

THE BELL TOWER



Paris Presbyterian Church
127 Steubenville Pike
Burgettstown, PA 15021
724-729-3450
Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler

Greetings Friends!

In 1964 Bob Dylan released a new song entitled “The Times They Are a-Changin’” which was the title track on his album by the same name. He wrote this song as an anthem of change for the time in which he was living.

Come gather ‘round people, wherever you roam,
And admit that the waters around you have grown
And accept it that soon you’ll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you is worth saving
Then you better start swimmin’ or you’ll sink like a stone
For the times, they are a-changin’

Come mothers and fathers throughout the land
And don’t criticize what you can’t understand
Your sons and your daughters are beyond your command
Your old road is rapidly aging
Please get out of the new one if you can’t lend a hand
For the times, they are a-changin’

The line, it is drawn, the curse, it is cast
The slow one now will later be fast
As the present now will later be past
The order is rapidly fading
And the first one now will later be last
For the times, they are a-changin’

Those are powerful words for a world in turmoil during the Civil Rights Movement, and they are certainly appropriate for us today as the world is still reeling from the COVID-19 Pandemic. We must admit that the waters of our culture have changed and if *we*, as the church of Jesus Christ, don’t start to swim, we are going to sink like a stone. But it’s going to take every one of us to use every ounce of energy we have to swim like the fish. Our attendance has significantly dropped off, our offerings are way down, and our enthusiasm has waned.

Now, more than ever, we need to hold the Word of God in our hearts. That’s why we have been doing a memory verse each week as we work through the book of James. James 1:4 should be a key verse during these changing times: “Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” Together, we are the Body of Christ and we need to take a stand against the devil and his schemes. We have lost our motivation, but we have not lost our hope because *our hope is in Jesus Christ*. Can I get an “Amen!”?



As we think about moving forward into an unknown future, we are going to be holding a few meetings and EVERYONE is invited to attend as we talk about the future of Paris Presbyterian Church. What are your hopes and dreams and visions for the church? How can we make sure we are still here serving our community in 5, 10 or 15 years? What's it going to take for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this place?

I realize we have more questions than answers right now but we, the leaders of PPC, need your help. We are inviting all of you to attend a town-hall-type meeting, (which we will refer to as a Church-Hall Meeting) to share ideas and visions for our future. Two of those meetings will have happened by the time you read this, but there are 2 more opportunities.

We will meet in the sanctuary on Wednesday, August 25th at 1:00 p.m. **AND** 6:30 p.m. to begin casting a vision for our future. Please be in prayer prior to the meeting you plan to attend to listen to and for the voice of God. James 1:5 reminds us, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

My dear friends, let's buck up and lean more heavily on the everlasting arms of Jesus as we go through these difficult times. Our church needs every one of you to use your God-given gifts in order to make this body function the way God intends.

And remember: Even though the times they are a-changin', our God is NOT!!

Hallelujah!!

Rev. Tina

UPCOMING CHURCH-HALL GATHERINGS

Wednesday, August 25th @ 1:00 p.m.
(join us for lunch at noon, if you would like)

Wednesday, August 25th @ 6:30 p.m.



CHURCH CRIER



ANNUAL CORN ROAST

After having to cancel last's years Corn Roast, the Fellowship Committee is happy to be able to continue our tradition of corn, hot dogs, watermelon, and Bluegrass on August 22 from 5-8 P.M. If anyone would like to donate a dessert, they are welcome to, but please bring it in disposable carriers.

This year people may eat in the pavilion or on the lawn in front of the deck. The music this year will be on the deck to give the musicians more room, and the audience can separate for safer conditions. There will be plenty of time to move from the pa-



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Plans are underway for our annual Blessing of the Pets on September 18 from 11 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. The Outreach Committee will be contacting area Vets to find one who will give shots to the animals, and Joel will bless the pets at Noon. Look for more information in the bulletin.



Halloween is just around the corner, but the Outreach Committee is planning more activities for this year's Trunk or Treat (Barring any surge in COVID).

They hope to have activities separated so that children are not in close contact with each other.

Trunk or Treat will be on October 31 from 3-4:30 P.M. If you can't come and give out candy from your trunk, please bring candy to the church starting October 1. The kids (and adults) have a great time so please donate so that the tradition can continue!



STANDARD TIME BEGINS

NOVEMBER 7



Coffee Fellowship

GATHERING PLACE NEWS

The highly successful Wednesday **Lunches at the Church** will end on August 25. During the month of September on Wednesday's at 10 A.M. there will be Coffee and Pastries in the Gathering Place.

With the kids in school, if your're looking for conversations, or if you just want to get out, come and enjoy the company, the coffee, and the goodies.

Wednesday Soup will begin in October and can be eaten in or can be taken out.

CONCERT SEASON COMING TO END

The last summer concert will be August 29 and will feature Cross Vision which plays original songs and Christian Rock contemporary music.



YOUTH GROUP TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

The Youth Group will begin meeting on September 12 at 6 P.M. for pizza and the movie, "A Week Away." Besides teaching programs, plans call for mission projects and game nights. Youth group is for kids 7-12th grades.



REV. TINA TO BEGIN BIBLE STUDIES

Rev. Tina is formulating plans for two new Bible Studies that will begin this fall. The first will be on the fundamentals of faith for anyone who is new to the faith, and for those who need a refresher course in the basics of Christianity.

The second class will be a continuation of the Self-Awareness Class. Look for more times and dates in the bulletin. All the group meetings depend on what happens with COVID.

NEW SMALL GROUP TO BEGIN

A new small group for adults born in the 80's and 90's will meet on Sunday nights starting in September. Joel Peterson will lead the class in discussing a book by David Zahl called "Seculosity."

One class a month will be in person, and the others will be online discussion. Look for more information from Joel about times and dates.



"The opinions I will express at this Bible study are my own. They do not necessarily reflect those of our church, the pastor or my wife."



UPDATES ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY DAY A SUCCESS

Although the numbers were lower than in the past, Community Day was fun, filled with vendors, First Responders, police dog demonstrations, good food from Dick Horstman's food truck, and bands Soldiers & Sons and Winding Road.

Many baskets and items were donated for the Chinese auction and over \$300 was made on selling tickets. Dick Horstman gave the profits for the day to be used for mission projects.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to plan the day, everyone who helped with set-up and clean-up, all who donated baskets and food for the auction, those who baked for the bake sale, put out signs, the vendors, those who planned and helped with games, crafts, face painting, and the First Responders.

Community Day is such a large undertaking that it takes many, many people to make it work. God bless everyone who helped.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES BEING COLLECTED

Outreach is collecting school supplies to be given to teachers to give to students who do not have supplies.

Items needed are pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, glue sticks, scissors, colored pencils, construction paper, etc. They also need children's backpacks.

Schools tell us that many student's families can not afford school supplies which have increased in price this year so having extra supplies helps the teachers make them available.



BACKPACKS FOR THE HOMELESS

If school supplies are not your thing, how about supplies for backpacks for the homeless. The church purchased adult backpacks when they were on sale because some of the backpacks that have been donated in the past were too small for adults. (They did not go to waste because they were given to children.) Now we need to fill those backpacks.

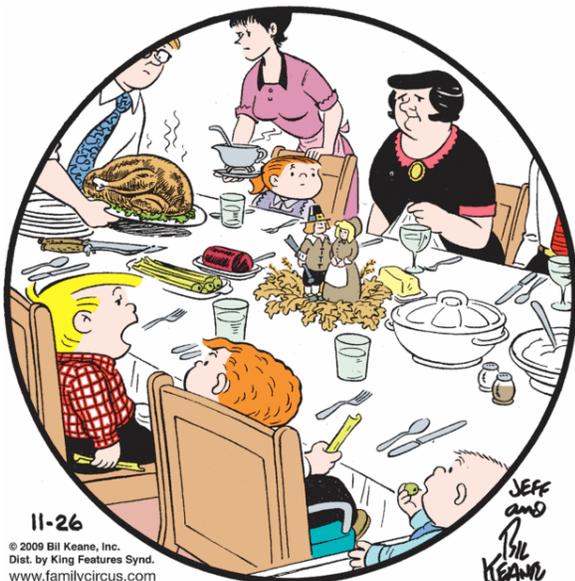
Needed supplies are reusable water bottles, bars of soap in a plastic bag, hand towels, washcloths, pencils, tablets, hand sanitizer, hard candy, snacks, brush, shampoo (put in plastic bag in case it leaks), razor, deodorant, tooth brush and paste, hand lotion, small first aid kit, t-shirt, facial tissues, thermal socks, gift card to a dollar store, pocket Bible, and words of encouragement. Supplies will be collected in September and October.



ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Church's Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 14 with all of the traditional trimmings-turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn, salad, and pumpkin or apple pie. There is no charge, but donations are welcomed.

Church will be just one service at 10:00 A.M. followed by a short Congregational Meeting to elect new officers. After the meeting, bring on the turkey!



11-26
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"I wish the Pilgrims had sent out for PIZZA on the first Thanksgiving 'stead of shootin' a turkey."

I'M CITED, I'M CITED!

When I worked for a youth agency in DC, we won a grant to provide enrichment programs to children in under served areas. We worked with several day care programs with children who were 3-4 years old.

Most of the kids were from really poor families who had few books, no educational games, and very little time to play with their children.

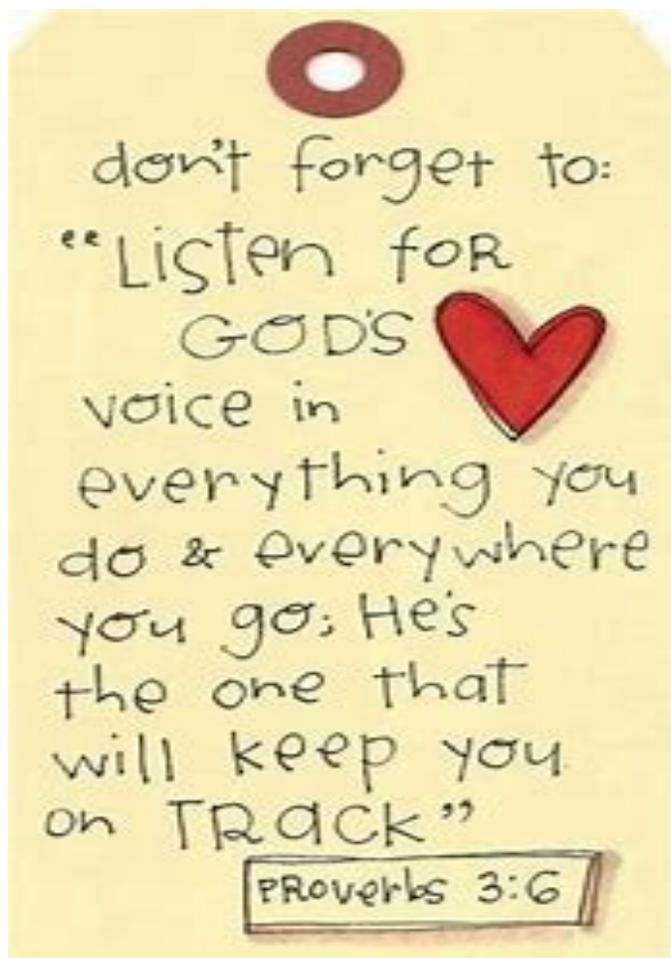
One day at a day care center where the biggest program was to play the quiet game. (The kids put their heads on their desks and stayed quiet for 15 to 30 minutes. B o r i n g!), I took a bag of dinosaurs in and told the kids about them. We sang about dinos and had dino snacks. The kids loved it.

The next week a 3 year old met me at the door, jumped up and down, clapped her hands, and yelled, "I'm cited, I'm cited!! We were told these children would never learn the names of dinosaurs. In a few weeks they not only knew the names, but what they ate, where they lived, and which ones lived near each other. How sad it would have been if they would have never been educated.

The same could be said about us. Do we play the quiet game when it comes to talking about God, Jesus, or being a Christian. We can debate politics, talk foot ball, describe hunting adventures, and share great movies and their plots. However, do we share our excitement about being a Christian? Do we tell people how "cited" we are to know Jesus? Does our face glow with joy as we talk about Him? Do we want to serve Him more and more, or do we think of being officers and doing jobs at the church as a chore?

Is it an honor to be asked to be an officer? Do we volunteer to help or do we have to be asked to do a job. Do we complain more than we compliment?

The little girl at the day care center was the epitome of pure excitement. Let God know that knowing Him gets you "cited." Then tell someone!



ORCHIDS AND ONIONS

ORCHIDS: To everyone who volunteered at the Community Day. Couldn't do it without you.

ORCHIDS: To those who donated baskets for the Chinese Auction.

ORCHIDS: To all of the businesses who donated gift cards, gift certificates, or items from their store, including Janine Strobe for her delicious cupcakes that she sells. Thanks to the vendors who came and donated their wares.

ORCHIDS: To Dick and Pat Horstman who donated all of their profits from their food truck to the church.

ORCHIDS: To everyone who picked up shoeboxes to fill.

ORCHIDS: To all who are learning the Bible verses.

ORCHIDS: To caregivers.

ORCHIDS: To anyone who has attended at least one concert this summer.

ONIONS: To those who have become complacent about coming back to church, and prefer to watch it on TV.

ONIONS: To those who missed Community Day and Summer Concerts.

ORCHIDS: To the great cooks who donated food for the Wednesday lunches.

ORCHIDS: To those who are struggling with loss in their lives.

ORCHIDS: To those who are living with mental health issues.

ORCHIDS: To Patty Noah, Karen Cowan, and Victor Carducci, our nurses, for helping George Hamilton when he passed out at church.

ORCHIDS: To Willie Balt, Norma Copenhagen, Sharon Kemp, Sue Lyons, Sue Marsh, Aggie Wiltout, and Barbara Visnic for working in the office while Judy was on vacation.

IN MEMORIUM

Our church family offers our deepest sympathy to the families of:

**Ruth Cummings, Ruby Robertson,
Diane Poland Doyle, Freida Mills,
Steven Minor, Bud Brown, Judy Grega,
and Joyce Langer.**



IT'S SHOE BOX TIME !!!!!

The boxes and many items for the boxes are in the library, school supplies are on sale, and kids are waiting for their shoeboxes. This is one of our major mission projects from the Outreach Committee, and the chair is Sue Marsh. She is doing a fantastic job of providing many of the essentials for the boxes.

She wants to thank everyone who donated money, bars of soap, etc. and took boxes to pack.

Dates for collection of shoebox articles:

August: Hygiene, (no toothpaste, no liquids. There are plenty of toothbrushes and wash clothes and bars of soap.)
Need combs, brushes, deodorant, and hand towels.

August 22-Children's Shoes Sunday-
flip-flops/sandals

September-Small Tools

September 19-Undie Sunday

October: School supplies (Buy them now.)

October 17: Sock Sunday

Shoe boxes are due to be brought to church on October 31. The boxes will certainly be a treat to all of the children who receive them.

WHO ARE YOU HELPING OR ARE YOU TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT THE POOR?

We seem to be asking for a lot of supplies for kids or the homeless in this newsletter, but times are hard. Poor children do not know color, geographic areas, political parties, why there's a war, or why there is weather devastation. They only know they have no school supplies, toys, or socks. Most homeless have story, and all are sad. You do not have to give, but prayers are free. You can choose who you want to support, it doesn't have to be all of them. When many give a little, a few don't have to give a lot.

Whether its for children or the homeless, the need is great. We have to decide if we are like the people who passed by the man on the road, or like the Samaritan who stopped and helped. Maybe it boils down to, "Are we really Christians?"



The Grace Corner

Joel Peterson, M.Div. | Director of Outreach

Psalm 23 might be the only complete chapter of the Bible you have memorized. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...”

The words of this Psalm help to restore our parched souls that desperately search for the water by which we will no longer be thirsty. We’ve been off on the wrong path, but our Lord can guide us back to safety. We are surrounded by evil, but we no longer fear because our shepherd holds the rod of correction and the staff of protection. We hunger for the bread of life, and God provides for that need at the table of fellowship. We may feel alone and exposed on a treacherous road, chased down by temptation and accusation, but we delight in the promise that God will only let goodness and mercy pursue us.



There are times when things around us seem to change, just because we took the time to bask in the promises of God expressed in this Psalm.

But what happens when our life experience betrays these promises? What do we do when we feel like a sheep that has wandered off without its shepherd? Or worse. What happens when the shepherd of correction and protection seems to turn on us and fence us in, rather than giving us free reign in his fields?

That was the experience of Job, a man who was “blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.” Things had gone well for Job for a long time. He had seven sons and three daughters and seven thousand sheep. But Satan accused Job, saying, “If you took away your blessings and protection, Job would stop blessing you. In fact, he would curse you to your face.”

God wasn’t so sure, but he wanted to test this hypothesis. So the heavenly prosecutor was permitted to go down to earth and take away everything Job had—his sons, daughters, sheep, and every one of his possessions.

In response to this unspeakable suffering, Job speaks up out of the depth of his grief and curses the day he was born. He wishes things would have gone differently, that he would never have been born. No longer do the good days outweigh the bad in Job’s grief-stricken mind. Job had thrived in the protection of God, and now he feels fenced in by God’s judgment. Job cries out, “Why would God do this to me? Why would God allow this to happen? Maybe I would be better off if God just left me alone.”

The words of the Psalmist are no longer comforting to Job. God’s promise to never abandon him becomes a punishment.

We too know this stage of grief. We’ve said those words or heard them from someone we love. In these moments, the 22nd Psalm feels more accurate: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? O my God, I cry day by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.”

God’s ultimate verdict at the end of the book is this: “Job has spoken right of me.” Job’s words of faith and his words of grief are given divine endorsement.

In doing so, God takes the side of the accused and not the accuser. God takes the side of those who cry out to God out of their grief.

God gives us permission to not only pray to God in the comforting words of Psalm 23, but also out of the pain of Psalm 22.

As we witness atrocities and terrors around the world, most recently in the dramatic end of the war in Afghanistan and the ascent of the Taliban, God gives us permission to ask, “Where are you, God?”

Through Scripture, we know that God is the one who came down to suffer with us. Jesus became death so that we would be saved from death. Jesus became a curse for us that we might be set free from slavery to Sin and Death.

In Jesus Christ, God looks at Job and says, “let me come and join you.” God looks at his people who are suffering and says, “let me take your place.” In Jesus, the good shepherd becomes the sheep who is mauled by the wolf who seeks to scatter the flock.

Only because God has suffered for us can we then be asked to suffer for one another. That’s what 1 John 3 tells us, “we know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.”

The sacrifice asked of us is obedience and faithfulness. God calls us to give our whole lives over to the love of God and our neighbor. God asks us to lay what we have at the feet of others, pouring ourselves out for them.

This self-giving love of God is shown in Jesus who takes the position of a shepherd, the smelliest and most despised of positions in the ancient world. It’s shown through Jesus who cares for even the smelliest of sheep and brings them into his fold.

Do you feel like Job today, abandoned by God and barely clinging onto life? I pray that you would know the comfort of God, who pursues you with goodness and mercy in your frustration and pain. The God who created us leads us to lush green pastures when we need to recover.

Do you feel like one of God’s prized sheep today, feeling good about your own life? God calls you out of your comfort, to lay down your life in service of another.

No matter where you are in life right now, know that God the Father loves you and calls you home. God the Son is your shepherd, leading you to the waters of life. And God the Spirit surrounds you with grace, mercy, and love this day and forevermore. **Amen.**



The Laws of the Church Kitchen



Stewardship Update

Budget & Stewardship is pleased to report that God continues to provide for the ministries of our church through your faithful giving.

Tithes and Offerings January through July totaled \$154,687. This is \$1,724 below our budgeted income of \$156,411. Our actual expenses for the same period were \$139,978, for a surplus of \$14,709.

A reminder that the 2021 Budget is \$268,133, of which 10% (or \$26,820) is designated for mission and outreach. The rest of our budget advances the mission of our church through staff salaries and benefits, administrative and program expenses, as well as building maintenance and utilities.

We are grateful that even with an increase in activity and the hiring of a new music director, our expenses are still under budget for the first seven months of the year.



Session and Budget Considering Year End Projects

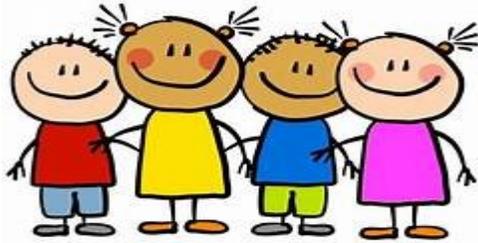
As we look toward the end of the budget year, Session and Budget are collaborating on how to best invest in our property and ministry with available funds.

Some of the projects under consideration are replacing our main sign for an electronic one, purchasing a sound system for the Gathering Place that could be used on the Deck, repairing the tower roof, a projector and white board cart for the Fellowship Hall. We are also researching the most cost-effective way, with available credits and grants, to install solar panels to cover our electric usage.

We will only approve projects that can be covered by available funds. Some would be funded by savings for capital expenses, while others would come from budget surpluses and designated gifts.



Thanks for supporting our
Summer 2021 Events!



HOW DO YOU LOOK AT LIFE?

Some people asked, “Do you look at the glass half empty or half full? The question means do you look on the bright side of life or do you find fault with life and complain all the time?”

Recently, I was watching the news, and I saw that more and more schools are going to require masks when school starts. I was thinking, “I’m glad I don’t have to wear a mask all day!” Then I thought it over and decided if I were a kid and could protect another kid from COVID if I wore a mask then I gladly would wear one.

Those thoughts made me realize that I could do a lot if I stopped and thought about what I was saying to other people. I can make them feel good or bad, just with my words. I can be a bully or someone who builds others up. It is up to me how I treat people.

I also realized that I can decide for myself whether I will look on the bright side or the cloudy side of life. If I complain and find fault with people all the time, other people or kids will avoid me.

We don’t like being around people who are gloomy all the time or make fun of others. It is not fun or enjoyable.

Kids who laugh, are nice to people, and follow the rules get a bad rap for being “goody good-ies.” Why? Maybe because the bully says things that we are afraid to say. They seem to have power. Those who side with the bully are as bad as he/she is.

It is up to you how you look at life, how you treat people, and what your attitude is. Pray about it, think about it, and live life happy!!!

SILLY JOKES FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

QUESTION: What did the pen say to the pencil?

ANSWER: What’s your point?

QUESTION: How did the music teacher get locked out of the music room?

ANSWER: All of her keys were in the piano?

QUESTION: Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to school?

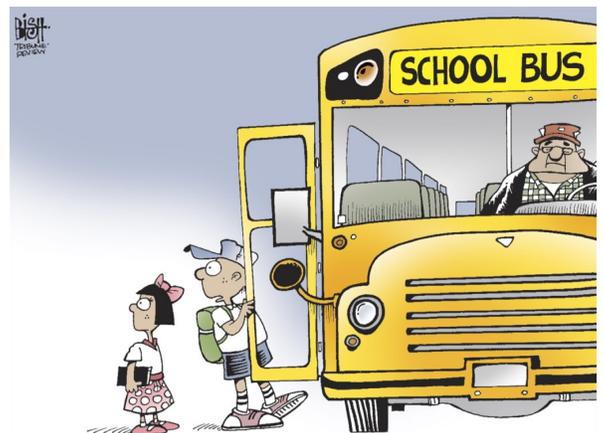
ANSWER: Because her students were so bright!

QUESTION: What do librarians take with them when they go fishing?

ANSWER: Bookworms!

QUESTION: Why did kid eat his homework?

ANSWER: The teacher said it was “a piece of cake.”



I NEVER KNEW THAT MOM COULD DO CARTWHEELS



THE CHANGING OF THE SEASONS

I always think of the end of August as the end of summer although technically it isn't over until about the 21st of September. I love August. Some people complain about the heat, but I think more about the fresh produce.

Flowers are abundant, bees and birds have plenty to eat, and "the weather is easy." This is a great time to divide and reset perennials. Trim back annuals for a new burst of color. Perennials are usually on sale so if you have been thinking about adding a few new ones, they can be had for buy two get one free to buy one get one. Make sure the plants look healthy and are not too root bound. It is also time to "set a spell and enjoy the fruits of our labor."

About the time the kids go back to school and Labor Day is over, we start to see subtle changes in our gardens. Vines and crops are drying up, nights start to feel like football weather; and some trees begin to show signs of color.

Autumn is approaching, and we have some of the best weather of the year. Produce gets harder to find, and flowers lose their luster but pots can be refurbished by adding a small pumpkin or ornamental cabbage.

When we get to October, we know that fall is upon us with beautiful colored leaves and "October's bright blue weather." It also is a sad time because the weather is getting cooler, the days are getting shorter, and we are cleaning up outside in anticipation of snow flakes that can come as early as Halloween.

Then comes unpredictable November with gorgeous days one day and cold rain and nasty winds the next. Snow flakes sink lazily to the ground, and we get excited about their first appearance. (We won't be so excited in April.) By this time of year we think we are finished, but it is a good time to clean outdoor tools and get the snow blower ready to go before the snow comes.

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

Plant 3 Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant 4 Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant 4 Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce us be Kind
3. Lettuce us be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One
Another

No Garden is Without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help One Another

To Conclude In Our Garden,
We Must Have Tyme

1. Tyme for Each Other
2. Tyme for Family
3. Tyme for Friends

Water Freely with Patience and Cultivate
with Love.

After her passing, this poem was found in the papers of Ruby Robertson by her daughter, Gayle Jesse.

**PARIS PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
127 STEUBENVILLE PIKE
BURGETTSTOWN, PA 15021**

**NON-PROFIT
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WEIRTON, WV 26062**

SERVICES: Sunday 8:45 (Contemporary) and 11:00 A.M. (Traditional) Sunday School: 10:00 A.M., SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES: Mondays: 7:00 PM (church and the LaPosta's), Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study (1:00 PM), Wednesday: 7 P.M. (LaPosta's) and (church), Thursday: Mat Class, 10 AM (church).

AUGUST:

22-Rally Day-School supplies
25-Last Wednesday Luncheon
Church Hall-Gatherings 1:00 and 6:30 P.M.
29-Last summer concert, Cross Vision, 6 P.M.

SEPTEMBER:

Shoe box collection for September: Small tools.
Bible Studies to begin.

01-Coffee Hour –10 A.M.
06-Labor Day (church closed)
08-Coffee Hour
12-Youth Group Resumes
15, 22, 29-Coffee Hour
18-Blessing of Pets
19– Undie Sunday (shoeboxes)

OCTOBER:

Shoeboxes collecting school supplies.
03-World Communion Day
06-Soup for Lunch resumes on Wednesdays.
31-Filled shoeboxes due at church.
Trunk or Treat –3-4:30 P.M.

NOVEMBER:

14-One church service-10:00 A.M.
Annual church Thanksgiving Dinner
25-Thanksgiving