

November 2016

NEWSLETTER



23 Church St
Shelby, Ohio 44875

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Reflections from the Rev

A Day with Reverend Robert Lahr

As many of you know, on Sunday October 23rd we had the honor of having Rev. Robert Lahr, his daughter Michelle, and some of their friends attend worship with us. Rev. Lahr served as pastor of the First United Church of Christ from 1962 until 1968. I figured out very quickly that I was going to like him, as he is just as big of a cut-up as I am. I received a phone call from Rev. Lahr a few days ago, thanking us for our graciousness and all the wonderful food that was prepared for coffee hour. He shared a few stories with me, and I thought I would devote my letter this month to sharing those stories with you.

When the Lahr family lived in the parsonage, (formerly located in the green space behind our sign on church street), the church had just acquired the property across the street where the parking lot is now located. Upon having the property surveyed, it was reported to the church, that the yellow house on the south side of the parking lot, (still there today and still yellow), was built over four feet across the property line, into church property. Upon learning this, the property owner became very friendly with Rev. Lahr. He took him to the country club for free games of golf. He took him out to dinner and picked up the tab, multiple times! All in hopes that the church wouldn't make him tear his house down! History shows that the church showed grace in the matter.

Crystal Kempf and Michelle Lahr, (Bob's daughter), shared a story with me from their childhood. When they were very young, they accidentally broke a window out of the back door of the parsonage. When it came time to fess up to their accident they did not do so, and blamed it on some imaginary boys. It took several days for the grown-ups to get the truth out of the girls. Crystal says to this day she still starts sweating every time she sees Dick Cumberworth. (Dick was the insurance man for the church at the time of the window incident).

Enjoy a few laughs today! I know I did!

Honoring our Past,

+Pastor James

Reverend James R. Robinson



Thy Sting

Written by Molly Baskette

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "...Where, O Death, is thy victory? Where, O Death, is thy sting?" - 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

Recently, a person dear to me was out jogging when he was stung by a wasp. Severely allergic, he collapsed within sight of his home, and was found by a neighbor. Within minutes, this vibrant, kind, smart, funny and perfectly healthy man was in a coma. He would never teach college students again. He would never make another bad dad joke. He would not, in this life, put his arms around his wife--a good second marriage after a first hard one--nor hold his first grandbaby, born just the week before. When it became clear he would not recover consciousness to any meaningful degree, his young adult children and wife decided to take him off life support. When a wasp sting no bigger than an eyelash can devastate an entire family and community in seconds, life feels impossibly fragile. Paul, you were wrong. Death does still have a sting. What is perhaps amazing in this is that we ever manage to forget how tenuously our breath is held inside our bodies. We go blithely about our business, driving perilous highways and jogging past venom-laden wildflowers as if we are not doing a high-wire act every minute of every day.

But then when people we love get sick or die out of the natural order of things, we are stung anew by the awareness that we're only here for a little while. Even if we don't believe that death is only a doorway into another life, one even bigger and unimaginably broader than this one, that sting has a gift embedded in it: it makes earthly life sweet as honey, igniting our senses with gratitude, deepening our loves, urging us to embrace. My friend's widow wrote, at the hour of his death, "We are mixed and blended and rock solid. We are devastated and OK. So how did we get there? We all took risks. We try our best to take care of ourselves and of each other. Hold those you love close."

Prayer

God of Imperishability, keep alive in us the sweet savoring joy of a life lived fully, and fully aware of the stinging reality of Death; a life of risky joy and perilous love. And when our days are done, welcome us into the Life to come. Amen.

About the Author

Molly Baskette is Senior Minister of the First Church of Berkeley, California, and the author of the best-selling "Real Good Church" and "Standing Naked Before God."



Messiah Patrons

Anyone wishing to be a patron for this year's Christmas music program featuring Handel's MESSIAH should send a check for \$10 made out to the Shelby Council of Churches to Phil Pearson, 11 Marvin Avenue, Shelby OH 44875. The deadline for patrons is Friday, November 25. The program will be held on Sunday, December 4 at 7:00 at First United Methodist Church, 18 N. Gamble Street. Rehearsals begin on Sunday, October 30, at 6:30 at the church. New singers are welcome.



November Happenings

Sunday- 11/6/16- All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday November 6, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday at the 10:00am worship service. Please bring pictures of loved ones who have passed away to decorate the altar for this special service, as we remember that those who have gone on are still with us in that great cloud of witnesses - the saints of the church.

Advent Sunday School Classes

The Adult Sunday School Class is starting their Advent Sunday school series on Sunday November 6 at 9:00am. Sunday school will run for 5 weeks, but we will take Sunday November 20th off for Thanksgiving. The series is called, "A Different Kind of Christmas," and the book we will be studying is, "Christmas is not Your Birthday." Books are \$10.00 each. If you would like to be a part of the class, or just buy a book please see Ellie. This will be a great series! Don't miss out!

Sunday School Schedule

- November 6th- Expect a Miracle
- November 13th- Giving Up on Perfect
- November 20th- No Class- Thanksgiving
- November 27th- Scandalous Love
- December 4th- Jesus' Wish List
- December 11th- By a Different Road



Tuesday- 11/8/16- Election Night Supper

First Church will host our annual Election Night Supper on Tuesday November 8, 2016 from 4:30-6:30 pm. It takes a lot of volunteers to make this annual fundraiser a success, so if you can pitch in and help out, it would be much appreciated. There is a sign up sheet on the welcome center. We still need pies and cobblers donated for the dinner.

Saturday- 11/12/16- Church Bazaar

The L.O.V.E. group is bringing back the bazaar. On Saturday November 11, 2016 First Church will make its first attempt to bring back an annual church bazaar. It will run from 10:00am to 5:00pm. There will be a table reserved at the bazaar for baked goods. Money raised from the selling of these baked goods will go to our kitchen fund. We need volunteers to bake goodies to sell, so if you can help please see Faye Steele.

Sunday - 11/20/16- Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday November 20th at 11:30 we will be having Thanksgiving Dinner with our friends from First Christian and First Presbyterian Church. The dinner will be catered, and will take place at First Christian Church. The office will start selling tickets as soon as they are available.

Saturday- 11/26/16- Decorating the Sanctuary/ Breakfast by Pastor James and Friends

Join us for a buffet style breakfast, (prepared by Pastor James and friends), and decorating the church for Christmas! Time for breakfast and decorating will be announced soon!



Fundraisers for Kitchen Fund

The fundraising committee has come up with some wonderful fundraisers to help raise money for the kitchen/ hall renovation projects. Our latest fundraiser is ongoing each Sunday. Located on the welcome center is a basket of plastic envelopes numbered \$1 to \$100. If you would like to participate pick up the envelope with the amount you would like to contribute, place that amount in the envelope, and drop it in the offering plate as it goes by. There are plastic leaves in each envelope. We invite you to take your leaf and write something you are thankful for on our leaf and pin it to the trees on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Once all envelopes are filled, we will have raised \$5,050 dollars for the kitchen/ hall renovations!

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Knapp, Darlene King, Alice King, Sandy Laser, Dori Mckinney, Denise Richardson, Lee Robinson, Gloria Ebinger, Jon Connelly, safety for church youth involved in school athletics, Confirmands.

Coming in December

Youth Christmas Party & Gift Exchange: TBA

Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins and Lunch Date: TBA

Ugly Sweater Sunday: TBA

Christmas Fund Offering: Sunday December 18th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Saturday December 24th 7:00pm

Christmas Day Worship: December 25th time: TBA

November Birthdays

John Reimer	3
Olivia Fordyce	6
Garland Gates	6
Kayne Cooke	6
Phyllis Gates	9
Debbie Tschanen	11
Alice King	12
Grant Laser	12
Alisha Steele	13
Patti Welch	14
Phil Pearson	16
Todd Schroeder	22
Jay Fordyce	23
David Aune	23
Kraven Moss	30

November Anniversaries

Paul & Sandy Stoodt
Nov. 16, 1974
Lee & Suzi Beckner
Nov. 27, 1993

September Financial

General Fund	
Balance:	\$6,864.52
Deposits:	\$5,515.84
Expenses:	\$4,766.02
Earmarked:	\$3,058.36
Bills to Pay:	\$0.00
Available Balance:	\$3,806.16
Certificate Account:	\$20,000.00+
Memorial Fund:	\$12,339.00
Trustees:	\$14,500.00
Kitchen Fund:	\$1,860.05
Youth Missions:	\$722.97

Pastor James Office Hours for November

Sunday: 9:00AM - Noon

Monday: On Call

Tuesday - Thursday: 8:00AM - Noon

Friday: 8:00AM - 2:00PM (office/ visitation)

Saturday: Family Day (Emergency Calls Only)

Pastor James' Contact Information:

pastorjamesrrobinson@gmail.com

419.989.2099

First United Church of Christ

23 Church St

Shelby, Ohio 44875

419.347.7777

firstunitedchurchofchrist@yahoo.com

firstuccshelby.org