

Auburn Presbyterian Church
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Rev. David Lawrence



AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

A SHOW LIKE NO OTHER SHOW!

September 15, 2019

Following a brief Sunday 10 a.m. service

“Pews, Pies, & Pastors”

@30 min.

This informal, light-hearted skit presents merely a few brushstrokes to remind us of how dynamic and diverse our church is. It will be performed by some of the most creative members of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, who will amaze you with their ad-lib talents and thespian antics.

It was written by Rachel Roberts, who was “commissioned” by the 175th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, as part of a year-long celebration of the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

With a cast of fifteen, the skit features young and mature members of the church as they seek answers about the history and heritage of the church and about some of the big questions of life from an enterprising, young Psychiatrist, who also keeps erratic office hours.

Come see. Come enjoy. Come celebrate “Pews, Pies, & Pastors!”

FROM THE PASTOR

Friends-How has your day been? I was really busy today and what's even better—I got to do something I really like. I got to have some wonderful conversations. Some of those conversations were really passionate and others were deeply compassionate. I got to talk with people about their joys and concerns for themselves, their friends, the church, and the world. All in all, this day was enriched by being with others in this way.

The joy of these conversations is that in these stories we welcome each other into our lives. This is an opportunity to share our opinions and make ourselves vulnerable by that honesty. These stories are what make us who we are and in telling the story we share ourselves. In the process of conversation, story sharing, we create a possibility to grow as people, as God's people, and the church. We do that by making ourselves available for relationship.

There is another important part to conversation. Not only is this about talking and telling, it's about listening. Good conversation involves "thick listening", which is listening and hearing rather than listening and mentally preparing our response. Listening like this conveys that we value the other, that they are an important child of God. Through this practice we call one another into deeper relationship and develop a deeper caring for one another.

We wonder why Jesus taught with parables. I think one of the reasons is that we are drawn into those stories. Our thoughts slow and our attention is captured through story. Narrative works as a gateway to deep listening because stories engage us much more readily than bare facts and statements. Jesus' parables cause us to suspend judgment for just a second to hear what is said.

In our rushing world, it is difficult to develop the practice of deep listening. All too often we live in a way that is only concerned with conveying our message to another person. We don't really care what our conversation partner has to say and our demeanor cries out, "Listen to me!". This is the communication style of our culture. We all get

caught up in life and focused on our own agenda, even when we know better.

I am going to suggest that we all slow down a little. I am going to suggest that we try to listen more closely to our conversation partners. I am *not* saying that you have to agree with what someone is saying to you—in fact, you might profoundly disagree. I am just asking you to listen before joining the debating society. Listen to what another person is saying long enough to really hear them. Care enough to listen. When both people engage in this practice we can begin the slow progress toward changing the world.

I don't know why, but this [song by Jackie DeShannon](#) came to my mind. Jesus calls us to love one another. We show that love by caring enough to listen to what someone has to say. There is plenty of strife and disagreement in the world today. The only way to mend our divisions is by listening to one another and experimenting with some new ways of being in community together.

Pastor David



BIBLE STUDY STARTING BACK UP IN AUGUST:

The bible is full of stories. Stories of love and war, compassion and crime, and stories of beginnings. We're going to start Bible study the last Wednesday in August with a beginning. Come join us as we return to Luke's story of Jesus.



Calling all past, present, and future choir members! The choir's

annual kick-off is **Saturday, August 24**, at the Buttermore pond. The choir will preview upcoming anthems from **10 AM to 12 PM** and then enjoy lunch together at noon. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. A meat/cheese tray, beverages, and table service will be provided. Please respond to Marjorie Reinsch (260-243-0874) or Julia Nixon (260-582-9224) whether you can—or can't—come that day.

Regular Wednesday evening rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 28, at 7:00 PM. The choir will first sing in worship on Sunday, September 15. We look forward to choir “veterans” and ALWAYS welcome new members!

EVANGELISM, CHURCH GROWTH/ FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS:

FUNDRAISER: On Friday, August 30th of ACD Weekend, the Evangelism, Church Growth and Fellowship committee will rent spaces in the parking lot to folks attending downtown festivities. We will begin renting spaces at 2:30 p.m. for a donation of \$5 per vehicle. We will provide reserved spots for anyone that is interested. Please contact Jerri Imus or the church office to get involved.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE AND PICNIC A HUGE SUCCESS!

"What a spectacular day" was used to describe the outdoor worship service and picnic that took place in the Biblical Garden on Sunday, July 21st. " If you didn't come you missed a very good time" was written by a member who enjoyed the event.

Special thanks to the following committee members and other volunteers that made this day a special one: Jerri Imus, Alyssa Imus, Grace Bassett, Polly Bassett, Judy Ditmars, Cheryl John, John & Linda Jackson, the Smith Family, Pastor David, Judy Rhoades and the DeKalb County Community Orchestra.

UPCOMING 175th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

First an update: We regret that David Henning, currently of Houston, Texas, has had to cancel an organ recital he had planned to give at our church on Sunday afternoon, November 17. However, we are pleased to

announce the return that day of opera singer Marie Engle, whose two previous recitals at APC were very well-attended and well-received. Marie recently graduated with her Master's Degree from Juilliard School of Music in New York City, and she plans to remain in New York this fall to do free-lance vocal work and continue her studies.

Marie will be accompanied on piano by Mary Castello, the two of them having performed in communities around the United States and Canada during the past few years. Ms. Castello has a Master's Degree from McGill Conservatory in Montreal, has served as young artist at the Vancouver Opera, and is currently on staff at Acadia College in Nova Scotia.

We are excited to welcome Marie Engle back to our church and we look forward to listening to both artists. The time of the Sunday afternoon recital will be announced soon.

Meanwhile, mark your calendars for:

September 15: Church members will perform a light-hearted skit, written by church member and noted author/playwright Rachel Roberts. The skit will be performed in the sanctuary after worship. The public is invited. A light lunch will follow.

November 17: Mary Engle and Mary Castello recital. Time to be announced.

November 23: The church will be featured on the Lion's Club annual "Christmas Stroll." The day will feature a soup luncheon and a sale – of baked goods and a new church cookbook!

December 8: Birthday Party in Fellowship Hall following worship – in observance of the Dec. 6, 1844 date when a handful of pioneers organized Auburn Presbyterian Church. And....we may be adding another special event on Saturday, December 7. Stay tuned!

CHURCH HISTORY QUESTION:

When was the beautiful rose window – the Whitten Memorial Rose Window – installed in the chancel at the front of the sanctuary?

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

Greetings To All Women of the Auburn Presbyterian Church,

We are experiencing changes in the membership of Presbyterian Women in our church. We have gained some new women and sadly lost several to death, sickness, and moving from the area (not to mention this thing call aging)! This has caused some re-organization to keep PW a vital and caring part of our church and to draw us together as one. In March, 2019, it was agreed to combine the existing circles, Priscilla and Ruth, into one all inclusive circle, Presbyterian Women's Circle. We will meet monthly as always (except June, July and August) on the second Wednesday, at a place to be determined, for lunch. Those preferring not to partake of lunch may come at 12:30 and participate in the Bible Study and business matters. The new 2019-2020 Program Booklets will be available by August. This will help you follow the meeting dates, lessons and projects. You may pick one up in the church office.

Our two large current fundraiser projects are the Church Bake Sale in conjunction with the November 23rd Lion's Christmas Stroll, and the creation of a new Cookbook. These two projects are a part of our Church Celebration of 175 years. This Fall we will be focusing our attention on the Lion's Club Christmas Stroll, November 23, 2019. All of our church family will be asked to participate. We are having a bake sale, specialty baskets, dry jarred and cup items, and a book sale. The youth are providing a soup lunch. For the cookbook project we are encouraging all of our church family to submit your favorite recipes to Tracy (church secretary). The deadline for the recipes is September 1st. We hope to have the cookbooks finished so we can sell them at the Lions Christmas Stroll as well.

FUNERAL DINNERS: We are in need of help for the preparation and serving of funeral dinners. This service we provide is one of the most rewarding missions that we perform as Presbyterian Women. Please don't forget to fill out your form that will be coming soon in the mail. It will be sent to every women in the church. Help is needed in five categories:

Help prepare food at the church any day

Help prepare food at the church week-ends only

Prepare a dish at home and deliver to church

Serve during the funeral dinner

Clean up after the funeral dinner

All of the Above

When you receive your letter in the mail please indicate in which area you would like to assist and return the form to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

A NEW COOKBOOK TO COMMEMORATE OUR CHURCH'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY!



We would like our new cookbook to include FAVORITE recipes from our previous church cookbooks as well as NEW recipes. Perhaps you have a much loved recipe that has been in your family for a long time. Now is the time to share it!

Please submit your recipes no later than September 1st. Our goal is to have the cookbook ready to sell by the Fall, just in time for Christmas!

Recipes

There are several ways to submit a recipe.

1. Email your recipe to the church secretary at apcsecretary111@gmail.com
2. Bring your recipe or recipe book into the church office and copy/scan your chosen recipes on our copy machine.

IT'S THAT EASY! We hope EVERYONE will participate by submitting their recipes. Don't forget to put your name on the recipe.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

It's August!!! That means the youth will be starting school in about a week....seems like we just started Summer!!! We had a nice summer with the youth meeting a few times for some fellowship. We painted, made tie dye shirts, and ended our summer activities with a Thanksgiving Dinner. The youth spent the whole day making a thanksgiving dinner for their families. They learned how to prep a turkey, make pie crust, mash potatoes and much more. (SEE PICS BELOW)

Pastor David and I are working together on the 2019-2020 bible study season for the Youth. I am planning on using a 30 week program called Believe. We will spend 10 weeks studying "What do I believe," 10 weeks on "What should I do" and 10 weeks on "Who am I becoming." Each student will receive an age appropriate textbook and guide. This study makes it possible for me to work with all of our age groups at the same time.

Looking forward to another exciting year with our Youth and Congregation.

God Bless. Kari



BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATES:



If you haven't noticed things are really shaping up around the church. The garden clean was a huge success thanks to those who volunteered on the hottest and the most humid day of the summer! Just to name a few were

the Clarks and their grand-daughter, the Buttermore sisters, Pam Scranton, Rachel Roberts, and Pastor David. Thanks to everyone who helped in body and spirit!

Also check out the new look on the outside of the building on 12th Street. Since the street was being torn up building & grounds took that opportunity to move all the electrical wires that didn't look very attractive against our building. It was something that needed done for a long time. See below the before and after pictures. Special thanks to David John for taking over and seeing that this project was completed.



BEFORE



AFTER

ALSO ...

Check out the newly painted elevator door on Jackson Street. David John works hard to make the appearance of the church look inviting and welcoming. He also takes care of a lot of maintenance issues we have on a weekly basis.

THANKS DAVID FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!

