

## WUMC Newsletter - September, 2019

Dear friends,

Ready or not, fall is upon us. As I write the air has turned chilly and children and teachers have begun a new school year. While many of us do not mark the season by the school calendar there is still a sense that September 1 brings a shift in focus. Labor Day marks a time of new beginnings and a renewal of regular routines. This is so at Whitehall UMC. We have had a summer full of activity from Community Dinners to the Back to School Fair; Vacation Bible School to participating in Whitehall Park Parties. We said farewell to one musician and have welcomed Mrs. Jeanne Hicks as our new Music Director. The trustees have been cleaning up the building and grounds, even as the women's restroom has been gutted and a new one is built. Junior Church and Sunday school combined to give the children tools for living faithful lives. We have welcomed several women home from prison. Pastor Caleb has been quietly forming relationships with many of our neighbors as he waits for his green card and permanent residence status and Alma has accepted a full time job in the West Ohio Conference Office.

On September 9 we welcome the return of our ESL families - adults come to learn English and their children are cared for and loved by volunteers from Capital University and New Albany and Redeemer UM Churches. Sunday school and Junior Church will kick off the new schedule on September 8 and the Wednesday morning Bible study begins a new study. Pastor Caleb and Alma are meeting regularly with a small home group and Caleb begins work on his Masters of Divinity at Asbury Seminary. Pastor Kathi will introduce a new 6 week lectionary based sermon series on God's family. You will want to be present on Sunday morning to learn more about who we can be as a community of faith.

As you read this newsletter please note where you might fit into the ministries of Whitehall UMC, as a lay servant or as a participant. Everything we do as a congregation requires prayer and human effort, as well as financial support. I look forward to seeing you all at church and in the community as together we live out our mission: to share the love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors through grace-filled hospitality and Spirit-led service supported by prayer and study.

In Christ's love and service,

Pastor Kathi Herington

## **Worship with God's Family**

*When we place our faith in Christ, God becomes our Father, we become his children, other believers become our brothers and sisters, and the church becomes our spiritual family. The family of God includes all believers in the past, the present, and the future.*

Pastor Rick Warren

September 1	<i>God's Family Loves Freely</i> Luke 14:1-14	Holy Communion Hebrews 13: 1-16
September 8	<i>God's Family Plans for the Future</i> Luke 14:25-33 Mission Pot for Oyate Concern Mission	Choir returns Jeremiah 18-1-11
September 15	<i>God's Family Values the Lost</i> Luke 15: 1-10	Fellowship Time I Timothy 1: 12-17
September 22	<i>God's Family Has Just One Master</i> Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Luke 16:1-13 I Timothy 2: 1-7
September 29	<i>God's Family is Content in Christ</i> Luke 16:19-31	I Timothy 6: 6-19
October 6	<i>God's Family Lives Faithfully</i> Luke 17: 5-10	World Communion II Timothy 1: 1-14

**Prayer Gathering** on Sunday, August 18, at 4:30 pm. Gather in the sanctuary for music, an inspiring message from guest pastor Mary Carmen Padilla and focused prayer.

## ***Extravagant Generosity***

Thank you to all who continue to support the mission of Whitehall UMC and who express your commitment to Jesus Christ through your tithes and offerings.

## ***Leadership Development***

Leadership Development team is pleased to welcome Mrs. Jeanne Hicks as our new Music Director. Jeanne is a woman of faith and has a rich and varied background in church music. She will organize and direct the choir and lead music for worship. Please introduce yourself and welcome her to Whitehall UMC.

Caleb Resendiz is able to begin work on the Masters of Divinity degree. He starts at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore Kentucky September 3. He will attend classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. He has received scholarship for most of the tuition but is responsible for an additional \$3,000. If you are interested in supporting his education financially please speak to Steve Pekula or Pastor Kathi.

We are beginning to pray and plan for 2020. Some key leadership positions are open for next year. If you are feeling called to serve in a new capacity or to continue in your current role please be sure to talk with Pastor Kathi or any members of the team. Brenda Loveless, Nancy Hall, Rich Heber, Cindy Harding, Betty Jo Stuckey and Jan Pekula.

## ***Trustees***

Restroom renovations are taking longer than expected. Thank you to our trustees who continue to monitor the progress and to John Sepe for cleaning up the dust and debris each day so we can continue to use the building. We anticipate everything to be ready by Sunday, September 8.

## ***Mission and Outreach***

We had a successful back to school fair, serving over 150 children with supplies and supper. Thanks to all the generous donors and workers, families and school staff were blessed to be in the building, enjoying hospitality and a Whitehall fire truck.

Important dates this month

**Blood Drive**  
**Produce Market**  
**Community Dinner**

**September 11, 1 – 7 pm**  
**September 21, 8 – 10:30 am**  
**September 29, 4:30-6 pm**

## ***Discipleship and Nurture***

**Bible Study** still meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 am. We will begin a new study on September 11 so now is a great time to gather with others to explore God's Word and how it can impact our lives. Coffee and tea along with conversation and supportive fellowship make for a rich morning.

Mrs. Tessa Hilderbrand continues to be available to care for children 4 years and younger during the worship service.

**Junior Church** begins a new cycle of Old Testament history and people on September 8. Children age 5 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in this exciting time of learning and play, each Sunday except the first Sunday of each month. They begin in the sanctuary for regular worship and leave for Jr. Church after the Time for Children.

## ***Parish News***



Sharon Eudy is reorganizing the weekly cleaning teams. Please speak with her about the cleaning schedule for September, or watch the weekly calendar insert.

### ***Happy Birthday***

Cindy Harding	September 1
Pam Wilson	September 5
Alexis Hamilton	September 5
James Ayres	September 11
Kathy Wilson	September 17
Vicki Hogan	September 19
Madison Pharo	September 25
DJ Jakeway	September 29

### ***Happy Anniversary***

Nancy & Tim Hall September 23



Please keep in your prayers . . . Jim Ayres, John Layman, and Darlene Schick who are unable to make it to church. Nancy Kennedy, Christine Renee Waddell, Bruce Gischel and Virginia Kocher are undergoing treatment for cancer. Tom Kennedy is recovering and rehabbing at home following a stroke. Barbara Dodson is dealing with various health issues.