



Vol. CXLVII, No. 160

The GLEANER

August, 2018

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church
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"Oh Taste and See that the Lord is Good" Psalm 34
Great Moments Often Catch Us Unaware
The Cab Ride
by Ken Nerbaum

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. It was a cowboy's life, a life for someone who wanted no boss. What I didn't realize was that it was also a ministry. Because I drove the night shift, my cab became a moving confessional. Passengers climbed in, sat behind me in total anonymity, and told me about their lives. I encountered people whose lives amazed me, ennobled me, made me laugh, and weep.

But none touched me more than a woman I picked up late one August night.

I was responding to a call from a small brick fourplex in a quiet part of town. I assumed I was being sent to pick up some partiers, or someone who had just had a fight with a lover, or a worker heading to an early shift at some factory for the industrial part of town.

When I arrived at 2:30 a.m., the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware. "Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated". "Oh, you're such a good boy", she said. When we got in

the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice". I looked in the rearview mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. "How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." I squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware--beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

“In the Steps of Paul” – Pastor Dale will lead another unique travel experience in the Spring of 2019. This time we will travel to Greece and follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul’s second missionary journey recorded in Acts 16-19. The trip departs March 26th and returns April 4th. The cost of \$3,398.00 per person includes everything – roundtrip air, hotels, guides, tips, taxes, etc. – except for lunches. Detailed brochures and applications are in the Narthex.

GLENER DEADLINE for the September issue is August 27, 2018. Please submit your information by 10 AM that day. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a hand written document on the secretary's desk.



Prayer Concerns: Please be in prayer for those listed below and their families: **Short Term:** C.J. Rhodes, Roxanna Mellott, Charlotte Fowler, & PNC. **Long Term:** Chas Howells, Ella Spriggs, Audrey Mitchell, Mahlon Shimer, John Robinson, & Amanda Bailey (daughter of Patsy Johnston).



**No Reports for June/July
Per Sandy Richards no Trustee Meeting
in August.**



- 4-Gene Leese
- 5-Tara Ritchey
- 7-Nolan Glass
- 10-Grace Youngblood
Debbie Reed
- 12-Amara Keebaugh
- 14-Sandy Richards
Mia Marshall
- 15-Carolyn Kneas
Richard Hornberger
- 16-Frank Ingram
- 19-Melvin Heckman
- 21-John Heuston
- 22-Tim Fowler
- 25-Darin Winegardner
- 26-Sarah Cutchall
- 30-Lesley Spriggs

Session



June 20, 2018

Session met for their stated June 20, 2018 meeting in the Fellowship House with elders Al Clark, LeeAnne Kendall, Donna Ankney, Carolyn Kerlin, Ken Keebaugh, and the moderator Rev. Dale Williams present. Elders Wes Howells and Tim Drover were absent and excused. The meeting was opened at 6:30 pm with devotions and prayer by Elder Ankney. The meeting agenda was approved. The minutes of the May 2018 stated Session meeting were approved.

At this time Brad Dickerson, scout master and Scott Paddack, district director for the council were introduced. They spoke about our charter and changes to scouting. The name has been changed from Boy Scouts of America to Scouts USA. Neither Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts will be co-ed as a result of changes. If girls are included they will have

their own packs or troops with separate leadership.

The average attendance for the month of May was 58. An email to the clerk from Rev. Ed Blank from Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church offering any help we may need until a new Executive Presbyter is hired was read.

Pastor Williams reported that the session meeting on July 18 will be held at his home at 6:00. Spouses and friends are invited. Following worship on July 15 he will hold an informational meeting about the trip to Greece in March 2019.

Elder Kendall gave a brief update on the progress of the PNC. The work to clean and repair the organ has been completed, and the organ will be tuned and ready to play on Sunday June 24. Olivia and Henry Alexander volunteered their services to help remove the pipes to be cleaned on Monday and David Bivens volunteered on Tuesday. By volunteering they saved the church a lot of time and money. Thank you. Approval was given to support a charter for a separate girls scout troop if the need arises.

In the absence of Elder Drover, financial chair a copy of the May financial report was passed out and reviewed by the members present. Elder Clark chair of the fellowship committee reported that the picnic went well despite the rain. 40+ people attended. The fellowship committee will provide refreshments following the scavenger hunt on June 22. Forty three people participated in Hands and Feet of Hope. Installation service for Linda Heuston for the board of deacons will be held on July 8 or 15.

Retroactive approval was given for a camp scholarship for Chaz Howells to attend summer day camp at Cove Valley Camp. Camp scholarships were approved for those attending Camp Krisland: Olivia and Henry Alexander; Will Dovey; Nevin and Marin Carbaugh. Bibles will be purchased for high school graduate, Rachael Kimmel,

and any rising 4th graders that we have. The cradle roll will be updated by Carolyn Kerlin and Gary Ankney. A laying on of hands for healing will be held for Ella Spriggs at their home by the members of session and deacons. This will be done at the convenience of the Spriggs'.

Ken Keebaugh reported on the Presbytery meeting that he attended on June 12.

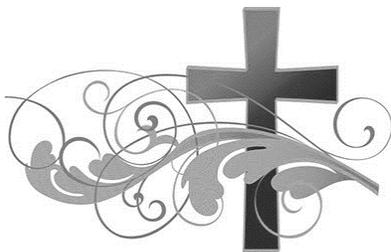
New Prayer partners were assigned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 with prayer by the moderator.

Session Minutes July 18, 2018

Session met for their stated July 18, 2018 meeting at the home of Rev. Dale Williams with elders Tim Drover, LeeAnne Kendall, Carolyn Kerlin, Ken Keebaugh, Donna Ankney and the moderator, Rev. Dale Williams present. Elders Clark and Howells were absent and excused. A delicious meal was enjoyed before the meeting. Thank you Pastor Dale and Lynn for your hospitality. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Pastor Williams at 7:15. The meeting agenda was approved. The minutes of the June 20, 2018 stated Session meeting were approved. The average attendance for the month of June was 62. That includes the picnic (attendance 45) and the service at the white church (attendance 68). Several items of correspondence were read. Session approved the church renewing its membership in the Chamber of Commerce. Pastor Williams reported that he spent the past week at Camp Krisland as chaplain. Pastor Williams and members of Session visited the home of Kenneth and Ella Spriggs for prayer and healing after worship on July 8. He held a short planning and informational meeting after worship on July 15 regarding the trip to Greece in March.

Elder Kendall gave a brief update on the progress of the PNC. Elder Drover, financial chair, gave the report of finances for the month of June. It was decided to accept the proposal from May 30, 2018 to have Chris Gladfelter replace the roof on the Fellowship House. Sandy Richards and Richard Hornberger were authorized to sign the contract and forward it to Wayne for payment as proposed, \$4975.00 at the start of the project and \$4975.00 at completion. Thank you to Debbie Reed for an excellent job filling in as church treasurer while Wayne MacDonald was on vacation. Carolyn Kerlin, Christian Education presented a new Children's Church/Nursery job description which was approved.

New Prayer partners were assigned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 with prayer by the moderator.



Presbyterian Women June 13, 2018

The June 13, 2018 meeting of the Presbyterian Women was held at the home of Marion Walker at noon. Eleven ladies were present. After a delicious salad luncheon, the meeting was opened with prayer by LeeAnne Kendall acting for moderator Carolyn Kneas. Special prayers this month for: The daughter and husband of FaeAnna Heilig ; Barbara Walker; Kenny and Ella Spriggs; Charlotte Fowler, Barb Leese; Bernice Stewart; Tammy Metz;

Audrey Mitchell; Harvey Kneas; and all in need of his healing touch. The minutes of the May meeting were read. The treasurer's report was given by Marion Walker. The May offering was \$163.00 leaving a balance of \$207.73.

Betty Gail Faunce thanked all for the cards, prayers, and support during Ben's illness and following his death. She then presented an excellent book report on *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. This story is fiction but many of the characters mentioned actually existed. The settings were real places and the horrors meted out were real. The story is inspired by the historical figure Sarah Grimke, her younger sister, and Sarah's slave Hetty (Handful). The story follows their lives over the course of 35 years, laying bare the differing difficulties that they endure throughout their lives. Thank you Betty Gail for a wonderful book report.

The next meeting will be on September 12 at 2:00 at the Fellowship House. Program and hostesses TBA.



May 2, 2018

Present: Patty Rhodes, Nancy Bivens, April Leese, Stanley Kerlin, Laura Metcalfe
Absent: Barb MacDonald
Opened in prayer
April minutes approved.

Benevolence

Love's Closet - \$100.00
Relay for Life - \$500.00
Fulton County Food Basket - \$1,000.00

Business

Prayer list updated.
We are signing up to be a host for the Red Cross blood drive on December 5 from 12:30-6:00.
Ice cream social will be held August 26. Time and location TBD. More details to be decided in June.

Next meeting June 6 at 7.
Closed in prayer.

**Deacon Minutes
June 6, 2018**

Present: Nancy Bivens, April Leese, Laura Metcalfe, Barb MacDonald, Stanley Kerlin (by phone)
Absent: Patty Rhodes, Linda Heuston
Opened in prayer
May minutes approved.

Benevolence

Love's Closet - \$100.00
Hands and Feet of Hope - \$200.00
Habitat for Humanity - \$1,000.00
Salvation Army - \$500.00
American Red Cross - \$500.00
Presbyterian Disaster Relief - \$1,000.00

Business

Prayer list updated.
Next meeting August 1. There will be no deacons meeting in July.

Closed in prayer.



August Lectionary Readings

Week of August 5

11th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11: 26, 12: 13a
Psalm 5: 1-12
Ephesians 4: 1-16
John 6: 24-35

Week of August 12

12th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4: 25-5: 2
John 6: 35, 41-51

Week of August 19

13th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5: 15-20
John 5: 51-58

Week of August 26

14th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:(1,6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6: 10-20
John 6: 56-69



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