

Mifflin Presbyterian Church

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Submissions for the next issue of the Tower Bell are due into the office by the 15th of the preceding month.

Thanks!

THE TOWER BELL

A PUBLICATION OF MIFFLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PETER DEMBROSKI & STEPHANIE BOAZ - PASTORS

COURTNEY RIEGLER - NEWSLETTER EDITOR



April 15, 2010

Dear Mifflin Friends and Family,

I will extol the Lord at all times; the Lord's praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together.

Psalm 34:1-3

Praise God for the arrival of John Jeffrey Boaz! Craig and I are so happy to announce that our son was born April 9, 2010. He is a precious blessing in our lives. We only had 3 days notice of his arrival. Even so, God has been preparing us for this our whole lives.

For 9 years, Craig and I have desired to expand our family by becoming parents. For 5 of those years, we have been working toward adoption in one way or another. It has been a challenging journey, but a necessary journey. If not for the last 9 years, we would not be where we are today.

On Monday, when we were preparing to bring our son home from the hospital, Craig looked at me and said, "When I think about all that we have been through, it all makes sense now." God's providence is powerful. Scripture tells us that God is always working in our lives, using all that happens (good and bad) to bring us into the blessings God has planned for us.

Craig and I are so blessed and we want to praise God for this wonderful blessing. The name "John" means "Gift of God." So true. We look forward to raising our son to know that he is a Child of God and that Jesus loves him beyond measure. We look forward to sharing him with all of you, our Church family, who have been so faithful in prayer all these years.

Praise God!

Pastor Stephanie, Craig, and John Boaz

CALENDAR

In an effort to improve communications and share information, the following is a listing of the current Session Members, the Clerk of Session and the heads of the Deacons and Trustees, as well as their contact information. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact one of these leaders in your church.

Ned Segelken	Clerk of Session	476-9942	dsegelke@columbus.rr.com
Jason Pitstick	Stewardship & Personnel	937-3200	jasonp@bsarep.com
John Schmeling	Stewardship & Personnel	855-9141	jschmeli@insight.rr.com
Bob Roesky	Stewardship & Personnel	855-0144	roesky@iwaynet.net
Patricia Hanna	Christian Education	478-5109	Pahanna@wowway.com
Jackie Komjati	Christian Education	245-8104	JKomjati@insight.rr.com
Tracy Magnuson	Christian Education	855-1925	ttjkmagnuson@aol.com
Penny Thomas	Music & Worship	237-4046	past@insight.rr.com
Becky Sorrell	Music & Worship	476-6057	rbccsorrell@gmail.com
Christian Billman	Music & Worship	751-1286	jcbillman@gmail.com
Kevin Mason	Missions & Service	933-0281	kevin.mason@nationwidechildrens.org
Cathy Morrison	Missions & Service	855-2260	czmorrison@yahoo.com
Christine Kinney	Missions & Service	855-8737	christine@christinekinney.com
Gregg Comtess	Deacons	475-5551	jgc6@me.com
Eric McCaslin	Trustees	471-7357	emccasli@columbus.rr.com

May Intercessory Prayer List

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Tim Myers | 15 Jason & Kathy Pitstick; Gus, Noa |
| 2 Pat Nelson | 16 Frank & Jayne Poches |
| 3 Chad & Stacy Newman; Samantha, Natalie | 17 Josh & Lauren Polk |
| 4 Geneva Newman | 18 Leroy & Lorraine Pontzloff |
| 5 Trent & Debbie Newman; Brent, Drew | 19 Erica Porter; Eva, Jack |
| 6 Uy & Betsy Nguyen; Ashley, Reese | 20 Roger & Kathy Powers |
| 7 Dwayne & Laura Nicholson; Celestia | 21 Kristine Provan; Paul, Ashleigh |
| 8 Dave & Nancy Nungesser | 22 Nancy Pugh |
| 9 Norma Passmore | 23 Mike & Jenny Purcell |
| 10 Doug & Sandy Patch; Grant | 24 Barry & Karen Ranney; Tyler |
| 11 David & Darla Patrick; Shaina, Jennifer, Jessica, Brandon | 25 Clark & Donna Ranney |
| 12 Greg & Rene Patton; Greg, Jerrica | 26 David & Shawn Rassmussen; Erin, Derek |
| 13 Donna Paxton | 27 John & Ruth Rauchenstein |
| 14 Jim & Ann Pietrykowski; Steve, Ellen, Luke | 28 Chris & Mandy Reed; Tommi, Drew |
| | 29 David Reed |
| | 30 Terry & Pam Reed |
| | 31 Chuck & Janet Rees; Charles |

May Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Dylan Swensen, Joseph Yost | 21 Caroline Heller |
| 2 Rita Kettler, Pete Shirley | 22 Dan Belisle, Kailey Schmeling, Beverly Snyder, Leslie Wood |
| 3 Randy Hall, Andy Kendall, David Patrick | 23 Michelle Cunningham, David McLaughlin, Scott McLaughlin |
| 4 Alex Fritz, George Ritter | 24 Sara Hodge, Kathy Ritter |
| 5 Jeff Hussey, Jo Keller | 25 Marjorie Milless |
| 6 Kailyn McComb, Abby VanHorssen | 26 Barb Boerstler, Jason Mack |
| 7 Jordan Guhl, Lauren Polk | 27 Amy Gravlin, Chuck Rees, Andrew Snavely |
| 8 Elizabeth Walters | 28 Nancy Gallagher, Chad Newman |
| 10 Mandi Shirley, Ben Snavely | 29 Jim Cowman, Ian Kinney, Randy McKillip, Barry Ranney, Karen Ranney, Jim Williams |
| 12 Kate Cremean, Joyce Hague, Dave Weltner | |
| 13 Maggie Dailey | |
| 14 Don Bogaards, Erica McLaughlin | |
| 15 Tari Blaney | |
| 17 Cody Green, Rich Riegler, Sara Russell | |
| 18 Ellen Pietrykoski, Erin Rassmussen | 1 Hazel Riegler |
| 19 Shonda Cline, Sheryl Mack, Brandon Patrick, John Sandusky, Chris Witham | 2 Don Griffith, Jana Sandusky |
| 20 Molly Anderson | 3 Pam Graham, Noa Pitstick, Leslie Rumsey |

June Birthdays



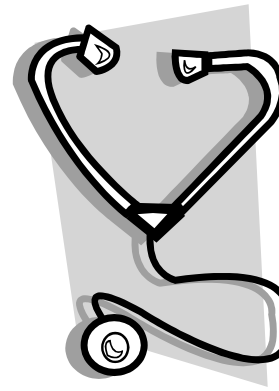


"Here," she said to me as she placed John Jeffrey Boaz into my arms. Pastor Stephanie was glowing with that new mother radiance that comes with experiencing the arrival of a new baby. As I held John Jeffrey, I too was feeling so grateful and excited about this new baby that has entered into the Boaz' family. It seems like my arms were made to hold a little baby as John nestled comfortably in my arms. He had a look of comfort and peace. It always feels so good to hold a baby but especially this little baby that God so miraculously placed in the arms of Stephanie and Craig.

This beautiful story of John Jeffrey becoming the son to Stephanie and Craig, at least for me, began Wednesday, April 7. The story of Stephanie and Craig waiting and preparing themselves for a baby started way back a couple of years. For John Jeffrey and me it started last Wednesday. You should've seen the excitement and joy in Stephanie's face and demeanor as she explained how God was providing her an opportunity to adopt a son. This was obviously a beautiful God moment in the Boaz' life as well as my life.

You see Craig and Stephanie were not a part of the plan that the social services had for this young couple as they were given profiles of potential adoptive couples. As a social service worker was passing on the 10 profiles selected, the Boaz' profile somehow was stuck to one of the 10 profiles. The couple that was giving their son up for adoption was given 11 profiles instead of 10. When the young couple saw the profile of Stephanie and Craig, they realized that this was a family that they wanted their baby to be a part of. Wow, God is so good and God beautifully intervened in the situation.

They were called up by the agency telling them that the baby was to be born on Friday, April 9, and that Stephanie and Craig were to meet this little baby boy for the first time. The parents of this baby made up their mind about giving their baby to the Boaz' and with tremendous strength and courage placed their son in the arms of Craig and Stephanie. They still had to wait 72 hours in order for the adoption to be finalized. There is a law in the state of Ohio that says that a mother has 72 hours to decide if she wants to give up her baby or not. On Monday, after the 72 hours was up, I received a text from Stephanie telling me that they had their baby and his name was John Jeffrey Boaz. It was finalized and I was thanking God for this wonderful gift. I thank God that I was a part of this wonderful story of God bringing a baby to Stephanie and Craig. God always wants us to know that we are part of God's great and grand story so that we can experience his presence, love and goodness.



Health Ministry News for May 2010
Summer is just around the corner!

Garden for your Health

Researchers at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at The University of Texas are conducting an ongoing study, as reported in Garden Gate magazine. The researchers have gathered data from 3800 smokers, nonsmokers and former smokers. They have already found that those that eat 4 or more servings of green salad each week and got out into the garden one to two times each week have a reduced risk of lung cancer, compared with those who don't garden or eat their veggies.

If you get out into the garden, make sure you wear your sunscreen. Here are some tips and bits of info for you about sunscreens, from the website: www.epa.gov/sunwise.

- Apply at least 20 minutes before going outside and reapply every 2 hours or sooner if in the water or perspiring. Water resistant means will last about 40 minutes in the water.
- Use at least 1 ounce (like a shot glass full) to cover exposed parts of the body. Rub in well.
- Use a sunscreen with SPF of at least 15. A broad spectrum product will protect against both UVA and UVB radiation. The ingredients that are considered broad spectrum include: zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, ecamsule, Parsol 1789, oxybenzone, sulisobensone. The SPF number means the amount of UVB protection.
- SPF 15 filters out about 93% of UVB rays, but an SPF of 30 DOES NOT mean twice the protection. SPF 30 filters out 97%. Sunscreens absorb, reflect or scatter UV light. Their beneficial effects decrease over time.
- Avoid the sun between 10am and 4pm. If unable to avoid, at least limit the amount of time and WEAR SUNSCREEN!

The Mifflin Health Ministry Team wishes you a safe and happy May!



Session Update

The Session would like you to know that:

- There will be a potluck dinner with Oromia Church congregation on Sunday, May 23rd at 6:00 pm. The program will feature music from both churches.
- The Kroger Cares program is continuing. Everyone who signed up last year must re-enroll this year. More info will be forthcoming.
- Congregational giving is \$12,799 under budget through the end of March.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Pastors, any Session member or the Clerk of Session.

Stephen Ministry Corner

Heartache, loneliness, rejection, sorrow, depression, suffering, grief and anger. What are all these things? Pain. They are all different forms of pain. Somehow it is true: In our deepest pain we can find God.

Doubt, denial, judgmental misunderstanding, physical pain, and stress—we run, we hide, we do everything just to deny—but that is not where God resides!

In the midst of our suffering God hears when we cry out. And God will help us to open our hearts and minds and hands so that we can accept our suffering. Then, even in the simplest of forms, we can experience God's comfort. A hug, a smile, or even just the persistent presence of one who stays by our side reminds us that God is near.

As you trust and accept the load you are asked to bear, don't forget to look up. Look to the cross. Cry out if you need to. Jesus has been there all along and is with you—right beside you all the way!

In clearer light, Stephen Ministers are there for you. They, too, have walked these pathways. They, too, have learned that in the midst of suffering we can find that God is with us.

Stephen Ministers are caring people who have been led by God to serve others as Jesus' hands, heart and ears. They are here to help you follow Jesus in the way that he will lead.

It Is Time to Re-enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program

Thank you for your participation in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. In 3 quarters we brought in \$3648.39 for Habitat for Humanity, just for using your Kroger Card!

- How?** Link your Kroger Plus card to Mifflin Presbyterian Church. Either re-enroll (everyone MUST re-enroll for the 2010 year) or enroll if you did not participate in 2009.
- Why?** A percentage of your total purchases will be sent back to Mifflin to support our involvement in Habitat for Humanity
- What?** Kroger gives back to the community by supporting various charitable and school organizations.
- So What?** No cost to you, but every time you spend money on groceries you are contributing to our Mission programs.
- When?** Now! The sooner you sign-up or re-enroll the sooner we accumulate money for our program.

Instructions:

To Re-enroll:

1. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click on "Ohio" and "already enrolled" to sign in.
3. Enter your email address and password (from initial enrollment). To reset password click on "forget password" to reset you log-in credentials.
4. Find your organization – Search 'Mifflin'
5. Click on the box for Mifflin Presbyterian Church under 'Select Your Organization'
6. Click on 'Save selection'.
7. You should now see that your card and enrollment date is updated under 'Community Rewards Information'.

To Enroll (first time):

1. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click on "Ohio" and "new On-line customer" on the right side of the screen
3. Enter your zip code
4. Add Preferred store
5. Enter your email address and select a password
6. Set your community preferences
7. Follow instructions 4-7 above

Questions:

Please see Kevin Mason for more information or assistance (795-1513).



Memorial Day

Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives

This is one of those great email stories...

Last week, while traveling to Chicago on business, I noticed a Marine sergeant traveling with a folded flag, but did not put two and two together.

After we boarded our flight, I turned to the sergeant, who'd been invited to sit in First Class (across from me), and inquired if he was heading home.

"No", he responded.

"Heading out?" I asked.

"No. I'm escorting a soldier home."

"Going to pick him up?"

"No. He is with me right now. He was killed in Iraq. I'm taking him home to his family."

The realization of what he had been asked to do hit me like a punch to the gut. It was an honor for him. He told me that, although he didn't know the soldier, he had delivered the news of his passing to the soldier's family and felt as if he knew them after many conversations in so few days.

I turned back to him, extended my hand, and said, "Thank you. Thank you for what you do."

Upon landing in Chicago the pilot stopped short of the gate and made the following announcement over the intercom.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to note that we have had the honor of having Sergeant Steeley of the United States Marine Corps join us on this flight. He is escorting a fallen comrade back home to his family. I ask that you please remain in your seats while we open the forward door to allow Sergeant Steeley to deplane and receive his fellow soldier. We will then turn off the seat belt sign."

Without a sound, all went as requested. I noticed the sergeant saluting the casket as it was brought off the plane. His act ion made me realize that I am proud to be an American.

Deacons' Thanks

The Deacons would like to extend their sincere thank you to our Mifflin families and friends that made the Traditional Easter Brunch such a warm fellowship for so many. A special note of gratitude to Roberta Kallas and Brian Lewis for their expertise in the shopping and preparation required for the event. Additionally, deepest appreciation to Leyla Billman for adding her beautiful songs to the ambiance of the Easter celebration.

Thank you to the pastors and church family for all their prayers and friendship during Steve's illness and passing.

Sincerely,
Mary Ropar



Mifflin members, staff, and choir,

On behalf of Karen, the Jeannette family and the Makar family, I want to thank you for your prayers and concerns over the past year for Joseph. Karen and Joe were always happy and felt blessed by the Men's Prayer Breakfast notes, and truly felt the choir family beside them. With my church family, I knew we were in God's hands throughout the cancer.

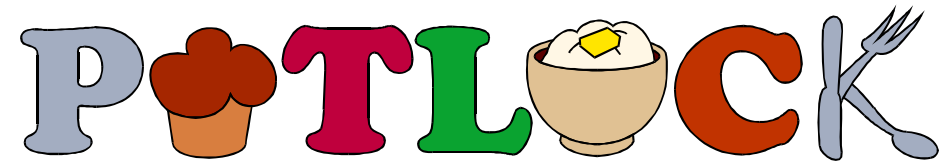
On the side, Joe's memorial was held April 26th in DC. The funeral service can be viewed at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com under Joes' name.

God bless all of you,
Chris Makar

Vacation Bible School
July 19 - 23
9am - Noon



VBS is open to all students who have completed one year of preschool through 5th grade. See the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more information and registration forms. Questions? Contact Donya Baker at 755-2395, Patty Hussey at 989-3378 or Kathy Pitstick at 595-3554.



Mifflin-Oromia Family Fellowship Potluck

Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Please join us on this special Sunday evening to fellowship and share a meal with the members of the Oromia Evangelical Church. We will enjoy a fellowship potluck complete with special music by members of Mifflin Presbyterian Church and the Oromia Church. Come and share in this special event. Please watch the bulletin for more details.





Sunday School News

The final week of Sunday School for all ages (pre-school - adult) will be Sunday, May 23, 2010.

10:00am Sunday School will not be held during the summer, but will resume again on Sunday, September 19, 2010.

Many thanks to the following for leading our Sunday School classes this year:

Sandy Guhl, Leah Lewis, Cheryl Huntzinger, Terri Johnson, Pat Snyder, Ellen Walton, Linda Delano, Patty Chattin, Sue Bechtel, Jayne Elgin, Cathy Sprunger, Kent Sprunger, Phil Koppel, Betsy Nguyen, Kevin Gallagher, Rich Delano, George Ritter, Pastor Peter, Ed Ward and Erin Roesky.

MARY MARTHA BIBLE STUDY
Tuesday, May 18th, Room 7, 10am

Please join us as we discuss Lesson 9:
"The Challenge of God's Covenant".
Scriptures: *Joshua 23:14-24:28*

"Just as God called Joshua and the Israelites to covenant relationships, we, too, are responsible for cultivating faithful relationships with God and all creation."

Whether through the covenant of God or the words of Jesus Christ, let us enjoy the truth that "the grace of God, available to all, sets us free."



**Inviting all
Mifflin Prayer Partners
and their families:**

**Sundae Morning
Prayer Partner Social**

**Sunday, June 6, 2010
10am
Fellowship Hall**



**We will be making breakfast parfaits
to celebrate another year of our
Prayer Partner Ministry!**