

February 2017

# NEWSLETTER



23 Church St  
Shelby, Ohio 44875

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

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## Reflections from the Rev

*Turning Darkness into Light.*

Just a few short weeks ago, Katie and I were sitting on the couch in our living room watching the 2016 People's Choice Awards. As I watched, I was surprised by the number of celebrities that were giving thanks to God as they received their awards. The cynic in me couldn't help but question, "You are thanking God, but are you doing anything for God's kingdom or your fellow human beings with your talent and wealth?" About half way through the show, Kristen Bell came out on stage to honor Tyler Perry (The guy who makes the Madea movies), as the 2016 People's Choice Award's "Favorite Humanitarian." As they started to list off all of the people who Tyler Perry helped in 2016, I was amazed! He sponsored an entire youth soccer team, bought disabled lady a new van after hers was stolen, and built a grandmother and her 7 grandchildren a new home after theirs had burnt down. Tyler Perry was homeless in his younger days. He shared a story about being in a grocery store holding a 69 cent box of cookies and not having enough money to buy those cookies. There was a lady there that day who told him, "Go ahead baby, I got enough, get those cookies." He said that he wants to be to others what that lady was to him. I was inspired by what Tyler Perry had done for others, but I was even more inspired by what he had to say when he accepted the award.

*"When we look at the state of the world, and our country, we have to remember that no matter how dark it may seem to be, we all have to be light for each other. When you turn on your TV or your phone you are met with darkness, death, negativity, destruction, terrorism, murder, hate and racism. You don't even have to search for any of it because it is out there searching for you. For many of us who have smartphones, it's right there in your pockets. We need to be careful that when we have something that close to our pockets that we don't let it seep into our hearts. If you take it in it can make you cynical, jaded, and remove you from all the struggles of our brothers and sisters. No matter what anyone is going through, we are going through it together."*

Tyler Perry ended his speech by challenging all the viewers to be, "balance keepers." Balance keepers are folks who do the best that they can to bring some light into the midst of darkness. Friends, I believe that is exactly what Jesus has called us to do. The Scriptures tell us "You are the light of the world" "Let your light so shine before people that they may see your good works and glorify God." We are the light of the world! If we do nothing with that light it will grow dim, and be shut out by the darkness. Hallelujah, Jesus gave the church a purpose and I believe that purpose is to do some good while we are here. Be light! Be hope! Be peace! BUT don't passively allow darkness, evil, and hatred to have its bitter way! Kenneth L. Samuel said "Exposing evil is risky business. But the greater threat is the deadly silence of those who consistently sacrifice moral conscience on the altar of social order." As a believer in Christ, as a barer of the light, do not be afraid to look evil and darkness right in the face and say you will never win! Carry the light to others in word, but most importantly in deed!

I will leave you with a quote from Rev. Lowell Gayheart, a dear friend of mine and father of our very own Monica Shuster. "If you don't stand up for something, you will fall for anything." May the church never be afraid to stand up to the darkness and let the light of Christ shine! May you love God so much that you love nothing else too much. May you fear God enough that you fear nothing else at all. Be a balance keeper! Carry the Light!

A Child of the Light,

**The Reverend James Robinson**

Pastor & Shepherd- First United Church of Christ- Shelby, Ohio

# Exposing Darkness

Written by **Kenneth Samuel**

*"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret." - Ephesians 5:11-12*

I grew up with a rather unfavorable view of tattletales and snitches. "Keep your mouth shut" I was told.... "What goes on in this house stays in this house"..... "There are certain things that are not to be discussed."

But I've come to understand that there is a big difference between confidentiality and cover-up. One protects privacy.... the other protects vice.

According to philosopher Edmund Burke, the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing. Corruption can only thrive in contexts of silent acquiescence.

Secrecy itself is quite seductive to individuals and institutions. Information is power and those who have it and control the access to it are powerful. Evil requires that power be limited to only a select few.

In the 1960's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was constantly accused of inciting violence with his Civil Rights marches. Dr. King responded that his aim was not to incite violence but to expose the violence imposed upon the oppressed daily through the physical repressions of racial segregation. King saw himself not as an inflictor of wounds but as an exposor of the scabs left by the cuts that had already scarred the human dignity of the disenfranchised.

Exposing evil is risky business. But the greater threat is the deadly silence of those who consistently sacrifice moral conscience on the altar of social order.

## Prayer

God... there are so many areas where we find delight in the devices of darkness. Give me the courage to turn on the light even when eyes have adjusted to the dark. Amen.



*Kenneth L. Samuel is Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia.*

## February Birthdays

Loretta Ebersole	1st
Haylie Brooks	2nd
Pam Steele	7th
Mike Uplinger	7th
Peggy Knapp	10th
Whitney Dunn	10th
Bryce Hoover	11th
Marty Metzger	19th
Janice Cooke	23rd
Connie Knapp	24th

## February Anniversaries

Bob and Betty Stroup	2/15/1964
Dane and Denise Richardson	2/20/1997

## December 2016 Financial

### General Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$4,891.33
Deposits:	\$5,659.40
Expenses:	\$6,138.33
Difference:	-\$478.93
Bills to Pay	\$0.00
Current Balance:	\$4,413.01
Earmarked:	\$ 1,755.51
Available Balance:	\$2,657.50

## Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary Kay, Wilbert, Jennifer, Vince, Warren and Weston and all who knew and loved Deloris (Dori) McKinney.

### Other Accounts

Certificate Account:	\$26,474.24
Building & Repair:	\$16,730.52
Memorial Fund:	\$12,382.82
Youth Missions:	\$717.19
LOVE Group:	\$1520.99
Women's Guild:	\$1,257.63
Kitchen Fund:	\$4,350.76

## February Happenings

### Choir Practice

The Choir will be practicing this month On Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at First Presbyterian Church. Come and join the choir, you will be glad you did!

### 2/2/17- Women's Guild 11:00am

The Women's Guild will be meeting on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00am at Martha Grimwood's house. Need more details? See Martha.

### 2/12/17- Evolution (Faith, Science, & Technology Sunday) 10:00am

On Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> our congregation will participate in Evolution Sunday. Pastor James and Rev. Pam Easterday will be leading worship together that Sunday. Rev. Pam will be giving the sermon. Please try to attend!

### 2/12/17- Change the Church Offering

Support our church youth by giving to the Change the Church offering on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### 2/19/17- Blanket Sunday

Every year our congregation gives generously to Church World Services Blanket Sunday. Our youth collect an offering to help buy blankets that are distributed to folks during disasters. A small donation of \$5.00 will purchase 1 blanket. Come to church and hear Fred Cooke's children sermon to learn more!

### 2/19/17- Service- Crestwood Care Center 2:00pm

On Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm we are scheduled to do a worship service at Crestwood Care Center for the residents. In the past congregational support and help with this service has been declining. Please if you can meet us at Crestwood and help us with this service. It is mostly congregational singing, and Pastor James will lead a 10 minute devotional.

### 2/20/17- Church Council 6:30pm

Church Council will meet Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the parlor.

### 2/25/17- Jess Rath Dinner 6:30pm

This year's Jess Rath Dinner will be at the First Presbyterian Church on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The speaker will be Rev. Daniel Orr from St. Marks Episcopal Church. Tickets are \$8.00. Please see Lynn Cooke if you would like to purchase a ticket.

### Kitchen Fund

Please don't forget to give to our kitchen fund whenever you can. The trustees are getting estimates within the next few months for phase one of the project. When we get those estimates back we will set a fund raising goal for phase 1. Thanks for all your giving to support our church!

## Coming in March (Season of Lent)

### Lenten Lunches/Devotions

During the season of Lent we will be hosting Lenten lunches following morning worship. Someone in the congregation will lead a 5-8 minute devotional for Lent following the lunch. The following groups will be responsible for providing lunch on the following Sundays.

March 5<sup>th</sup>- Elder's

March 12<sup>th</sup>- Trustee's

March 19<sup>th</sup>- Deacon's

March 26<sup>th</sup>- Choir

April 2<sup>nd</sup>- Board of Christian Education

April 9<sup>th</sup>- Pastor James and Katie

# Pastor James

## Office

## Hours



February  
2017

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			01 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm	02	03	04 Emergency Calls Only	05 Worship 9:00am- Noon
06 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm	07 Office 9am- 3pm Confirmation 6:30-8pm	08 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm	09	10	11 Emergency Calls Only	12 Worship 9:00am- Noon	
13 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm	14 Office 9am- 3pm Meeting 10-1 Confirmation 6:30-8pm	15 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm	16	17	18 Emergency Calls Only	19 Worship 9:00am- Noon	
20 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm Church Council 6:30	21 Office 9am- 3pm Meeting @ 12 Confirmation 6:30-8pm	22 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm	23	24	25 Emergency Calls Only	26 Worship 9:00am- Noon	
27 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm	28 Office 9am- 3pm Confirmation 6:30-8pm	01 Office 9:00am- 3:00pm	02	03	04 Emergency Calls Only	05 Worship 9:00am- Noon	
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