



The

Relator

October 2016

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

Volume LXIX – EDITION 2



**Cosma's
Corner**

In C.S. Lewis' Prince Caspian, a child named Lucy encounters Aslan, a lion who is the Christ-figure of the Narnia stories, after not seeing him for a long while. "Aslan, you're bigger," she says.

"That is because you're older, little one," answered he.

"Not because you are?"

"I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger."

The more mature in the faith we are, the bigger God will be for us. As our vision of God becomes clearer and we understand his enormity, we learn to rest in him. We grow in our ability to depend completely on him and know that with a God as competent as the God we find in the pages of Scripture, the universe in which we find ourselves is truly a safe place for us.

At least, this is as it ought to be. Reality, for far too many of us, is quite the opposite. In spite of this large and competent God who cares for us and promises to never abandon us, we often find ourselves beset by worry, anxiety and fear. It is only the most mature leader who understands that as we come to rely on God, we find rest in this world.

Zerubbabel must have felt overwhelmed. His task was so huge he needed a prophet of God to give him perspective. The Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and its temple 70 years before, and now Zerubbabel was in charge of the group that had come back to rebuild it. When Solomon first built the temple, he had the optimal situation – nearly unlimited resources and a motivated workforce. Zerubbabel now faced strong opposition, a demoralized workforce and limited resources.

God's word to him in Zechariah 4 is everlastingly and universally true: Work hard and smart. But if God doesn't look favorably on your work, it will result in nothing significant. The text reads: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty" (v. 6).

Zerubbabel had to make tough decisions, wrestle with personnel problems, sit in long meetings, listen to grievances – everything other leaders do. But the prophet Zechariah's message to him was that the job ultimately depended on God's Spirit, not on his or anyone else's might or power. The wonderful truth of this is that all of our activities are now infused with meaning as we work in the power supplied by God's Spirit. We can now join in the prayer of Blaise Pascal: "Lord, help me to do great things as though they were little, since I do them with your power; and little things as though they were great, since I do them in your name."

Leaders are responsible to manage their resources well and to lead their people effectively. But prayer to God and dependence on him for the outcome is the wise leader's constant strategy for success.

In spite of the great and wonderful promises, in spite of the centuries of proven faithfulness, in spite of mounting evidence, empirical and anecdotal, demonstrating the folly of trusting in ourselves, people still reject the faithfulness of God. Perhaps because of their status, leaders are more acutely prone to lean on their own understanding. But God calls each of us – especially those of us in positions of leadership – to lean on him.

Such trust is difficult. It requires humility. It requires commitment. It will demand a constant vigilance. We will need to regularly review and renew our commitment, but if we train ourselves to trust in the only One who is worthy of our dependence, we may find, as Lucy in Narnia found, that our God is bigger than we ever imagined.

From One PCC Leader to Other Potent & Potential PCC Leaders

You'rx nxxdxd!

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll— xxcpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd prxfctly. It's trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not working makxs a hugx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritxr — not all thx kxy pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm just onx pxrson. I don't makx or brxak thx church." But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx bxcausx a church, to bx xffctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of vxry pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxxssary, rxmxbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I'm a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation, and I'm nxxdxd vxry much."

reflections..

Daily tasks

When I awoke this morning, I asked, "How shall I live this day?" The answers were all around me:

The fan said, "Keep your cool."

The ceiling said, "Aim high."

The window said, "Look outside yourself."

The clock said, "Every minute is precious."

The calendar said, "Stay up to date."

The door said, "Take advantage of opportunity."

The floor said, "Kneel down and pray."

—Unknown



October 2nd ... 8:00 am Trustees Meeting

October 9th ... 8:00 am Elders Meeting

October 13th ... 1:00 – 3:00 pm - Stitches & Giggles

October 16th ... 8:00 am Board Meeting

October 30th ... Congregational Mtg after AM service



'Stitches and Giggles'

Made my first delivery of the plastic bags at the Salem Food Pantry. They were so appreciated. Thanks so much for the overwhelming results! Keep bringing them in! We will be making scrubbies at our next meeting which is Thursday October 13 from 1 to 3 pm. I will have the scrubbie material, just bring a metal crochet hook size K-6.50mm. Also we will be working our fleece knotted blanket. We had a great turnout last time we met! -Robin Heestand



October Birthdays

October 6 ... Lucy Cosma
October 12 ... Marcia Snyder
October 14 ... Ian Frederick
October 19 ... Joe Phillis
October 20 ... Dan Bartels
October 21 ... Evan Cosma
October 22 ... Cade Shoff

4th ... Steve & Joy Singer

15th ... Cade & Emily Shoff



Thank you so much for providing the meal following Dad's funeral last Friday. Everything was wonderful and we truly appreciate it.

Glen and Beth Huston
& Family



Thank you for all the cards, calls

& visits to Dad over the past few months. He looked forward to them. Thank you also for the wonderful meal after the services on Friday. It was very thoughtful. Tracy, Carol, David, Tiffany, Tyler & Jamie Ewing

To our Funday Teachers, Leaders,
Class, Students, Musicians,
Singers and Helpers... all of You !

Thank You All !!

Thank you for the Worship Service,
for the message, for the songs,
for the picnic. Everything was
Wonderful !

We had Fun !

**Our Congregation
Our Nation
Lost Souls**

The Unspoken Needs Of Our People

Nathaniel Davis (immune sys problems)

Bill Wiley (health issues)

Maxine Vincent (cancer)

Mary Lou Eberhart (health problems)

Steve Singer (blood condition)

Suzanne Holloway (lung cancer)

Alice Gamble (back problems)

Mary Lou Hartzell (throat cancer)

George Faull (pray for strength)

Northeast Ohio Bible College

Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)

Donald Barnhart (hip problems and kidney disease)

Beverly Evans (tests on Wednesday to determine amount of nerve damage)

Baby Elijah (born with heart defect, continues to struggle at home)

Zac Carter (11 years old; leg amputated; on chemo at St. Jude's)

Jim Webber (CHF, heart virus, pacemaker & defibrillator)

Highland Christian Church

Wally Hartman (cancer has returned)

Albert Bricker & Family (home; full hip replacement in October)

Margaret Greier

Alma Smith (auto accident; receiving therapy)

Tom Miller (Blossom for rehab; Room 309)

Jeanie Wiley (to have surgery to repair torn ligament in knee on Sept 28th)



SERVING IN THE MILITARY

**Joe Phillis; Joel Newburn; Kyle Stephenson; Paige Wyss;
Matt Bartel**

OUR SHUT-INS

Jim Dorsey, Essex II; **Bess Staubs**; **Pat Kalbfell**; **Dorothy McFadden**;
Martha Crookston, Crandall; **Wanda Huston**, Allay Senior Care Center, 131 Pendleton Street, Lisbon Ohio
44432; **Ada Bailey** (264 N Ellsworth Apt 1 Salem, OH 44460)

**Perfect
Attendance**

Little Angels: Missy Opsitnik, Grant Kelly, Gavin Kelly

Curious Kids: Marty Shinn, Cody Opsitnik

Teens: Emma Jenkins

Homebuilders/ Loyal Sons & Daughters: Bob Shinn, Gail Phillis, Brenda Schmidt,
Karen Benson, Dorothy Faloba, Carl & Judy Merriman, Robin Janofa, Bev Evans,
Jack & Bonnie Vincent, Carol Kelly, Marlene Weber



CHRISTMAS/MISSION PROJECT

Yes, we know that it is only October but we wanted to get a head start. The ladies have chosen a Christmas/Mission Project and we need your help.

We will be sending hats, scarves, gloves or mittens to the Red Sands Christian School. There are 32 students in the school; 23 in grades K thru 4 and 9 in grades 5 thru 9. Another item that the students like is a knotted fleece blanket and we would also like to send as many of them as we can.

This project will span the months of October and November. We chose to include both months because some of us have the potential to have eight paychecks and some of us will only have two. Also, this gives the ladies enough time to plan the dates to get together to cut and knot the blankets as they come in. If you are a “Clever Crocheter” or a “Nifty Knitter”, this gives you time to finish as many items as possible.

If you would like to make a monetary donation that would be great, too. Just mark your offering envelope designating “Christmas Project” or you can put your donation in a plain envelope marked “Christmas Project” and we will make the purchases for you. All items will be mailed the last week of November in order to give the staff time to wrap them. There is a box in the foyer for you to put your items in. See Brenda Schmidt with any questions.

There are many folks in our area with needs but there are resources here that are not available to the Navajo people. That’s another reason we chose this project. As you know the Red Sands Christian School is part of Lifeline Christian Mission.

Please be in prayer for this Christmas/Mission Project.

The Women of Christ and Stitches & Giggles Groups

PHILLIPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

35459 SALEM GRANGE RD

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

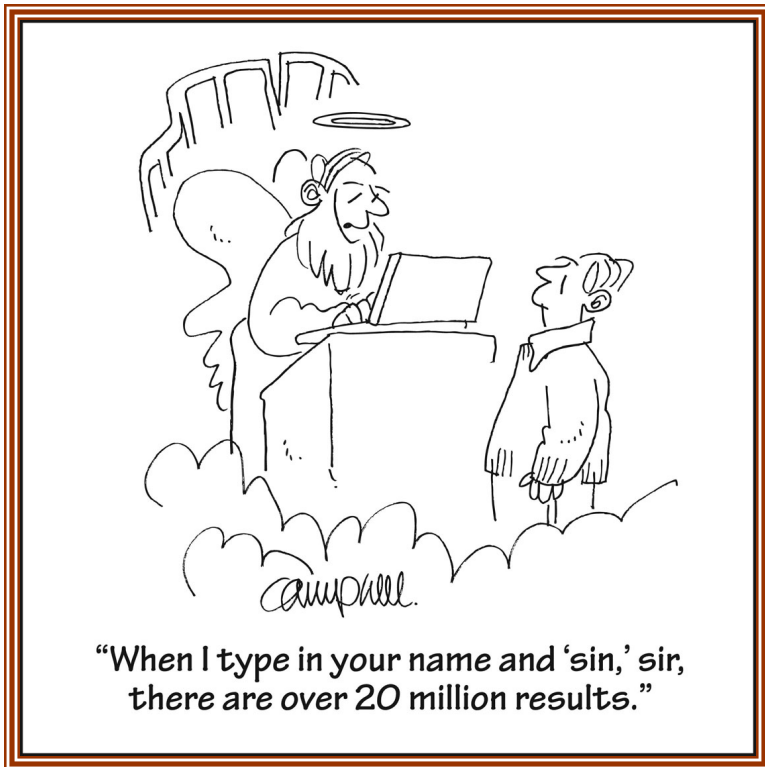
7:00 pm ... Adult Bible Study & Youth Group

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



www.phillipschristian.org

Don't let this happen to you....



*Join us on Sunday to learn how
to reduce your chances of 'sin'burn!*

What's a Christian to do with Halloween?

These days, children associate Halloween with trick-or-treating and candy. But centuries ago, Christians named the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) "All Hallows' Eve."

As the faithful prepared to remember people who were entrusted to resurrection life, they adopted various traditions to poke fun at death.



Around the world, Christians observe Halloween differently: In Poland, kids pray aloud while walking through forests to comfort souls of the dead. In Spain, tolling church bells remind people to remember the saints. In Finland, so many people light candles in cemeteries that the observance is called "seas of light." Although some Christians steer clear of Halloween, others use it as an evangelism opportunity and provide entertainment alternatives such as harvest parties.

No matter your views, you can remind children that though it's fun to pretend, we can always be ourselves with God. Whatever our features and flaws, we need not and cannot hide from God behind masks. God made us in his holy image and loves us as his holy — hallowed! — children.