



From the Pastor's Desk...

AUGUST 2018

Jesus came and said (to the disciples), 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

-- Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission)

(Jesus said) 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

-- John 10:10

Dear Cup Family and Friends,

It's been quite a busy summer! While many of our groups and programs go into a summer 'hibernation' of sorts, I've had the opportunity to go to the EPC General Assembly in Memphis for a week, attend my two-week Doctoral residential program focused on pastoral counseling, and lead games for a VERY active group of kids at the end of June! (For a look at Joel's busy summer, flip to the end of our newsletter.)

There are two brief but essential things I want to share with you that I have been meditating on during these warmer months. The first comes from my opening days at the General Assembly, where I attended a day and a half long seminar on Transitional Pastor training as a member of the Ministerial committee for the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. Some of this training involves the Church Vitality training that several of us have been working with over the past year. For many churches, the time of preparing for a new pastor is the best time to refocus their mission to 'make the main thing the MAIN THING.' But it's not necessary to wait your pastor (me) to leave before that happens! And what, you may ask, is the main thing? According to Jesus, it's the great commission (see above). To the extent that we are reaching outside of our walls to develop relationships to share the hope in Christ that is in us, we are about our Father's business. To the extent that we worry about other things, we're not. The Great Commandment ('Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself' – Luke 10:27) and the Great Commission go hand in hand. We will be doing some renewed work with our coach Bruce Allison and the Session to focus on the best way we can act out God's Co-mission in our community.

In my mind, a helpful way to energize the church in that task is involved in 'tasting and seeing that the Lord is good.' (Psalm 34:8) Or, as Jesus puts it, 'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.' The pastoral role of Spiritual Direction is about developing that full life of the Holy Spirit, and recognizing the Lord's hand in our lives in all circumstances. This is an important role for pastors, but Protestant Christians have often been unsure of what spiritual direction is, or how it can be helpful. Frankly, I've often been at a bit of a loss as to how I can teach and use the riches of SD in my own ministry, even though it was my specialized focus of study for a year after seminary. A 'chance' discussion with a 20-something man who was a fellow delegate at General Assembly convinced me that the Holy Spirit was nudging me to find an avenue to teach on this topic: its neglect has caused many pastors and committed Christians to become confused or discouraged in the challenging times in which we live. So – expect to hear some more about spiritual direction and how it can be developed in your own life in the coming year or two!

Cordially,

Pastor Scott



**SUNDAY AUGUST 19TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**A SIGN UP SHEET IS AVAILABLE
SO WE KNOW HOW MANY AND
WHAT SIDE DISHES TO EXPECT**

Free food, activities and games!
Come and join us for a day of fun and fellowship
and bring your friends!

**FREEDOM IN CHRIST RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 21st—23rd
AT THE CASTLE IN FRANKLIN**

Come and experience Jesus' loving presence in the
places in life that you need Him most. This year John
Briecck will be speaking on 'God's Love For Us'.

For more information you can contact
www.TheLazarusCenter.org or call 724-266-7576
and brochures are available at the Church
for registration.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES...

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day**
(August 8)

Third Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch**
(August 16 @ Kelly's Riverside—Please see
Laura Crawford about your reservation)

THIRSTY THURSDAYS IN AUGUST

AUGUST 9TH
'CHRIST, REDEMPTION, GRACE'
GUEST SPEAKER: PASTOR SCOTT
HOSTING: PAULA KEEFER
134 OKON DRIVE

AUGUST 23RD
'SPIRIT, RESTORATION,
GROWING IN GRACE'
GUEST SPEAKER: TBA
HOSTING: PAT & NANCY HINZMAN,
129 DILLON ST.



**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE STILL
AVAILABLE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
IN HOSTING A SUMMER BLOCK PARTY:
TABLES, CHAIRS, LAWN TENTS
AND LAWN GAMES**

**REMAINING YOUTH ACTIVITIES
OF THE SUMMER**

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY—SUNDAYS 7:00PM
BONFIRE AT THE MANSE (8/5, 8/12, 8/19)

CONNEAUT LAKE TRIP -
SATURDAY AUGUST 4 / LEAVE AT 10AM

LAKE TOMAHAWK TRIP TO THE YUTE'S—
MONDAY AUGUST 13 / LEAVE AT 11AM

SCHOOL STARTS / AUGUST 28

**ALL CHURCH RETREAT
Camp Frederick
2996 Millrock Rd.
Rogers, Ohio**

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16th—SATURDAY 17th
GUEST SPEAKERS: DAVE AND JULIE BIANCHIN

Cost (TBD) will include: Dinner on Friday (5:30pm),
Breakfast (8:30am) & Lunch (Noon) on Saturday in the
private Lodge, Speakers, and overnight sleeping
(2 rooms for men & women—bunk beds)

Children are encouraged to attend. Children under 5 are
free. Children & Youth under 16 will only be \$15.
(to help cover food expenses)

Dave is currently a visitation and teaching pastor at
Christ Church in Oak Brook, IL. Julie is a public school
teacher in the Downers Grove area. Dave will preach at the
November 18 service at Cup.

Sign up sheets for registration will be made available
through October 31st.

CUP Library News

Two books on our library shelves that I would like to write about today are “True Heroism – In a World of Celebrity Counterfeits” by Dick Keyes and “Women Helping Women” by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Carol Cornish.

Dick Keyes was the Director of the L’Abri Fellowship in Southborough, Massachusetts when his book was published. He also holds a B.A. in history from Harvard and an M. Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. In his book Keyes discusses how sports figures, popular singers, or TV personalities with questionable character may likely be the heroes that our kids today look up to. He also states that Christianity should expose these pseudo-heroes and point to Jesus as the perfect role model to our young people. Published in 1995 by NavPress, parents of teens or pre-teens (any Shine parents ?) will find it worthwhile reading.

“Women Helping Women” is a great resource for Christian women who desire to share with other women the comfort, hope, and encouragement that the Bible has to offer in response to the problems of today.

Both of the authors of this book hold master’s degrees in biblical counseling and they address topics ranging from addictions to marriage to unbelievers. For all of the major life issues addressed in their book you will find clear biblical advice as well practical guidelines to help bring about true change.

These and many other books and videos are available for your enrichment in our library.

Come in and check us out!



*God gives first, and
He always outgives
His most generous givers.*

AUGUST Calendar

<u>August 4</u>	10:00am Youth Outing to Conneaut Lake
<u>August 7</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP
	<u>August 8</u> 1:00pm Game Day
<u>August 9</u>	6:00pm Thirsty Thursday
<u>August 13</u>	11:00am Youth Outing to Yute's Tomahawk Lake Home
<u>August 14</u>	7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>August 16</u>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch @ Kelly's
<u>August 19</u>	12:00pm Annual Church Picnic
<u>August 21</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>August 23</u>	6:00pm Thirsty Thursday

Every Monday 1:00pm Adult Bible Study (resumes in fall)

Every Wednesday 3:30pm "SHINE" After School program
followed by Family Dinner @6pm (returns Sept. 19)

Every Thursday 9:00am Women's Small Group
(resumes Sept. 13)

7:00pm Choir Practice (resume in fall)

Every Saturday 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Eat-n-Park
(resumes September 15)

Every Sunday 7:00pm Youth Summer Bible Study &
bonfire at the Manse (8/5, 8/12, 8/19)

Crosscurrent returns September 9th at 6:30pm

THE BIG SALE

SEPTEMBER 14TH 9:00am–3:00pm

SEPTEMBER 15TH 9:00am–1:00pm

**Redd out all those treasures and
drop off in Fellowship Hall AFTER
LABOR DAY September 4th
(please set them on the Tables)**



**PLEASE—NO ELECTRONICS. LARGE
FURNITURE, TEXT BOOKS,
ENCYCLOPEDIAS OR EXERCISE
EQUIPMENT!!**



**SHINE RETURNS SEPTEMBER 19th
PARENTS & LEADER MEETINGS—
SEPTEMBER 12th**

Registration is available online



It is still Summertime!

I am still trying to cling tight!! Over the past months the Youth at CUP Church have been busy having fun! We enjoyed our time after VBS bowling as well as a day at Kennywood. We kicked off our Summer Bible Study of "Truth or Dare" on Sunday nights. We also had a super fun overnighter. We spent time at FUN FORE ALL and camped out in the back yard of the manse. We still have more to come in August before the calendar reads "SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION" but we are enjoying our time together! We also wanted to thank you for supporting our Car Wash, this will help with upcoming Youth Events as well as our upcoming Confirmation Class outings. What a great year we have planned ahead!

SHINE registration is up and running. SHINE kicks off September 19th. Interested in getting plugged into the SHINE program see me!!!!

VBS "SHIPWRECKED" landed us home safe and sound. We had 50 kiddos sail away with us as we learned how JESUS RESCUES!!!! Thank you to all who took time to help make CUP's VBS the best it could be!!! Lives were changed! Mine included!

As always I ask you please continue to keep both our Children and Youth as well as our community in prayer! There are many great things happening!

Your sister in Christ,

Joel Cunniff

CUP Children and Youth Director



"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1