



Pilgrim

NEWS & NOTES

The official publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Conference of Churches



Photo Credit: The above photo, by Rev. Paul Pierpoint was taken at the Binghamton, NY PHC Camp

Camp meeting season is here and in a matter of days, Pilgrims from across the midwest will begin to make their way to a place that holds so many wonderful memories, Frankfort Camp Ministries, the site of the former Frankfort Pilgrim College.

Many faithful volunteers are already making preparations. Some have been working the majority of the year in anticipation of Pilgrim Camp 2019! But of all the preparations that could be made, none is more important than for all of us to prepare our hearts and minds for what God may want to do for His people during this time of encampment!

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

-Psalm 127:1

Pilgrim News & Notes

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Submission Policy:

If you have news, articles, or photos that you would like submitted for publication, send them to the editor at the above email address.

Note: We reserve the right to choose which information is published as well as the right to edit the submissions in order to fit spacing requirements.

Pilgrim News & Notes is a digital publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church and is published bi-monthly.

There is no subscription charge.

The main goal of PNN is to be an encouragement to our readers, as well as to be an informative source of information to those who are connected with or interested in our Conference.

Direct comments to the editor:
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A Woman's Perspective

By Stephanie Burley

With Father's Day quickly approaching, my mind has been drawn to manhood and the amazing design He has for the first person with whom He shared fellowship. With my mind's eye, I can clearly see the picturesque Garden of Eden and the distinctly male image He created. We know that man became sinful and the perfection that God intended was soon erased, but God's plan for man did not end.

As culture seeks to redefine just about everything we know to be true, it is even more imperative that we cling to God's Word and the principles that He has called us to live by. As wives, we must reaffirm them to our husbands. As mothers, we must reaffirm them to our sons. As Christians, we must reaffirm them to the men with whom we worship.

"Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature." **Genesis 2:7** No matter what culture tells you, you were created by God for a distinct purpose.

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." **I Corinthians 16:13** Scripture isn't "politically correct," and neither should we be. Men, this challenge is for you! Grab onto these words. Don't let their weight scare you. God has given you a job to do.

More than ever before, we need homes and churches that are filled with men who aren't willing to bend under pressure to take a lesser role. We need men who are confident, Spirit-led, gentle, courageous, and true. We need men who are ready to stay in the fight and lead their homes valiantly.

And men, I believe that I speak for a group of women who are ready and willing to walk along side of you and support your diligent efforts as you seek to be the man God has designed you to be.



Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Conference of Churches

53rd Annual Campmeeting

LOCATION

Frankfort Camp Ministries
1058 W. Freeman Street
Frankfort, Indiana

LODGING

For lodging, please contact
Leanne Zeigler at:
(812) 454-7501

LIVESTREAM

Thanks to Scott Pyle, services can
be watched online by visiting:
www.pc19.online

June 21-30, 2019

(Conference begins at 12:30 on June 24)



Rev. John Zechman
Evangelist



Rev. Dan Stetler
Evangelist



Keith & Sharon Waggoner
Singers

Coming soon to the campus of Frankfort Camp Ministries in Frankfort, Indiana, people from all across the Midwest will be gathering for a time of spiritual refreshing!

Our Youth and Family Camps run back to back, beginning on Monday, June 17th, and running through Sunday, June 30th.

We would like to welcome you to each service. The assembly room and dining hall are both air conditioned, and accommodations for lodging are available with reservations.

You will certainly enjoy the fellowship with other believers, insights into Scripture through great preaching and beautiful music by various vocal and instrumental groups.

There will be times for corporate and private prayer as well as great food and opportunities for exercise.

Please make plans to join us!

- President Don Nichols



Pastor to Pastor

Ministering to Those Who Minister to Others

Memories of Camp Meeting

By Rev. Roger Russell

I believe I was born on January the 15th, 1938. I don't remember it so I have to take the word of those who were there. They and the Court in Toledo, Illinois, agree that it was that day, so I'll take their word. That being true, my first Camp meeting would have been the summer of 1938 and I'm sure I was there, but I don't remember that either. However, I attended all of them until going to Africa in 1963. I will try to recall some of the things that impressed me about camp meetings over the years.

I remember the accommodations were not very plush and needed several work days each year to get the grounds ready. The dormitories were about like barracks with thin walls and no air conditioning.

I remember going to the saw mill and getting fresh sawdust for the floor and all the young children played in it while service was going on. For ventilation there were large doors hinged at the top and they would be propped up to let air come across the auditorium to help keep it cool. The seats were home made with 1X4's on which to lean and sit.

The people I grew up with didn't let trivial things keep them from worshiping the God who'd picked them up out of deep sin and set them on the highway of Holiness. I've seen my father stop farming early so we could get the chores done and go to revival meeting.

These dear saints came to camp to meet with God and rejoice in the Spirit! The Charleston Camp was next door to Eastern Illinois University and on one occasion some of the students came to one of the services. On this particular afternoon, the saints of God were happy and several were in the aisles shouting! One of the students sitting in front of me turned to one of the others and said, I wonder how long they practiced this."

It was at this camp in 1959 that I made the decision of my life because these wonderful people demonstrated changed lives before me. They called the best preachers for camp and prayed conviction down on me.

I believe Camp Meetings are worth all the cost and I pray that we will keep them alive and well!

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine - II Timothy 4:2

Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not - Galatians 6:9

A Life of Service to God

By Joan Stetler

If you've ever read the book, "Hillbilly Elegy," by J.D. Vance, then you know about the former steel-making town, between Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio, filled with Appalachian descendants, called Middletown. The Bible Methodist Church there was where my husband and I, as newlyweds, went for my husband to serve as assistant pastor. A few months later, the pastor, Rev. Jerry Young, became full-time conference president and my husband then became pastor.

Looking back on those early days, I can truly sympathize with our friends of the Middletown Church. We followed a more experienced family man whom they had grown to love and respect. And though my husband was prepared to construct sermons and answer theological questions in Sunday school, nothing quite prepares one for helping parishioners face marital infidelity, alcoholic family members, family members being incarcerated, or debilitating and fatal diseases.

It was of help to me in my new role as a pastor's wife that I was familiar with some of the ways of the Appalachian people. My mother's family had some similar history. Both my parents were raised in rural farming communities of central North Carolina. They both came from large families who had lived through the Depression and would struggle to make their living.

My parents had married young and they began attending a conservative Friends church where they were saved. There they began to become somewhat acquainted with the Holiness Movement.

My Dad's family placed a lot of emphasis on getting ahead financially, so he felt Mom should go to work to supplement the family income. Mom was a quiet, responsible lady. She had a great sense of humor, loved to tease and have fun. She was also intuitive which I attribute to her prayer life and close walk with the Lord.

Even though she worked as a bookkeeper for Sears in an office of women who didn't share her lifestyle, she never wavered in her convictions. She was a very valued and highly respected employee whom they wished to advance but she would turn them down to be able to devote her primary interests at home. Although Mom was quiet, her Godly influence steered and guided our family through some critical times.

Because both our parents worked, my siblings and I had babysitters and then became "latch-key kids" after school before my parents arrived home in the evenings.

My parents were newcomers to the Holiness Movement. None of our relatives were like us and we didn't have a lot in common. We also attended public school, so we weren't accepted there and were sometimes mocked for our differences.

The pastor of our church resigned and recommended a very ultra-conservative group to my Dad. I think because my parents so highly respected the pastor and because they had so few holiness connections, we soon joined the unfamiliar group. The church was extremely small. They felt musical instruments were unnecessary, even a piano. There were rare activities. The clothing was extremely plain,

and they didn't associate much with other holiness people. Mom would try to find music teachers for us to make occasions for us to meet other young people, but there wasn't much to work with under the circumstances.

An evangelist who was from another denomination must have seen our sad plight and recommended to my Dad that it might be good to allow me to go to Penn View Bible high school. At fifteen, Mom took me to enroll at PVBI. I lived in the girls' dorm there and at GBS, except for summers, until I married at twenty one years of age.

Though my parents were doing the best they could as first generation holiness people, my siblings and I missed out on the secure familial and church support systems that many of my college classmates seemed to have had.

As we entered pastoral ministry, God in His wisdom gave us the exceptional gift of a church to pastor, which had some mature, seasoned, patient and praying saints. They were an encouraging, supportive, and kind-hearted church family who bore with us through much trial and error. They treated us like "family" and looked after our needs.

We have twenty years of precious memories in our hearts and minds from our pastorate in Middletown/Franklin and we still view them as "family".

My husband's family lived forty miles south of us at GBS. We were able to visit frequently and our children were able to grow up in a large extended family with many fun-filled happy gatherings. I was able to observe and imitate the wonderful instruction and example of my mother-in-law in being a stay-at-home-mom and in providing my children with important supervision and care. I am very grateful for her influence that helped guide us in raising our children.

In 1995, with tears and farewells, we left our church family of twenty years and joined the HSBC campus, church, and FEA community. Again, the family of God surrounded us with their love, support, and encouragement. My children have been able to attend an excellent academy and college, meet many new friends and Godly influences, and find many opportunities for spiritual growth and instruction.

My brother said to me one day, "Why do you think we had our kind of childhood?" My answer went something like this, - "Everyone has at some point in their life, a challenge, handicap, illness, heartbreak, or crisis. But those times make us more understanding and compassionate of others." He agreed.

God has had His "understanding and compassionate" people at every turn in the road for my family and me. What a privilege and blessing to belong to the family of God!

Editor's note: We asked Sis. Stetler to answer the following questions for our readers . . .

What advice would you give to a young mother? *When we invest in our children, we are giving back to God in preparing young hearts and minds to serve and work in His kingdom. We are giving back to our parents and others who have contributed to our lives by raising decent, responsible, Godly descendants who will make the world a good place. We are investing in our own future in preparing a loving, caring and committed family. It is vital to watch out for our children at every age. Who they are around and what happens in the everyday activities of their lives is of extreme importance. A mother cannot be too vigilant.*

What advice would you give to a young pastor's wife? *It is best to listen to the "heart" needs of your church family. New programs, methods and techniques come and go. As a rule, unless the congregation would make requests, it doesn't seem to be a good thing for the pastor and wife to come in and make changes. The church people usually already have a system that works for them. Acceptance for them and their ways shows respect. Meeting needs, encouraging words, a comforting manner, supporting one another, good food and fellowship - these are what make a happy church family.*

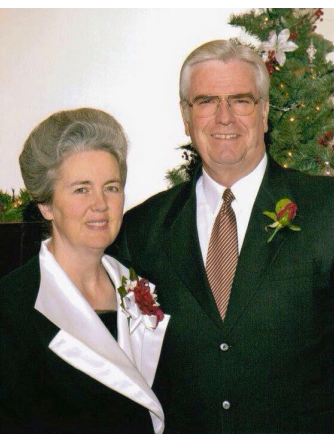
If you could go back to the early days of your marriage and ministry, what advice would you give to yourself? *I would have realized that I didn't need to be "good" at this or that to have identity. I just needed to be a "friend" and willing to lend a hand where I could using any talent or ability that I had, to make a difference for others. I would have worked harder at being of more support to my parents and siblings instead of allowing our physical distance to separate us.*

Did having a degree in music help with your children's musical instruction? *Our children mostly took violin and piano lessons from other teachers. I did answer any questions they would have during their practice times. When they became discouraged in taking violin I would play the accompaniments along with them in practice making it more enjoyable and rewarding for them. Music lessons was part of their required curriculum in our home. We felt it was important for the children to be able to participate in worship services and gave them opportunities for participation in other events as well.*

What was the best thing that you learned from your mother-in-law? *Children need structure and schedules. Children need balance in their lives - a time for affection but time for discipline when needed, time for work but time for play. If she saw a child going too far in one direction she would work with them to make correction. She taught her children to have a relationship with God and to be ministry minded.*

What was the best thing that you learned from your mother? *My mother was very practical. She wasn't showy or competitive. She would have thought it better to make oneself useful. Her example of quiet faithfulness to her family and God, and her quiet courage and strength in facing both Alzheimer's and cancer at age fifty-eight was amazing to observe. She had always been a loyal and obedient servant of God since her youth. For her to have the crushing weight of two major illnesses was inconceivable.*

It was stated at her funeral that she was a modern-day "Job". Mom knew she was not reaping a harvest of a sinful life, she knew she would not be healed, but her faith in God transcended human understanding and kept her "faithful unto death".



I love helping people, big, little, and in-between, discover the many ways that God works in the everyday happenings of our lives. Everyone from my Asian-American piano students to the cashier at Publix needs to be aware that He is there in the big events but also the smallest details. God likes for us to look for Him, find Him and fellowship with Him.

I love God, family, and the USA. I am intensely protective and devoted to all three entities. I have been known to unashamedly be a "Mama Bear" in their defense.

My roles in life are mother of five, grandmother of five, wife of a preacher and president of Hobe Sound Bible College, and piano teacher at Hobe Sound Christian Academy

Who Are You Trying to Please?

It happens all the time . . .

- A fifth grader playing softball looks to the stands to see if dad sees his home run.
- A teenager winning an award at school peeks around the room to see if Susan noticed his “Highest GPA trophy.”
- An employee makes sure the boss knows, “That money-saving idea came from me.”
- Church friends are coming for Sunday dinner. Mom makes one last trip through house, dusting and picking up things that are out of place.
- We post on Facebook and then check every few minutes to see how many “likes” we have received.

Many people go through life trying to please others. That isn’t entirely bad. A hostess who doesn’t care if her house is a wreck doesn’t have much respect for her visitors. A homeowner who doesn’t care if his yard looks like a jungle is not a very good neighbor.

But for those of us in ministry, this can be dangerous. As I read the Easter story this year, two characters caused me to ask, “Who am I trying to please?”

Pilate wanted to please the crowd.

Facing Jesus, Pilate must decide, “Who will I please?” Pilate’s wife has warned him, “*Have thou nothing to do with that just man*” (Matt 27:19). Pilate has tried to pass responsibility to Herod Antipas (Lk 23:6-12). But he can no longer evade responsibility; the decision is his.

Pilate knows that Jesus has done nothing to deserve death. But when Pilate tries to convince the crowd to let him release Jesus, they shout, “*Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas!*” (Lk 23:18). “*And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified*” (Mk 15:15). Pilate’s primary audience was “the people.” He wanted to please the crowd.

Joseph of Arimathea wanted to please God.

Another man in the Easter story lived with a different motivation. “*Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus*” (Mk 15:43).

Joseph of Arimathea had been a secret disciple because he feared the Jewish leaders. But in the aftermath of the crucifixion, Joseph took courage and asked Pilate for permission to bury the body.

Joseph's decision was not an easy one. Jesus had been condemned by Rome. Joseph was taking a risk by associating himself with a convicted criminal. He risked his position on the Sanhedrin when they learned that he is a supporter of Jesus. But Joseph of Arimathea no longer cared about his position on the council; he no longer cared about Pilate's opinion; he was determined to seek only the kingdom of God.

Pilate wanted to please the crowd; Joseph of Arimathea wanted to please God, the "Audience of One." We see this same contrast in the stories of Saul and David. Saul responds to Samuel's condemnation with, *"I have sinned: yet honor me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel"* (1 Sam 15:30). Saul wants to please the people.

When David faces Goliath, he says, "I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee...; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (1 Sam 17:46). David wants to bring honor to God; he wants to please God.

Who are you trying to please? Teachers, as you prepare this week's Sunday School lesson, are you trying to please the class or please God? Musicians, as you practice special music for next Sunday, are you seeking the applause of the crowd or the approval of God?

Pastors, we too must ask, *"Who am I trying to please: the people or an Audience of One?"* As I decide what to preach, which issues to address and which issues to avoid, who am I trying to please? **Think about it.**

*Oh to be like Thee, blessed redeemer, this is my constant longing and prayer
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures, Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear*

*Oh to be like Thee, full of compassion, loving, forgiving, tender and kind
Helping the helpless, cheering the fainting, seeking the wandering sinners to find*

*Oh to be like Thee, lowly in spirit, holy and harmless, patient and brave
Meekly enduring cruel reproaches, willing to suffer, others to save*

*Oh to be like Thee while I am pleading, pour out Thy spirit, fill with Thy love
Make me a temple meet for Thy dwelling, fit for a life that You can approve*

*Oh to be like Thee, oh to be like Thee, blessed redeemer, pure as Thou art
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness, stamp Thine own image deep on my heart*



Dr. Randall McElwain is married to Sue and they live in Hobe Sound, Florida, where he serves on the pastoral staff of Hobe Sound Bible Church as Discipleship Pastor. He also serves as Teaching Pastor at the Palm Beach Chinese Christian Chapel. They have two grown children.

Dr. McElwain is one of our own. He is a very busy person and is in high demand. We appreciate his willingness to share his thoughts with us in each issue of *Pilgrim News & Notes*.



Congratulations to the Class of 2019

The Pilgrim Holiness Conference wishes to congratulate the High School and College Graduates within our Pilgrim family!

Our prayer is that you will build on the excellent training that you have received and always follow God's divine plan for your life.

The following is a list of the High School and College Graduates (of which we have been notified) in our Conference:

High School Graduates:

Corydon, Indiana PHC:

Mitch Garrett

Lima, Ohio PHC:

Evan Burley and Hannah Hunter

Jackson, Michigan PHC:

Sean Raines

Kokomo, Indiana PHC:

Brittany Line and Callie Line

New Castle, Indiana PHC:

Elizabeth Belcher and Olivia Jordan

Noblesville, Indiana PHC:

Kyle Price, Shane Herod and Nathaniel Witt

Ottawa, Kansas PHC:

Isaiah Rodriguez

Shepherd, Michigan PHC:

Caleb Teed

College Graduates:

Albany, Ohio PHC:

Emily Christy

Frankfort, Indiana PHC:

Tyler Russell

Kokomo, Indiana PHC:

Evie Black and Jay Holman

Missionary to Dearborn, Michigan:

Jonathan Gray

Shoals, Indiana Weisbach Community Church:

Caleb Zeigler

Under Graduate Degree:

New Castle, Indiana PHC:

Amber Petty (Master's degree)

The Dash

A Minister stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end. He said that first came the date of birth and then he said with tears, "What matters most, is the dash between the years!"

For that dash represents the time we spent alive on earth, and now only those who loved us most know what that little line is worth. For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and how we spend our dash.

So think about it long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? You never know what time is left that still can be rearranged. So be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved them before. Let's treat each other with respect and try to wear a smile . . . remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash . . . Are you going to be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?