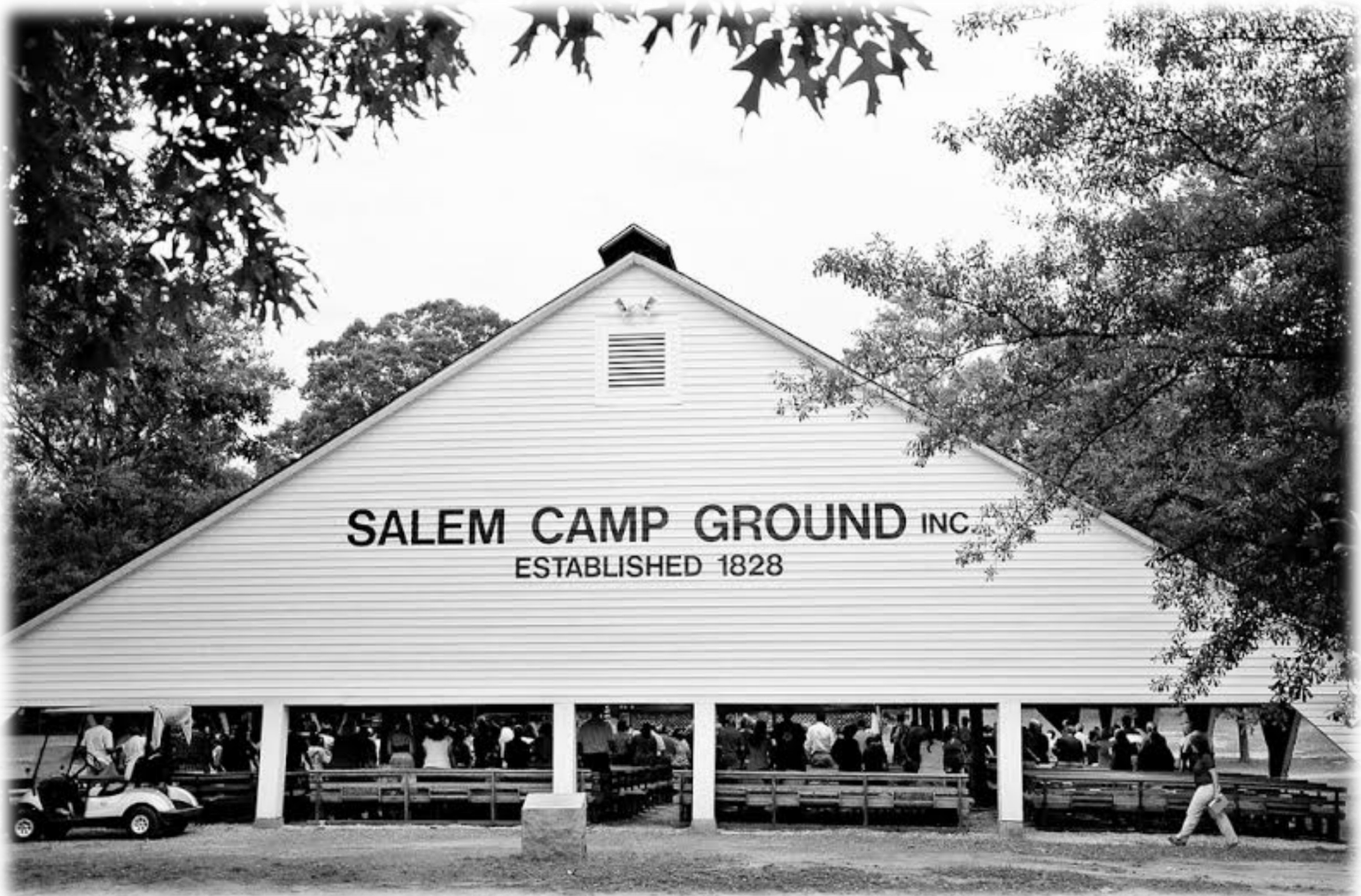


# PILGRIM NEWS & NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH

AUGUST 1, 2017

## We Still Need Camp Meeting!



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# Five Reasons Why We Still Need Camp Meeting

By Jonathan Andersen

Each summer I do something odd by most American standards: I spend one week with my extended family, we sleep in a crowded cabin with no air conditioner, and we go to worship services three times per day—alongside of hundreds of others—in an open air structure with a sawdust floor. The songs we sing were written long before I was born and the sermons last much longer than fifteen to eighteen minutes. . . Each summer I go to camp meeting.

Camp meetings are uniquely American institutions that were developed during the early years of the Second Great Awakening. At the time, they were a new method for evangelism and revival that sprang up all across the country. Camp meetings often provided a place for those who lived in unsettled areas to worship and gather as a community for a short period of time—typically during the late summer. They began with very temporary arrangements such as tents, wagons, and brush arbors to worship under. Over time, these gatherings established more permanent structures and began to draw people from all over the surrounding communities.

Francis Asbury once called camp meetings “a battle ax and weapon of war” that broke down walls of wickedness throughout America. He believed they were a great means of grace. And in 1811, he estimated that these spirit-filled gatherings brought together one-third of the total American population.

More than 200 years later, thousands of people continue to make the pilgrimage each summer to camp meetings that have withstood the test of time.

Here are five reasons why I think we still need them today:

## **They provide an opportunity for true Sabbath rest**

The first thing most people feel when they attend camp meeting is that they have passed from busyness to tranquility in just a few small steps. Nestled away from billboards and rush hour traffic, part of the beauty of camp meetings is that most have literally been set apart from the world and inherited the simplicity of the times in which they were started.

You’ll rarely see laptops, or gaming consoles, but you will often see porch swings, laughter, and lounging. Many who attend will take the week of camp meeting as vacation from work, and when no one else is worrying about being productive or efficient, you won’t feel the need to either.

The experience of camp meeting is difficult to describe, but Eugene Peterson’s description of Sabbath does a phenomenal job: “uncluttered time and space to distance ourselves from the frenzy of our own activities so we can see what God has been and is doing.”

## **They aid in the slow work of cultivating true community**

Today, the average worker stays in their job less than five years. The average homeowner sells their home in less than ten years. Sure, in five to ten years, great relationships can be built. But like cast iron skillet, the best relationships are formed slowly over time.

This summer will mark my 26th camp meeting. I’ve shared the crying years of infancy, the awkward years of middle school, and the growing years of being a young adult with an intergenerational community that hasn’t gone anywhere. Each year in this community babies are celebrated, deaths are mourned, people with cancer are cared for, and wayward children who once attended are lifted up in prayer.

Although I sleep in a cabin at camp meeting each night that holds three generations of my family, generations of others have helped them raise me and shape who I am. And they’re not all from the same church. As they were in the beginning,

people come together from many different churches for the sake of being renewed, revived, and encouraged to go back to their churches and press on for the cause of Christ!

### **They are a foundation that helps with recalibration**

Questions like “who am I?,” “where am I headed?,” and “what’s the purpose of all of this?” aren’t anything new. Yet in a VUCA world—one that is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous—these questions are more challenging than ever and it’s easy to lose one’s bearings. Camp meetings are the antithesis of VUCA. Many of them are now 100+ years old and they exude steadiness, embody regular life-shaping rituals, and offer simplicity.

The altar calls, Sabbath time, and community that surround camp meetings provide just the kinds of opportunities through which one can easily explore the deep questions of life and experience the Holy Spirit move in a powerful way. They also come with the advantage that you can count on them every year.

J. Ellsworth Kalas once preached, “As marvelous as grace is when it invades our life, grace needs many continuing opportunities to invade our lives if we are to go on marching.” Camp meetings provide the time and place for this abundant grace to invade.

### **They serve as a reminder that we don’t have to make faith up as we go**

As Christians we’ve been called “to contend for the faith that was once and for all entrusted to the saints.” Yet as contemporary Americans, we often act as if we can make Christianity up as we go along.

Sitting under old brush arbors and tabernacles, walking with friends where others have walked for many years, sleeping in cabins that have been with families for generations, singing old gospel hymns, and listening to someone preach with the fervor of a second great awakening preacher each serve as a reminder that we’re part of something that started well before us. And the fact that camp meetings survive in our world today also serves as a testimony to the unstoppable nature of the gospel.

Countless institutions have closed down since the turn of the 20th century, but for some reason God has preserved camp meetings. I hope they don’t end anytime soon.

### **They form Christians in a deep way**

According to James Bryan Smith, spiritual formation is the process, empowered by the Holy Spirit, in which we adopt the narratives of Jesus as the narratives of our lives, adopt the practices of Jesus as the daily rhythms of our lives, and spend time with others doing the same.

Camp meetings are a place where these three things happen in an intentional way for one week each year. Every day preaching, teaching, and conversation take place which help replace false narratives adopted from the world with the true narratives about God that Jesus regularly taught. Throughout the week, countless opportunities arise to spend time alone in prayer, care for broken and hurting people within the community, and encourage others with love. Every moment is spent with other people who have chosen to dedicate their lives to these same tasks.

The fruit of this formation is evident at many camp meetings. Simply visit and ask around, “How has God used camp meeting to shape your life?” - *used by permission*

*Our ancestors back in the camp meeting days used to say that if people left a meeting talking about what a great sermon the preacher preached or how beautifully the singers sang, the meeting had failed. But if people went home saying, "Isn't God good? He met me tonight in such a wonderful way!" it was a good meeting. There was to be no sharing the stage with the Lord. - Jim Cymbala*

# Report on 2017 Conference & Camp

By Rev. Mark Arnett

What happened in Pilgrim Holiness Church Conference and Camp Meeting 2017? Every year, camp meeting has some similarities occurring as it has in previous years. People still come from the north, south, east, and west. Campers and travelers still look forward to experiencing the Divine presence of God; manifested in spirited congregational singing; special songs, anointed preaching, wonderful fellowship, altar scenes, testimonies of the saints, youth seeking the Lord, feasting and camaraderie in the dining hall, conference sessions, prayer times in the tabernacle, and who can forget the precious children's programs? All that I have mentioned is very true, but every year, camp meeting also has some **unique** differences!

This year, it is **unique** because we began with new leadership at the helm. Our previous Conference Presidents are officially; Conference President Emeritus, Rev. Eugene Gray and Conference President Emeritus, Rev. James Southerland, Sr. We love them, honor them, and greatly respect them for the years of service they have rendered to our Conference. We will continue to esteem them very highly! However, the mantle of leadership has now fallen upon our new Conference President, Rev. Don Nichols. This was the result of a Conference election, one year ago. God is helping Bro. Nichols in a very definite way!

Our Conference began on Monday, June 19, at 12:30 p.m. Chairman Nichols opened the session, spoke for a while, and let the Conference know his intention of having a communion service. He had the assembly sing, "**A Charge to Keep I Have.**" After a special song, "**Lead Me to Calvary,**" he called for all the ministers and delegates to gather around the altar to partake of the holy sacraments. The Lord's Supper was administered by some of the council members. What a sacred time of feasting and prayer it was! I believe it brought our brethren closer together in unity and love! This was a **unique** ritual for the beginning of Conference! There is much that could be said about our conference sessions. I will share two **unique** things that happened. Our Conference President has adamantly emphasized the need for our ministers to be accountable and faithful in their reporting. In the first session of Conference, Rev. Don Nichols gave his President's Report. The **unique** thing about his report, was the fact; that he **gave**, and **gave**, and **gave**! I will allow you the privilege of asking him about this "special report!" I will not say anything more about this report, other than to let you know that if the material contained therein had been significantly condensed, we probably would not have had a "special evening session!" **Unique? Yes!** Something else occurred that I believe was very unusual. Circumstances were such this year that we had to cast a vote for the entire Conference Council. Last year, the Conference President, Conference Vice-President, and Conference Secretary were voted in for a one-year term. The two-year terms of Conference Treasurer and Conference Missionary Representative expired. The two Advisory Members to the Council are voted on annually. This is what prompted this unusual and **unique** election! But, that's not all! Every Council position was determined on the first ballot! **Unique? Yes!**

The scheduled workers we had for this year's camp meeting was altered significantly. I believe we can all say, "This was a **unique** situation." Dr. Noel Scott was supposed to be one of our evangelists for the camp. Unfortunately, he was unable to come because of his son's failing health. We later learned of his son's passing. We all grieved and prayed for Bro. Scott, his wife, and family. In the midst of the sadness, Rev. Adam Buckler accepted the challenge to preach in Rev. Scott's place. Bro. Buckler, though already preaching in a youth camp, arranged his schedule, so that he could accommodate the needed pulpit responsibilities. And, preach, he did! God gave Bro. Adam Buckler a very special gift of communication. The Lord anointed him to speak to our hearts, and challenged us with some very **unique** truth! "When did Saul die?" and "digging ditches" were example portions of two separate messages that seem to captivate our minds, and caused us to think! Keith and Sharon Waggoner had the appointment of being the song evangelists for our camp meeting. However, not too long before camp began, Bro. Waggoner contacted us to let us know that he and his wife would not be able to be our scheduled singers. Although this was very disappointing, our God still had everything under



control! Joe and Janelle Carey, a young couple from Westfield, Indiana, were contacted. The Careys were accompanied by their two small children, and labored recently as our song evangelists for our ministerial convention in Noblesville, Indiana. They were able to accept the responsibility of taking the Waggoner's place. The Lord blessed their music and singing, and anointed them mightily to minister to our hearts. Rev. Harry Plank was able to keep his commitment as our other evangelist. Bro. Plank, somewhat new to our crowd, personified the term, "**unique**." His ministry was mingled with humor and seriousness. He brought us all the way from the human realities of; "the little urchins, and Willy, his mother's beloved dog," to the spiritual realities of, "**Thou Canst Make Me Clean**," and "**Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled!**" His preaching resonated in the hearts of the "Pilgrims!"

Our inspiration services, which were conducted prior to the regular evening services, provided us with much encouragement. There were five Bible College groups represented. These young people ministered in music and song, and exalted the Lord Jesus! There were volunteers from among our various churches, either lifting their voices in song or playing an instrument to glorify God. Even Keith and Sharon Waggoner were able to be a part of one service, and sang enthusiastically! As much as we appreciated all of those who helped in these special services, there were two **unique** ministries! One night, three of our young Pilgrim preachers participated in a "coattail preaching service." Jeremy Hopkins, Jeremy Jessup, and Austin Line spoke from their hearts to the waiting congregation. How God used these young men and gave them some much needed exposure! One other night during a stimulating service, Roberto (Beto) Gray, a very young man, mesmerized the crowd with his yodeling spiritual song! I have to repeat again, that these were two **unique** ministries!

I thank God for the scrumptious meals we enjoyed in the dining hall, prepared by Amy Bryant and her workers. I thank the Lord for all the work and investment that incorporates camp meeting. I praise Him for the shouts of joy in the camp, the victorious deliveries of those who sought the Lord at an altar of prayer. I so appreciated the special offering received for the young people. It was so good to see the picturesque view of the gathering of friends, brethren, and families. All of these things are priceless! I believe we all love and embrace camp meeting. The question I must ask myself is this, "What did Pilgrim Holiness Conference and Camp Meeting 2017 mean to me personally? What it means to me may be different than what it means to you! This year, to me it was just **unique**!"

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### **We asked several Pilgrim Camp attendees to share what Pilgrim Camp means to them . . .**

- *Pilgrim Camp (to me) always means spiritual encouragement and fellowship with friends! - Connie Hilligoss*
- *Wonderful worship, great prayer times, spiritual renewal, and fellowship with God's people! - Rev. Don Raines*
- *Reuniting with kindred spirits whose goal is to make it to Heaven. - Jean Roll*
- *A time away from the deadlines and pressures of life to fellowship and grow spiritually. - Clayton Plemmons*
- *A time to get away from the normal routine of life, and intensely focus on my relationship with Jesus Christ, purposefully drawing closer to Him. It is also a time of reunion with my precious extended church family! - Ruth Nichols*
- *Spiritual refreshing and encouragement from fellowship with the family of God. - Rev. John Forsee*
- *Getting to spend quality time with some great friends and family while working in the snack bar! Snack bar is the first word that pops into my head when I think of camp! :- ) - Christin Dahler*
- *When I reflect upon what camp means, my mind goes quickly to all the work that makes a good camp. Then I think of all the work Jesus did for us and still He comes to meet with us during our camp. What a privilege it is to enjoy the fellowship of those of kindred spirit. We are a blessed people when He comes to meet us there! - Rev. Don Walden*



# News from around the Conference

*News articles on this page have been submitted by various Pilgrim Churches. We reserve the right to edit the submissions as necessary to fit space requirements. E-mail all news to: [pauldplemmons@yahoo.com](mailto:pauldplemmons@yahoo.com)*

## **Rochester Hills, MI - (By Dan Plemmons)**

We are still reveling in the wonderful sense of God's presence that was felt at Pilgrim Family Camp. God was very near in all of the services, and we returned home refreshed in our spirit.

On Sunday, July 2nd, we were privileged to be blessed by the music ministry of Paul Stetler and Renewed from Hobe Sound Bible College in Hobe Sound, Florida. God certainly used them to minister to our hearts. Their harmony was phenomenal, their spirit was humble, and every song seemed to be just exactly what we needed. Our prayer is that God will bless ALL of our Bible Colleges, and that they will continue to be a channel that God can use to prepare workers for His harvest field!



On Sunday, July 16th, we had a very special Graduation service for Clayton Plemmons, who has graduated from high school and will be attending Union Bible College in the Fall. It was a very touching service, and the presence of the Lord was very near. We're very excited to see what God has in store for Clayton!

Pictured at left is our graduate.

## **Peebles, OH - (By Wayne Kennedy)**

The month of June was a busy month for our church. We had a tremendous revival with Rev. & Mrs. John Brewer. Many received help in the revival and the people enjoyed getting to know the Brewers.

Then it was off to church camp for the pastor and his family. What a wonderful time we had there.

July has proven to be a blessed and sorrowful time for the church. God has been coming in tremendous ways in each service. On July 2nd at 8:00 AM, one of our long time members, Betty Smith, went to her eternal reward. Prayers are appreciated for Sis. Connie Smith, who had been a roommate to Betty for over 40 years.

July 13th we held our first ever weekly kids club. Sometimes God has to teach you that you are thinking too small. We were expecting maybe five or 6 our first night but 12 showed up with others that said they will be there next time but couldn't make it the first night! God is so good. Two of the girls were first time visitors to Sunday School the next Sunday.

We will be having our annual 3 day VBS August 2-4 with a closing cook out for the children. The theme for this year is the "Glad Scientist: Power in Prayer." Please pray that souls will be reached . . . and that our scientist doesn't get carried away with his experiments! :-) Through it all we give God the glory!

# 2017 Pilgrim Camp Re-Cap

*This is just a small sampling of pictures taken at the 2017 Pilgrim Family Camp. We hope they will bring back pleasant memories, and if you weren't able to be with us this year, that you will make plans now to attend next year! Special thanks to Stephanie Burley for sending in many of these.*

## Welcome to Pilgrim Camp 2017!



**A Panoramic view from the front of the Tabernacle**



**We began Conference by sharing a time of Communion**



**We concluded Conference after the Tuesday PM service**



**Father's Day display on the first Sunday AM of camp**





**Kitchen duty! Willing Workers!**



**Jeremey & Becky Fish with their daughter Christin, and her son, Logan**



**Charles Norfleet shares his musical gift with the Pilgrims**



**President Don Nichols presents a plaque to the Youth Director for 20 years of service**



**Rev. Maurice and Jean Roll sharing in the annual mission's service. We so appreciate their dedication to the work of Pilgrim Missions!**



**We were truly blessed by the music ministry of Joe & Janelle Carey**



**It was our privilege to be ministered to by Rev. Adam Buckler, and Rev. Harry Plank. God greatly used both of them!**







# A Woman's Perspective

*By Stephanie Burley*

## Examine Your Influence

A couple of years ago, a family met with me regarding their nearly school aged daughter. They wanted her to be able to enjoy the benefits of attending school just like her big sister, but she has a severe peanut allergy, and they were concerned about her safety. They asked if we would be willing to take measures to ensure her safety. So we decided, for the sake of this child, to make our school, and all of its events, peanut free.

As we shared this information with our school families, most were concerned and happy to respect the severity of the situation. School staff became aware of necessary actions in case the student was inadvertently exposed, and we closely observed student lunches until all were in the routine of packing peanut free items.

Sometimes people outside our school family hear about our peanut-free environment, and the responses are varied, but one in particular stands out in my memory. I can summarize this mom's reaction as, "My child could **never** give up peanut products from his lunch! He is a picky eater and eats peanut butter **all the time.**"

When I think about this little girl and the carefulness with which her family must live, I have every desire to help keep her safe and healthy. I don't want to do anything that would jeopardize her ability to take her next breath. Although I love peanuts and peanut butter, and more specifically Dark Chocolate Reese Cups (in case you need that information), her well being is more important and valuable than my wants and desires. What is completely harmless and enjoyable for us would be deadly to her.

I'm reminded that there are times where we as Christians are asked to give up our "rights" for the good of others. This runs counter to the pervasive philosophy in our culture that says, "Watch out for yourself. Put yourself first." Maybe the philosophy in the church is a little less abrasive, but sometimes we still tend to think selfishly. Rather than asking God how we can best please Him and wield a careful influence, we focus on ourselves and our perceived liberties. Is there anything that we would **never** give up for the good of another?

Parenthood has opened my eyes like no other life experience. Although there was no question we would have a Christian home, I admit that I was unprepared for the weight of responsibility I would carry as one of the primary influencers of my children. Every decision is viewed through the lens of its eternal potential. And sometimes decisions are made solely for the protection of the weakest member of the family. Where love runs deep, there is no sacrifice too great.

May each of us take a few moments to examine our influence. How are my actions impacting the eyes that are watching me? If I'm tending toward worldliness, that is my influence. If I have a burning passion for Christ, that is my influence. I have no doubt that God will honor us every time we give up our rights and inconvenience ourselves for His eternal purposes.



# PASTOR TO PASTOR

Ministering to those who minister to others

By Rev. Wayne Kennedy

## The Pastor's Health

*Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

Pastors in general have no problems focusing on the heart and soul as mentioned in this verse. However, pastors often neglect the area of the mind and strength. Their minds are often guarded against the filth and sin of this world, but are often not well guarded against stresses, strains and burn-out. While not all stress can be prevented, and a little stress can be helpful, it is crucial for pastors and others in leadership positions to care for their bodies and minds.

Pastors face the inevitable 2 AM call reporting a death in the church or an accident. There are meetings to attend, visits to make and sermons to prepare. The list of duties can be endless. Add to this that many pastors are bi-vocational, and the pressures continue to mount.

According to a 2010 New York Times article, "Members of the clergy now suffer from obesity, hypertension and depression at rates higher than most Americans." This and other clergy health studies show that ministry stress is causing a decline in the physical and mental health of pastors.

To prevent this, pastors need to have good mental health practices by developing healthy supportive relationships, managing stress, and practicing Sabbath rest. Often it is expected of the pastor that there is 24/7 access. While this is reasonable for emergencies, the pastor must ensure proper Sabbath rest. It may not always be feasible to make it the same day each week, but this should be the practice more often than not.

Mental stress over time can cause a pastor to lose their ability to minister effectively. Relationships in the church can become strained, making visits, preparing sermons and attending meetings become even more taxing. Do not allow the idea that taking care of yourself is selfish.

One thing many find helpful is a hobby. Being careful not to spend too much time or money, find something that helps you relax and something that you enjoy.

Remember, Jesus said He would build the church. The church is not meant to fulfill its mission and purpose solely on your efforts and will power. Utilize others in the church to perform tasks that do not require pastoral attention. Remember we are a body not an army of one.

Along with good mental health, physical health is vital to a pastor successfully fulfilling the call they have been given. This is so much easier to say than to do. As an RN for thirteen years now, I knew better than to allow myself to get in the shape I did. It is hard to fulfill your duties when you are obese and have no energy. I was no longer able to keep up with my own children or the constant running that comes with pastoring.

There are no shortcuts to getting or staying healthy. Trust me I tried them. But just as we are required to be

good stewards of our money we need to be good stewards of the physical bodies God has given us.

We all know the “secret” to a healthy lifestyle, but find it difficult to put it into practice. Burn more than you take in and make what you take in count. There are a plethora of excuses that pastors can make for not being as healthy as they should.

- **Fellowship and food are hand in hand.**
- **Schedules do not permit time for exercise.**
- **Even prevention of vanity**

These and many others have been used as an excuse to not keep oneself in shape. But they are simply excuses. We preach self discipline in all other areas of life but often leave out the verses that talk about too much food. Gluttony is not preached as a sin but joked about around the table. Revival meetings often are a difficult area when it comes to food. We love the fellowship but is it necessary to have supper before church and then another snack/meal following the service? Can you really go to bed feeling good having eaten that late? Surely since the Word of God has so much to say about food and discipline we should heed the instructions in scripture.

Those who were at camp meeting may have heard about the THM plan. Jokes were made and recipes were shared. Many have found success with this eating plan. The key is finding an eating plan that fits you. Fad diets and pills bring success quickly but only for short periods of time and usually people become burnt out on them because they are not sustainable.

When working with patients and their diets, no matter if it is for weight loss or diabetes, heart failure or cholesterol, it is important to find healthy alternatives to their staple foods. We all have comfort foods and favorites, but it's important to learn how to cook them in a healthy way.

I've done the Atkins and dropped the weight. I've done the prescription pills and lost the weight. Weight Watchers, Military diet you name it. These were not sustainable for me. I needed a different eating lifestyle. I still certainly have a long way to go, but along with others I finally found a way to enjoy my food, lose the weight and obtain the energy that I need to keep up with my responsibilities.

We need to make the responsible decision to stay as healthy as we possibly can to perform our duties. That includes a healthy eating lifestyle, exercising as we can, and keeping our mental sanity.

Space doesn't allow for all the subjects we could discuss in regards to a pastor's health but can we do this, let us pray for one another to have the discipline and determination to be spiritually, emotionally, and physically healthy for the glory of God.



**Rev. Wayne Kennedy pastors the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Peebles, Ohio, where he lives with his wife, Tabitha, and their two boys.**

**In addition to being a husband, father, and busy pastor, he has also worked as an RN for the past 13 years.**

**Our thanks to Pastor Kennedy for this wonderful article. If you would like to connect with Pastor Kennedy, click [Here](#)**



# In Loving Memory . . .



**Samuel Wesley Belcher, 51**, of New Castle, formerly of West Clifford, Pennsylvania, went home to be with the Lord on the evening of Friday, July 14, 2017, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

He was born on January 7, 1966, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, a son of the late Charles Wesley Belcher and Elizabeth May (Porter) Belcher.

Samuel was their fifth child. Sam enjoyed growing up on their family farm located in West Clifford Township surrounded by animals. He attended Clifford Elementary School, Mountain View Junior High and High School. He graduated from the Tunkhannock Pilgrim Holiness School. He attended God's Bible School and College in Cincinnati for one semester in 1991 where he met his wife, Cheryl Lynn (Raines) Belcher. They began dating in April of 1996 and were married on April 26, 1997. God blessed their home with four beautiful children, Elizabeth Ellen Belcher, Charles Jay Belcher, Rachel Lynn Belcher, and Andrea Marie Belcher.

Funeral services were held on Friday, July 21st, 2017, at Sproles Family Funeral Home with Pastor Jonathan Fall and Pastor Don Raines officiating. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Cheryl and the family.



**Genevieve "Jennie" Ruth Shirely**, age 90, went to be with the Lord on July 5, 2017.

Nurturing. Giving. Caring. These are only a few adjectives that could be used to describe the life of Genevieve "Jennie" Ruth Shirely. She was all of these and more during her ninety year life span.

Born April 24, 1927, Jennie was the eldest child of Roy N. and Helen (Cornwell) Bush of Lakeview, MI. She helped her mother care for her younger siblings, William, Mary, Robert, and Ronald as best she could.

She took that same nurturing, generous, devoted spirit into her marriage of nearly 50 years to Richard. Their two children, Rob and Joe, also received an abundance of love and devotion. Jennie shared that same spirit with her church, giving generously out of her love for God. She enjoyed cooking, crafts, sewing, reading, and gardening. Jennie also loved beautiful things: a delicate serving dish, the fragrance of roses, or dainty flowers.

She is survived by her husband, Richard, their two sons, her sister Mary (Richard) Raines, her brother-in-law, Eddie (Wahneita) Shirely, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers. The Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at Gorsline Funeral Home in Lansing, MI.

**Editor's note:** *Peter Marshall once said, "Our saved loved ones are with the Lord . . . and He has promised to be with us! So, if they are with Him, and He is with us, then they are never very far away!"*

*Please especially remember the Raines family in prayer, as the deceased are their loved ones. Although we have the assurance that they are in Heaven with Jesus, their passing leaves a big vacancy. As the Lord brings them to your mind, please whisper a prayer for them.*

# where are they now

## Catching Up With Pilgrims of Days Gone By . . .

**Margaret Shipley married J. R. McElwain** on May 22, 1964. At that time he had been pastor of the Bible Methodist Church in Johnson City, Tennessee, for 2 years.

In August of that year (1964), they moved to Pekin, Indiana, where J. R. was fill-in pastor at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, prior to moving to Greensboro, North Carolina, to work at the Pilgrim Tract Society in 1965, and to preach at the Gospel Center Independent Church. It was in 1965 that their son, Randall was born, followed by Lisa in 1967.

In 1968, they returned to Indiana to pastor a United Methodist Church. In 1970, they moved to Westfield, Indiana, to work at Union Bible Seminary (later to become Union Bible College). While there, J. R. served as fill-in pastor in Roann, Indiana. They also did deputation work across the United States for Union Bible Seminary and All Tribes Indian Mission in Bernalillo.

In 1979, they moved to Mason, Illinois, to pastor the Pilgrim Holiness Church. After several years there, they moved on to pastor the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Terre Haute, Indiana. They remained there for 6 years.

In 1991, they began pastoring the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Marengo, Indiana. In 1999, they visited their son in Taiwan, passing out tracks and getting a taste of ministry there. A woman on a motorcycle came up to them and said she could tell they were Christians. Mom invited her to church, along with her 3 children. 1 of those children is now a student at Hobe Sound Bible College. In 2000, they went for a 2 year ministry in Taiwan.

From 2002-2009, they pastored in Columbia, South Carolina. In April 2009, after a decline in his health, they moved to Hobe Sound Bible College, and in June, took charge of the campus post office. In addition to the post office job, Dad was the Minister of Visitation for Peace Presbyterian Church. He was holding 3 nursing home services each week, as well as visiting and holding services in 6 other nursing homes and assisted living homes. . . He passed away in 2013.

Margaret continues to operate the Hobe Sound campus post office, and she is as active and exciting as ever. At age 70 she went hand gliding. At age 75 she took her first ride in a hot air balloon. She is still talking about going skydiving.

*We trust you have enjoyed getting reacquainted with Sis. Margaret McElwain! Special thanks to her daughter, Lisa, for providing the necessary information.*





# About Pilgrim News & Notes

*Pilgrim News & Notes* is the official publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church, and is published bi-monthly.

The main goal of *Pilgrim News & Notes* is to be an encouragement to our readers, as well as a source of information to those with connections or interests in our Conference.

All submissions are welcome, however, we reserve the right to edit as necessary to fit design and space needs. Not all submissions will be published.

Please email all submissions to the editor via the contact info below:

[pauldplemmons@yahoo.com](mailto:pauldplemmons@yahoo.com)

## ***Conference Info:***

**Conference President**, Rev. Don Nichols

**Conference Vice President**, Rev. Mark Arnett

**Conference Secretary**, Rev. Tim Forsee

**Conference Treasurer**, Rev. Bryan Line

**Conference Missionary Representative**, Dr. Craig Dahler

**Conference Youth Director**, Rev. John Zeigler

## ATTENTION PILGRIM CHURCH NEWS REPORTERS . . .

We would love to be able to report on the happenings in and around your church, but we need to here from YOU!

If you would like your church news to be included in the next PNN, please have your report to the editor no later than September 15th. THANKS!

Email your report to: [pauldplemmons@yahoo.com](mailto:pauldplemmons@yahoo.com)