Acapella August' we will be meeting on Sunday mornings in the pavilion for worship surrounded by creation ... creation-permitting and most of all Lord willing! And if the creek don't rise!
(Yeah, I said it).

During Acapella August seating will be provided but you may want to bring your own lawn chair or camping chair. In preparation for the Acapella portion please submit your suggestions of camp songs or hymns in our suggestions box in the foyer. Thanks for participating with us.

reflections..

A Pastor Writes To His People

Long-term relationships go through cycles: ups and downs, hills and valleys, good times and bad. That's true in our spiritual life, too. For many of us, our spiritual life begins with a very powerfully personal relationship with Christ. We can feel like we are on top of a mountain and have laid claim to the most important thing in all the world. And that strong and powerful feeling can stay with us and propel us for months and even years.

But I don't think I have ever found anyone who has said that they have been able to maintain that state of spiritual ecstasy throughout the entire course of their life. Sooner or later, we find ourselves in a spiritual valley.

I talked to a woman the other day who explained her situation exactly like that. "Yes, it's true," she said, "I've been away from church for a long time. But you know, it goes deeper than that. I've not really had much of a spiritual life for a good number of years now. I don't know why. I used to be on fire for the Lord. I couldn't get enough of church. I read the Bible all of the time and prayed all the time too. I found ways to serve Christ every single day. But I guess the 'newness' of it all wore off and I just lost interest."

But then she said, "I feel something stirring in me again. Could it be the Holy Spirit? And I feel like I want to come back and start walking on my spiritual journey again."

She really put into words what all of us experience if we enter into a relationship with the Lord. It doesn't stay on the mountaintop forever. There are valleys and great stretches of desert. We could very well "drop out" and even move in a different direction.

But those down cycles don't last forever and more often than not there come brand-new stirrings in the heart. What would it mean for you to "fall in love all over again" with the One whom Revelation 2:4 calls our "first love"? This is a great time to come back home to the Lord, your first love, and renew at an even deeper and more seasoned level the most important relationship any of us will ever have in life.

-Norman Neaves,
"The Church of the Servant,"
Oklahoma City, in Thrust,
August 12, 1998



Aug 5th ... 8:00 am Trustees Meeting
Aug 12th ... 8:00 am Elders Meeting
Aug 19th ... 8:00 am Board Meeting

Perfect Attendance
(July 2018)

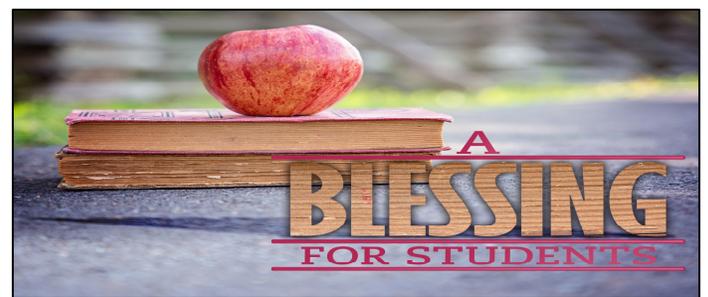
Family FUNday School
Ben, Kim & Eli Fowler, Robin Janofa, Grant Kelly, Gavin Kelly, Carl & Judy Merriman, Cody Opsitnik, Missy Opsitnik, Gail Phillis, Jr., Brenda Schmidt, Bob & Marty Shinn, Jack Vincent



Salem FOOD PANTRY

Thanks so much for money and donation of plastic bags. The food bank really appreciates them. As of this time, they are no longer accepting egg cartons.

Thanks, Robin Heestand



- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | Ted Bell | 11 th | Diana Reiter |
| 4 th | Jen Shinn | 13 th | Robin Janofa |
| 8 th | Angela Davis | 15 th | Holden Shoff |
| 9 th | Brenda Schmidt | 23 rd | Janet DiBaggio |
| 10 th | Ali Opsitnik | 29 th | Rorie Reiter |

*In
Memoriam
Bill
Snyder*



*Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there, I did not die.*

The Relator would like to salute Brother Bill Snyder. He has been a long time church member, elder, deacon, PCC softball teammate, food provider (via his bountiful garden) and all around 'good advice' giver to the congregation at Phillips. Thanks Bill, we will miss you greatly !

"WHAT WE WILL REMEMBER WHEN WE LOOK BACK ARE THE TIMES WHEN KINDNESS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES. THANK YOU FOR CARING"

"Thank You" Two little words that mean a lot especially when expressed in appreciation for all the cards – Flowers and the meal for Bill.

You are a wonderful and caring group of people who deserve more than thank you. Your caring ways have helped me and my family get through a very trying time. It will be a long while before we are back on an even keel again.. Thank You, Thank You for your Support and Love.

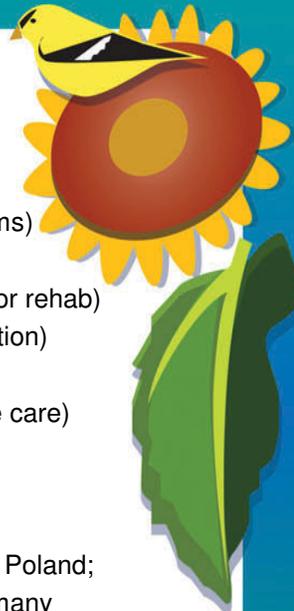
Marty, Eric, Chris & John

*There are no words to ease the sorrow & only time will soften the pain.
Each life is a gift to be held in our hearts FOREVER.*

Prayer List

**Our Nation, Our Leaders,
Our Congregation,
Lost Souls,
Unspoken Needs
Northeast Ohio Bible College
Highland Christian Church
Nathaniel Davis** (immune system problems)
Bill Wiley (health issues)
Mary Lou Eberhart (health problems)
Steve Singer (blood condition)
George Faull (pray for strength)
Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)
Zac Carter (completed chemo treatments)
Jim Webber (heart problems)
Mandy Fitch (dialysis; needs kidney transplant)
Jean Fluharty (health issues)
Tom McKenna (Brain surgery)

Loni Grisez and her Family
Mary Long (COPD)
Gladys Laughlin (health problems)
Nancy Moore (Marty's sister)
Bob Stein (Marty's brother, Blossom for rehab)
Michelle Dangel (beginning radiation)
Renee Baker (cancer)
Carol Baker (cancer, under hospice care)
Larry Floor (cancer)
Raymond Bell (on dialysis)
SERVING IN THE MILITARY
Joe Phillis; Joel Newburn & Family, Poland;
Kyle Stephenson & Family, Germany
OUR SHUT-INS
Bess Staubs; Pat Kalbfell, (Essex);
Wanda Huston, (Allay); **Ada Bailey**;
Nita Floor, (Courtyard)



PHILLIPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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SALEM, OH 44460

Sheldon Cosma, Minister

Contact us: Phone: 234-567-7273

Church: 330-332-4467

Email: phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com

SERVICES:

SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

10:00 am ... Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm ...Adult Bible Study & Youth Group

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.phillipschristian.org

The marks of a leader

Leaders should aspire to look like small boys in August. If you raise children or grandchildren, you know that by the



end of August, they've been running around all summer in their shorts, sneakers and T-shirts. You also know that their knees and their elbows are always skinned, their shins always black and blue and that they have the marks of the summer's fracas on their faces. A 6-year-old boy at the end of summer is my picture of a leader. I got that picture

from David Hubbard, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Many years ago he told me

that leaders need to learn not to inflict pain, but to bear pain. It seems to me that if you're bearing pain properly as a leader, whether you're a preacher, a college professor, a parent or a teacher, you ought to have the marks of the struggle.

One ought to have bruised shins and

skinned knees. -Max DePree in Leadership Jazz



LOOKING UP !

World-renowned cosmologist Stephen Hawking (1942-2018) stated: "Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." His sentiment is especially fitting for August, when many people try to count the falling stars of the Perseid meteor shower.

As a self-proclaimed atheist, Hawking relied on science to answer "what makes the universe exist." Yet many Christians believe that while science shows how things happen or were created, our faith tells who made them so.



Deuteronomy 4:19 (NIV) declares: "And when you look up to the sky and see ... the heavenly array — do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven." We can be grateful for the work of scientists and the wonders their study reveals, but instead of "bowing down" to nature, we worship its Creator and Ruler — the Lord of heaven and earth.