

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

November 2016

Have you ever read a book and, after you've read for hours or days, thought, "This is all wrong. Had I been the author, that last chapter would have turned out completely differently.?"

Have you ever read hundreds, or even thousands, of pages and had this thought? You started out carefree, reading the first page and having invested little or nothing. But then the pages continued to turn, and you were drawn into the story. You devoted time and energy to it and, for the most part, liked the storyline. You grew to love the characters, growing so intimately familiar with them that you could actually hear them speaking when you read their dialogue.

But then came that fateful moment in which you stared down at the page in shock, paralyzed. Seeing something that did NOT jibe with your personal plan for the story, you experienced an unwelcome wave of emotions. There was anger that your story was damaged or ruined. You felt resentment toward the author for wasting your time. You experienced disappointment when it became clear that your subconscious plan for a world which had become so real in your mind would not come to fruition. There was confusion at how the author could possibly take this crazy direction in your beloved story. It made NO sense whatsoever and *just didn't fit*.

Have you ever had this thought while reading the Bible?

If you've read the entire thing, then chances are that you have. You were drawn in early thanks to the story of Creation, the heroics of Moses, the devotion of Noah, the faith of Abraham. You were amazed at how long Methuselah lived and at all God did through Joseph. And Jacob? What a character, wrestling with God and prevailing. The works and words of Elijah and Elisha held your excitement and freed your imagination. You encountered strength and glory and grandeur when you read about David and Solomon and shook your head in lament when it became all too clear that they were not perfect after all.

And then you read about Jesus. You read about a man who was human but was also God. An individual who did not sin like David and Solomon, but who instead was perfect in his conduct as a human being. You read about a God-man that performed miracles, told amazing stories, healed the sick, and turned every earthly system and convention of the time upside down. You read about a man that loved us so much that he died for us all, that we might live.

It's an amazing and inspiring book. But in that same book we read about things that don't seem to make any sense to us. Kill children that get too far out of line? Don't mow your grass on a Saturday or you're put to death? If you're not a virgin when you marry, the men are supposed to throw rocks at you until you're dead? Don't trim the edges of your beard or wear blended fabrics or eat shrimp or pork? Slavery is ok? So ok, in fact, that you are allowed to beat your slaves within an inch of their lives because they're your property?

When we find things like this in the book that we love, many of us encounter the aforementioned anger, resentment, disappointment and confusion. How could all of these things be in our book?

Continued on next page.....

Last night, during Bible study, we discussed an illustration put forth by Adam Hamilton in his book *Half-Truths*. In this illustration, Hamilton likens various Biblical passages to the items that go into a colander. Jesus, in this illustration, plays the role of the colander. Hamilton admits that Scripture is complicated at times, but if we are careful to view all of it through a Jesus-lens, or Jesus-colander, we gain a better understanding of those difficult-to-reconcile passages and events and their contexts. When we encounter passages that advocate killing and violence, for example, it behooves us to break out the colander. That which is inconsistent with the commands and example of Jesus, like the unwanted water, is strained out. What remains in the colander is what we eat; what remains is Jesus' message for us. And that message is, quite simply, to love.

When you're unsure of what Scripture might be telling you to say or how it's advising you to act, it is helpful to ask these questions: Do my words and actions reflect my love of God? Do they reflect my love for others? At times the Bible can, indeed, be complicated. But the instruction of our Savior is not.

Pastor Mike

Adam Hamilton, *Half Truths*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016)



Pictured in the new apartment are (L to R) Dominic, Pastor Mike, Frank Hilberer and Dominic's longtime roommate James McGill

A recent fire in KOOS member Dominic Fortuna's apartment left him without food, clothing, and basic apartment furnishings. We are proud to say that his brothers and sisters at Kirk of Our Savior immediately stepped in and contributed not just all of the above items, but also a financial gift that covered the cost of Dominic's hotel stay and all of his remaining food expenses. Only one week later, Dominic lacks nothing. In the midst of great loss, how wonderful it has been to witness the grace of God and the example of Christ in the selfless giving of our faithful church family. God bless you all, Kirk of Our Savior!

KONNECTING with....

Betty Willox

I don't have a favorite quote.

One thing I love about the Kirk is how easy it is to get to know people. Also, we are mission based-always reaching out.

I was named after my Irish grandmother.

I've been a member of the KIRK for 47 years!

My favorite season is summer-having come from a country where it rain a lot.

I find a lot of joy in singing in the Kirk choir and also the Senior Center choir. I love to travel-having been to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Israel, China, Russia and New Guinea.

I started coming to the KIRK because we bought our house in Westland.

I live in Westland.

If my life was a book, the title would be "Lost in the Crowd," because that's the way I feel in a crowd.

I love the sound of piano and organ music-also, the "Big Band" era music.

My hobbies and interests are singing, reading, line dancing, jazzercise, playing games and taking care of the yard.

My family always tells a story about how I can't throw anything out. If something is going bad, I cut the bad off and eat the rest, or as my family always used to say, "Dad will eat it."

Three things on my bucket list:

To see my 3 sisters again-they live in Australia

To live independently

To stay healthy

What ways have I tried to serve God, the church and others?

By singing in the choir, taught Sunday School for years, served as a deacon. I try to treat others with kindness and caring. I hope I live my life so that people know I am a Christian.

The most memorable time when I knew God was working in my life was when we came to this country nearly 50 years ago and people rallied around to help us through tough times.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter, Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer, Elder

Audrey Conner, Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Sharon Garcia, Chairman and Elder

Cindy Handford, Deacon

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Lorraine Scott, Deacon

Lois Hanley, Deacon

FOUNDATION

Leslie Holland, Chairman and Elder

David Garcia, Elder

Nancy Pride, Deacon

Patrick Frobe, Deacon

John Jennings, Deacon

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

November CELEBRATIONS

4	Cathy Troutman
13	John Rose
18	Donald Rock
19	Leslie Holland
25	Tom Forgacs
27	Audrey Conner
29	Al Tedd



IT'S A LUNCH DATE!

November 30

Meet at the church at 11:30am to go out to lunch with other members. The men's group and the women's group will each decide where they will go locally for lunch and conversation. If you've never been, step out of your comfort zone this month and try it!



LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS PROJECTS

The Mission Committee is looking for ideas of Christmas projects they can take on. If you have an idea, please contact Judy Curtis.



A publication for the family and friends of Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church (USA)

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November 2016 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

November

Tuesday, November 1

All Saints' Day

Morning: Pss. 63; 149

Evening: Pss. 125; 90

Isa. 26:1–4, 8–9, 12–13,
19–21

Rev. 21:9–11, 22–27

(22:1–5) or Heb.

11:32–12:2

Matt. 5:1–12

Wednesday, November 2

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 1; 33

Zeph. 2:1–15

Rev. 16:1–11

Luke 13:10–17

Thursday, November 3

Morning: Pss. 97;

147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 16; 62

Zeph. 3:1–7

Rev. 16:12–21

Luke 13:18–30

Friday, November 4

Morning: Pss. 51; 148

Evening: Pss. 142; 65

Zeph. 3:8–13

Rev. 17:1–18

Luke 13:31–35

Saturday, November 5

Morning: Pss. 104; 149

Evening: Pss. 138; 98

Zeph. 3:14–20

Rev. 18:1–14

Luke 14:1–11

Sunday, November 6

25th Sunday after

Pentecost

Morning: Pss. 19; 150

Evening: Pss. 81; 113

Joel 1:1–13

1 Cor. 14:1–12

Matt. 20:1–16

Monday, November 7

Morning: Pss. 135; 145

Evening: Pss. 97; 112

Joel 1:15–2:2

Rev. 18:15–24

Luke 14:12–24

Tuesday, November 8

Morning: Pss. 123; 146

Evening: Pss. 30; 86

Joel 2:3–11

Rev. 19:1–10

Luke 14:25–35

Wednesday, November 9

Morning: Pss. 15;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 48; 4

Joel 2:12–19

Rev. 19:11–21

Luke 15:1–10

Thursday, November 10

Morning: Pss. 36;

147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 80; 27

Joel 2:21–27

James 1:1–15

Luke 15:1–2, 11–32

Friday, November 11

Morning: Pss. 130; 148

Evening: Pss. 32; 139

Joel 2:28–3:8

James 1:16–27

Luke 16:1–9

Saturday, November 12

Morning: Pss. 56; 149

Evening: Pss. 118; 111

Joel 3:9–17

James 2:1–13

Luke 16:10–17 (18)

Sunday, November 13

26th Sunday after

Pentecost

Morning: Pss. 67; 150

Evening: Pss. 46; 93

Hab. 1:1–4 (5–11) 12–2:1

Phil. 3:13–4:1

Matt. 23:13–24

Monday, November 14

Morning: Pss. 57; 145

Evening: Pss. 85; 47

Hab. 2:1–4, 9–20

James 2:14–26

Luke 16:19–31

Tuesday, November 15

Morning: Pss. 54; 146

Evening: Pss. 28; 99

Hab. 3:1–10 (11–15)

16–18

James 3:1–12

Luke 17:1–10

Wednesday, November 16
Morning: Pss. 65;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Mal. 1:1, 6–14
James 3:13–4:12
Luke 17:11–19

Thursday, November 17
Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Mal. 2:1–16
James 4:13–5:6
Luke 17:20–37

Friday, November 18
Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Mal. 3:1–12
James 5:7–12
Luke 18:1–8

Saturday, November 19
Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Mal. 3:13–4:6
James 5:13–20
Luke 18:9–14

Sunday, November 20
Christ the King/Reign of
Christ Sunday
Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Zech. 9:9–16
1 Peter 3:13–22
Matt. 21:1–13

Monday, November 21
Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Zech. 10:1–12
Gal. 6:1–10
Luke 18:15–30

Tuesday, November 22
Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Zech. 11:4–17
1 Cor. 3:10–23
Luke 18:31–43

Wednesday, November 23
Morning: Pss. 96;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Zech. 12:1–10
Eph. 1:3–14
Luke 19:1–10

Thursday, November 24
Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Zech. 13:1–9
Eph. 1:15–23
Luke 19:11–27

Friday, November 25
Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Zech. 14:1–11
Rom. 15:7–13
Luke 19:28–40

Saturday, November 26
Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Zech. 14:12–21
Phil. 2:1–11
Luke 19:41–48

BEGIN YEAR 1

Sunday, November 27
1st Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 1:1–9
2 Peter 3:1–10
Matt. 25:1–13

Monday, November 28
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 1:10–20
1 Thess. 1:1–10
Luke 20:1–8

Tuesday, November 29
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 1:21–31
1 Thess. 2:1–12
Luke 20:9–18

Wednesday, November 30
Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 2:1–4
1 Thess. 2:13–20
Luke 20:19–26

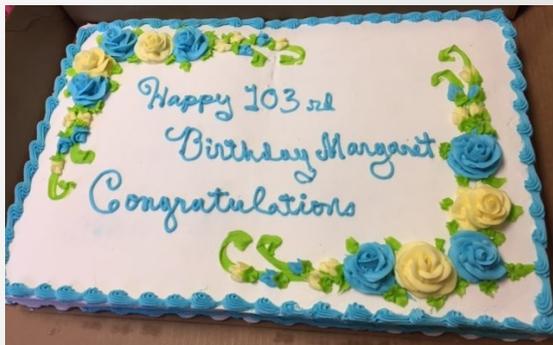
November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	2 6pm Bible Study 6:30-9:30 NA	3	4 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	5
6 Consecration Sunday	7 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	8 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	6:30-9:30 NA	10	11 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	12
13 Communion Session	14 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group 6:30-9:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	15 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	16 6:30-9:30 NA	17	18 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	19 Presby Meeting
20 Christ the King Sunday Communion Hanging of the Greens	21 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	22 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	23 6:30-9:30 NA	24 Office Closed	25 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	26
27 Deacons	28 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group 6:30-9:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	29 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	30 11:30-Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch 6:30-9:30 NA		7:45-9:30pm Alanon	



Choir rehearsals resumed on Saturday, September 10, and practice begins at 9:45 am. All are invited and welcome to join. No experience necessary!

Margaret Rose Celebrated Her 103rd Birthday in October



On October 25th, our very own Margaret Rose celebrated her 103rd birthday! Margaret, who is a walking historical guide to all things Kirk of Our Savior, is joined here after worship on October 23rd by family who traveled to be with her on this special occasion. Thank you, Margaret, for the loving example of Christ that you have been to all of us and for the countless lives you've touched through your kindness!

BIBLE STUDY/WORSHIP

TIME

Bible Study has been well-attended this fall as we study the potentially harmful cliches that Adam Hamilton highlights in his book "Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say."



DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

School is back in session and the need has returned for the elementary schools to have a supply of underwear, sweat pants and socks on hand for unexpected situations. The outreach/mission committee is seeking donations of girls and boys underwear, socks and sweatpants, sizes 6-12. Please place any donations in the container outside the sanctuary. The collection will continue through November 6.



Financial Report as of 9/30/2016

	September	Year to Date	Budget
Income	8,549	84,138	79,159
Expenses	7,757	81,332	80,372
Net Income or	792	2,806	-1,213
Liquid Assets*	96,302	96,302	

* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.
Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

September was positive as we continue to have seasonal low utility bills as well as rent resumption from Willow Creek. Liquid assets are up chiefly due to anonymous \$5,000 donation for capital improvements.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

Please take a moment to pray for...

NEEDING PRAYERS:

Sharon Garcia's brother, Bobby, passed away October 31.

Willow Creek's preschool teacher, Darlene Taig, has a 12-year old granddaughter, Karlie, with Kleefstra Syndrome

Lois Hanley's granddaughter, Amy, is enduring MS

Jerry Cobleigh's wife, Kay, is enduring IBS

Chelsea Marra, a friend of Pastor Mike, is battling leukemia.



The mission of the Kirk of Our Savior is to glorify God, nurture new and existing relationships, and bear witness to our faith and divine calling through worship, service, stewardship and prayer.

It is the vision of this church to become a living example of God's love, called to show Christ to those within the church community by offering ourselves in service to those in need and inviting all to share in this vision.