

**We are a church with one mission:** to grow followers of Jesus through grateful worship, genuine community, and generous service to each other and our world. We believe by loving God and loving people we can have an impact that really matters, and would like to tell you more about that. If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing with us, or just have some questions, **fill out the contact card** or ask the person next to you.

**Please feel free to call or email too if you have any questions.**

## FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

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### GOD'S FAMILY TIMES

**BIBLE CLASSES**  
Building—9:30 am Sunday

**WORSHIP**  
Building—10:30 am Sunday

**GROWTH GROUPS**  
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday  
Irwin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

**BIBLE CLASSES**  
Building—7 pm Wednesday

**Someone is needed to prepare communion for March!!!** Please sign up on bulletin board if you can serve the body in this way.

**Family Covered Dish Dinner:** TODAY after services.

**Congregational Meeting:** THIS Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Family Game Night:** THIS Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the building. Bring your favorite game. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please sign up on bulletin board if you are coming and how many pieces of pizza you would like.

**Dinner Before Class:** Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m.

**Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** for March, April and May:  
This is an opportunity to have some great fellowship. When signing up you are committing to: 1) Being part of a group of one or, preferably, two other couples (or individuals) that would host dinner in your home one of the 3 months. 2) Host would be responsible for: a) setting the date of the dinner for the group that is agreeable to all anytime during the month, b) Determine menu and preparing, at least, the main dish for the entire group (other couple(s) in the group would assist by preparing sides and/or dessert), and c) inviting another couple (or individuals) as your "mystery" guest known only to you. They are guests and bring no food. Thus you end up with 6 or 8 people at your dinner.

**Sign up on bulletin board** if interested and your preference in hosting 6 or 8 people. The social committee will divide this list into groups. Please refer questions to Sally or Susan.

### Happy Birthday

2/14 Charles Shields

2/23 Sally Duriez

2/25 Jason Canose

*Announcements for family news can be written on the back of an attendance card and placed in the collection basket or a hand written note can be given to Doug, Paula, or CJ.*

# FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

February 12, 2017

## **Re-Dis-Orientation**

By Dr. Stan Helton

Old Testament theologian Walter Brueggemann has devised a simple but deep way to categorize the Psalms that has real applicability to life. He suggests that most psalms will fall in one of the following three categories: Orientation, Disorientation, and Reorientation. While wordy, perhaps, these labels are very helpful in understanding life. In some Psalms life is good and as it should be, in others psalms life is chaotic, hard, and confusing, and in yet other psalms life is experienced as new beginning, renewal, and moving beyond. Sometimes all three of these can show up in the same psalm, as with Psa 23. The Biblical story resounds with this rhythm. Notice the following examples:

Exodus: Egypt > Wilderness > Promised Land

Exile: In the Land > Exiled in Babylon > Return to the Land

Jesus: Life > Death and Burial > Resurrection

Christians Old Life > Repentance > New Life

What is common to all of these stories is the movement through orientation, disorientation, and into reorientation. Also common is that no one really likes being in the middle phase of disorientation.

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nathan Irwin and family as they are in Lyon, France for language training, and for the direction of the Lord in their search for new teammates, a place to settle and a purpose for their mission among the Muslim world.
- For Mary Fasanya's asylum request to be granted and for the girls as they are in the USA without their husband and father. Also for Ezekiel as he is in Nigeria without his wife and daughters.
- For Mayleen Niehenke's visa approval to come to the United States from the Philippines and for a sponsor so that the procedure can be quickly expedited.
- Bill Tonkin who is at Indiana Square Personal Care Home, 1703 Warren Road. Lois says cards and visits are always welcome.
- Wayne, Abbey Chi's uncle, who is in a Florida hospital with cardiac problems.
- Jason Canose for healing. Thanksgivings that he is now at home recuperating.
- Louanne Brown for healing of her vision in her right eye which has been impeded by at least 50%. Also for peace and acceptance that the eye may never get back to "normal" since it is no better or worse at this time.
- Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley's step grandson, who had another round of chemo in his treatment for leukemia in January.
- Nancy Sinclair for relief of the pain suffered from a previously fractured back.
- Winifred Redinger, Vera Brown's sister-in-law, who is doing much better and is now at home. A caregiver enables her to be at home instead of at a nursing home.
- Kathrine, Lin & Jo Broadway's (former members) daughter-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer and anticipating surgery in February.
- Janet Anoyke's mother in Ghana who recently suffered a stroke.
- The family of Greg Douglass, friend of Trina Flamm, for comfort on his passing the week of January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Jay Stenman, Louanne Brown's husband, who suffered a concussion the week of January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Hailynn Magas has been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Pray that the family's lives can learn and adjust to a new diet and insulin testing and injections.
- George Brown, Louanne Brown's brother, who has been released from the Veterans' Hospital in Pittsburgh after being treated for depression. He seems better and is talking more.
- Emma Sesock for healing. She fell last week and injured herself.

William Bridges, in an insightful little book called *Transitions: Making Sense of Life Changes*, points out that all transitions in life have three basic phrases: the "old," the "new," and the "in-between," this last one Bridges himself calls the "neutral zone." The old is when life is what life is and we are not complaining because it's normal. Then something will happen, a death, a divorce, a new opportunity, which changes our old comfortable world. The in-between is uncomfortable because it is no longer the "old," but neither is it quite yet the "new." However, this neutral zone of disorientation can be just what we need to grow, to come to new understandings, to get out of old ruts, etc. For some this in-between time can be excruciatingly painful. But often disorientation, in time, gives way to reorientation: a death becomes sweet memories; a loss gives way to new gains; and that which was old is given new life. Lent is the perfect time to reflect on this. Lent is the "neutral zone" between Advent and Resurrection Sunday. You therefore might find the language of orientation, disorientation, and reorientation useful even now.

Personally, I have found thinking of life in terms of these three categories helpful. I experience life sometimes, as it should be. Things are in place. Life is good. Psalm 23 is true and the Lord really is my shepherd. However, sometimes, and more times than I would like perhaps, life is hard, disconnected, chaotic. With Psalm 23 I walk through the deepest, darkest valley. I don't like those times but I do usually grow closer to God through them. Then disorientation gives way to new life and I find, again with Psalm 23, a table prepared before me, my head anointed and my cup full, desiring nothing more than to live in God's house forever.

For further reading, see Walter Brueggemann's *Psalms: A Theological Commentary* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1994) and *Spirituality of the Psalms* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002); William Bridges, *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes* (2nd ed.; Cambridge, Mass.: De Capo, 2004).

*Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book*