



# "Glad Tidings"

Wysox Presbyterian Church  
August 2013



A Message From  
Pastor Jira Albers

## Changing God's Mind, And Hearing "No"

As I stood in the empty room, staring at the hospital bed, I wondered if offering a prayer would even matter at this point. To be honest, the hospital room wasn't empty. There was the breathing machine, lots of other medication inducing equipment, and the patient, laying on the bed with no real sign of life. She was medically brain dead. I couldn't bring myself to pray that day. What would it matter? It wouldn't change anything.

I must admit that for a lot of my adult life, I just didn't get prayer. I didn't understand it. I didn't know what it was for. I didn't know what it could accomplish; if anything. What is prayer?

I am still quite certain that I am not the leading authority on prayer. There are many who have devoted their lives to the discipline and can speak on a much deeper level on the subject, probably even in this church! But, reflecting on the scriptures and looking back upon my childhood, I think that I am starting to understand better. This is what I have learned.

Opening up Genesis has been eye opening to me, because in it you see prayer presented, not as a knee bending task done at night, but as a very real conversation. In Genesis 18:20-32, Abraham is seen conversing with God, even arguing politely with God so that God might have mercy upon Sodom. God is set on destroying the city, but Abraham convinces God to have mercy upon the city if there are even 10 righteous people living there. God's mind can be changed (always to mercy). This implies a very real conversation. Prayer is simply that: a conversation. No fancy words are needed. And, as a conversation, it speaks to a very real relationship.

I think that I understood that better as a child. I remember conversing with God all the time about my family, about my playing, about friends. It was a real, honest conversation and relationship. I wish that I would have understood the wisdom I held at such an early age. Maybe, it would not have slipped away.

Since prayer is a real conversation within a real relationship, the answer to any request will not necessarily be "yes." God has promised that the Holy Spirit will always be there for us, but our request may receive a "no." This is true even for Jesus. Jesus asked that his life be spared in his final days, "but, your will be done." The answer was "no." He did find himself dying on the cross. We hear "no" or "not yet" all the time in our very real relationships with our wives, parents, and friends. Our relationship with God will be no different. The importance of prayer is not in the result, but in the relationship.

*"The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."*

Psalm 145:18

## The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

**"How do you deal with difficult Christians who aren't being very 'Christian?'"**

You forgive them. Jesus was asked a similar question, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." With Jesus, compassion on the sinner is always the answer. Our community is made up of sinners. However, we are reminded in Timothy that all are forgiven, but not everyone is fit for leadership. Therefore, we have compassion on difficult Christians, but we do not allow their "difficulty" to affect very many people. – Pastor Jira

## Sewing Society

---

God blessed us with good weather and a large crowd as we served 118 patrons this month. Thanks to all who donated food and to all who worked.

There will not be a public dinner in August because we will be having a catered picnic at the Towanda Gun Club. Please call Marty at 265-3740 for reservations. Cost will be \$5 per person. Hope to see you there.

Please join us in September when we will be serving ham loaf.



**The Wysox Sewing Society  
August 13th Picnic  
Will be held at the Towanda Gun Club.  
Everything will be furnished.  
Please call Marty at 265-3740  
For reservations by August 6th.**

## Church Chat

---

We wish good luck to Betty Conner and her friend, Mary Aquillio, as they embark on another cruise. This is to replace their cruise that was cut short due to a fire on board their ship. May you have a safe happy trip!

Our Prayer Circle had a lovely banquet recently at the Towanda Gun Club. We also had several "Red Hatters" in attendance. We had a luscious meal and was entertained by Ronnie Schoonover, who plays his guitar, and sings songs which he wrote.

The Prayer Circle took lunch and ventured to Lake Wesauking to have lunch with Marion Lent and help her celebrate her 96th birthday. We sadly missed Pastor Jira, who had a meeting to attend, and Nannette Light, who was feeling under the weather and didn't want to take a chance of passing anything on to Marion. What a joyous time we had! Marion is such a dear lady, we are looking forward to helping her celebrate her 100th!!

Congratulations to Darin Rockwell who graduated from Bucknell University with a Bachelor of Arts, in geology and geography. Great Job!!

# Prayer Circle

---

We are still studying the book of Romans. Pastor Jira has a wonderful knowledge of scripture and makes us think about these verses that Paul wrote to the Romans. We got too involved on one Wednesday morning, we only managed to study 3 verses. We know that you would learn as we are learning, so please feel free to join us. We meet every Wednesday morning in the conference room at 9:30. We send many cards, have prayers and active Bible study. See you there!!

**The following were remembered on our Prayer List  
May 22nd thru July 24th  
Prayer Circle Listing**

---

**Angel List**

Makayla Evans  
Mason Barto  
Ashley Weed  
Marisa Ivey  
Betty Miller  
Nancy Irvine  
Andrew Pardoe  
Brian Mastrantonio  
Deb Mathers  
Shawn Mastrantonio  
Abbriella Brown  
Caiden Irvine  
Carolyn Russell

**Current List**

Whitney Rockwell  
Hunter Shaw  
Danny Schmeckenbecher  
Thomas Schmeckenbecher  
Marion Lent  
Jim Allen  
Walt Ellinger  
Dorothy Benjamin  
Robert Allen  
Elsie Zurn  
Carol Wright  
Carol Miller  
Otto Brown  
Daniel Fassett  
Lois McDonald  
Harry Roelands Family

Gladys Derr  
Cynthia Sims  
Leo Schultz  
Oklahoma Tornado Victims  
Ed McPherson  
Leonice Jones  
Ann Hill  
Pam Williams  
Bill Anderson  
Marty Coates  
Margaret Chilson  
Dick Packard Family  
Fred Place  
Brandon Edwards Family  
C. Richard "Bo" VanNess Family  
Carol Clark



# Session Minutes

---

## WYSOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION MEETING May 13, 2013

The regular meeting of the Session of the Wysox Presbyterian Church was called to order by Pastor Jira Albers on May 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Wysox Presbyterian Church.

Opening devotions and prayer led by Elder Lori Blascak

**Elders Present:** Kim Barnes, Dave Blascak, Lori Blascak, Mary Bruce, Betty Conner, Michelle Irvine, Ronald Irvine Jr., Deborah King, Julie Palmer, Dody Savercool, and Loretta Stevens

**Elders Excused:** None

**Elders Absent:** None

**Guests Present:** Representative from St. Pauly Textile, Inc.; Confirmation Class Members: Hunter Gordon, Destiny Barto, Tori VanDeMark, Shelly VanDeMark

### ORDER OF THE DAY:

1. The Docket for the meeting was approved with one correction on a motion by Elder Mary Bruce and seconded by Elder Julie Palmer.
2. On a motion by Elder Ron Irvine and second by Elder Mary Bruce, the minutes of the Session Meeting on 04/08/2013 were approved with one spelling correction noted.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. IRS Letter dated May 6, 2013 stating full resolution with no outstanding balance due.
2. Thank you note and \$653.32 check from Boy Scout Troop 4050 and Troop 5 for disbursement of remaining funds to their original chartering organizations, including Wysox Presbyterian Church.
3. Letter from Presbytery inviting our participation in an "all Presbyterian day" at Camp Lackawanna to coincide with World Wide Communion Sunday on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you letter from TACO for our faithful and generous donations of money and supplies
4. Letter from Presbytery outlining three options for disbursement of our share of.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Music & Worship: Elder Savercool reported:
  - a. All activities during the Easter season were well received and well attended.
  - b. April 21<sup>st</sup> is Compassion Sunday and Earth Day will be celebrated

- c. Elders for the month of April: King and Barnes
- d. Elders for the month of May: Savercool and Bruce
- 2. Christian Education: Elder M. Irvine reported:
  - e. Confirmation class with five participants is continuing under the guidance of Elder King and Pastor Albers.
  - f. The annual Mother-Daughter banquet preparations are underway for May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - g. Earth Day clean up after service is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - h. Bibles have been purchased for the confirmation class, the youth class and the High School graduates and paid for from Sunday School account.
- 3. Membership & Evangelism: Elder Stevens reported:
  - i. Noted that Easter service was well attended
- 4. Mission: Elder King reported in Elder Palmer's absence:
  - j. Featured items for TACO: April - Bubbles; May - Cleaning Supplies; June - Baby Items
  - k. Collection of Baby bottles for the Endless Mountain Pregnancy center has ended
- 5. Memorial: It was reported that \$275 has been received for memorials for Clara Wizelman
- 6. Property: Elder Ron Irvine reported:
  - l. Upgrading of the breaker panels has been completed
  - m. The committee will explore the options for repair of the air conditioning units
  - n. The need for an exterminator was expressed. On a motion by Elder Barnes and second by Elder King, it was agreed to move forward with an exterminator.
- 7. Personnel: Elder Ron Irvine
  - o. Review of cleaning tasks and priorities to be conducted
  - p. Thank you from church secretary for her recent raise was shared
- 8. Finance & Investments: Elder Lori Blascak:
  - q. Presented and reviewed the accounts as reported by the committee.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

1. a. Treasurer's Report: The monthly financial report was accepted on a motion by Elder L. Blascak, seconded by Elder R. Irvine, and unanimously approved. A question regarding the timing of investment income was raised and will be forwarded on to the Treasurer for clarification.
- b. Greg McLaud provided an update on the current status of the outstanding issue with the IRS. No additional action is required on the part of the church and a final decision is expected in the near future. Mr. McLaud also provided an update on the status of the payroll account.
2. Pastor's Report: Pastor Albers shared his report of activities for the past month.
3. Lackawanna Presbytery: No Report

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. It was agreed that the church secretary would have the authority to grant use of the social hall and parlor to any member of the church as long as the calendar was open for the date. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that everything is left in the same (or better) condition when done, and that all lights are off and doors are locked. Use by non-members will be reviewed and decided by session on a case-by-case basis.
2. On a motion by Elder M. Irvine, seconded by Elder Connor a policy to make a donation of \$50 in memory of each church member that dies was unanimously approved. It will be requested that Prayer Circle notify the Chair of Memorials (currently Mary Bruce) so that this can occur in a timely fashion. On a motion by Elder Conner, seconded by Elder King, it was unanimously agreed to provide a \$50 memorial donation on behalf of church member Clara Wizelman.
3. Research is continuing to finalize a Membership plaque to honor 50 year + members.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The anticipated change in the way bulk mailing is permitted and the impact on the cost for mailing of our monthly newsletters, etc. was discussed. In an effort to help reduce costs it was suggested that perhaps email be used in place of traditional mailings to the extent possible. Elder Barnes agreed to draft something for the congregation to obtain email addresses from those members agreeable to this form of communication.
2. Confirmation Class Members Kayla Brown and Kaleb King were on hand to answer some questions for session to gage their readiness for confirmation and church membership. On a motion by Elder Conner, seconded by Elder M. Irvine approval for the confirmation of both Kayla Brown and Kaleb King was unanimously approved.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Closing Prayer lead by Pastor Jira Albers

Next Session Meeting: June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

Respectfully recorded and submitted by:

Kim D Barnes  
Clerk of Session