



# THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter  
October 2020

First Presbyterian Church  
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Vol. 55 No. 7  
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... he learned obedience  
through what he suffered ...

Hebrews 5:8, ESV



## TRANSFORMING OUR PAIN

Laurie Ulrich has already shared with some of us a daily devotion that she ran across, but during these times of pandemic, the words are worth sharing yet again. “Transforming Our Pain” was written by Richard Rohr for his book *Daily Meditation*, specifically for September 18, 2020. These meditations are adapted from his book: *Dancing Standing Still: Healing the World from a Place of Prayer*, Paulist Press, 2014, 78-80. The basic message is do not deny pain nor project it elsewhere, but transform it into something helpful and productive.

*“If I were to name the Christian religion, I would probably call it ‘The Way of the Wound.’ Jesus agrees to be the Wounded One, and we Christians are these strange believers in a wounded healer. We come to God not through our strength but through our weakness. We learn wisdom and come to God not by doing it all right but through doing it all wrong.*

*“If you were going to create a religion, would you think of creating, as your religious image, a naked, bleeding, wounded man? It is the most unlikely image for God, the most illogical image for Omnipotence. None of us in our wildest imagination would have come up with it. It must expose a central problem of human existence, for*

*God to come into the world in this form and in this way. Sadly, we Christians have become accustomed to the cross—perhaps we have domesticated it—and we no longer receive the shock and the scandal of all that this image of failure is saying. Being wounded, suffering, and dying are the quickest and most sure paths to truly living.*

*“Using a scapegoat is our much-preferred method. We deny our pain, sins, and suffering and project them elsewhere. This ancient method still works so well that there is no reason to think it is going to end or change. Until we are enlightened by grace, we don’t even see it; it remains safely hidden in the unconscious where it plays itself out. Once we spot and stop the pattern, the game is over. The cross of Jesus was a mirror held up to history, so we could spot the scapegoating pattern and then stop participating in it.*

*“Only the Great Self, the True Self, the Godself, can carry the anxiety within us. The little self can’t do it. People who don’t pray can’t live the Gospel because the self is not strong enough to hold the anxiety and the fear. **If we do not transform our pain, we will always transmit it.** Always someone else has to suffer because we don’t know how to suffer; that’s what it comes down to.*

*“Most people are like electric wires: what comes in is what goes out. Someone calls us a name, and we call*

them a name back. That is, most people pass on the same energy that is given to them. Now compare an electric wire to those big, grey transformers that you see on utility poles. Dangerous current or voltage comes in, but something happens inside that grey box and what comes out is, in fact, now helpful and productive. That is exactly what Jesus does with suffering.

“That is what Jesus did: he did not return the negative energy directed at him—not during his life nor when he hung on the cross. He held it inside and made it into something much better. That is how ‘he took away the sin of the world.’ He refused to pass it on! Until the world understands that, there will be no new world.”

## COMMUNION SCHEDULE



During the virtual worship service on Sunday, October 4, Pastor Dudley will lead us in a celebration of the sacrament of Communion. Remember to

have a glass of juice and a piece of bread ready before starting the service on your phone, tablet, or computer. Because October 4 is World Communion Sunday, try to have a bread that you normally do not eat each day as a way to do Breads of the World in your home.

## SESSION REPORT

### Regular Session Meeting, September 21, 2020

As I reported last month, our Session participated in a joint meeting conversation on September 8, 2020, with the Session of Calvary United Protestant Church, Park Forest, and Presbytery of Chicago Executive Presbyter Susan Krummel regarding the possibility of sharing the pastoral services of a single pastor. This new pastor would be called by both congregations, and the Terms of Call would be shared. In effect, both congregations would have a part-time call that, when combined, would equal a full-time call. There are many details that need to be worked through. Our Session voted to begin conversations with Calvary’s Session under the guidance of our respective representatives on the Commission on Ministry. Our initial preference is to have a yoked relationship with a shared called pastor while maintaining our separate church campus facilities. We will see where this style of God’s ministry takes us in this upside down world of unrelenting viral contamination.

Session accepted with regret and thanks the resignation from the Pastoral Nominating Committee of Emily Hanley, effective immediately. Also, Joyce Anders is taking a reprieve for rest from the work of the PNC.

At the request of the Clerk of Session, who also maintains the official rolls and registers for the church, Session voted to remove seventeen names from the Baptized Member Roll. These “children” are mostly over the age of 15 years old or out of contact, along with their parents who disappeared, transferred to another church, or became inactive in the life of our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



## FROM THE PASTOR

Halloween’s coming! We certainly feel as if this pandemic has played a nasty **trick** on us and it’s no **treat**. While we cannot give out treats or admire costumes as we have in the past, one possibility still remains. The word *Halloween* comes from the elision of “All Hallows Evening,” which refers to the night before All Hallows’ or All Saints’ Day. We can still celebrate All Saints’ Day. We **will** celebrate All Saints’ Day on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, a Communion Sunday as well. (Be sure to change the clocks back one hour before you go to bed.)

I remind you that a saint is NOT necessarily a person who has done miracles or been wondrously holy. A saint, as they were called in the New Testament, is a believer. We, you and I, are saints!



I have three suggestions as to how we can celebrate the “Hallow” part of Halloween:

-  If a saint in our life was a baker, remember that person as you bake or purchase the bread for Communion.
-  Remember the Saints in your life and our life as a congregation and what it is about them you appreciate.
-  For the week before and after Halloween, whenever you communicate with people, especially people connected to our congregation, greet them as “saint” followed by their name.

*St. Dudley*

## TRUSTEE REPORT

After three service calls, several leaks in the rooftop air conditioning unit for the sanctuary were repaired in September. On-going weeding and landscaping are being done by Johnnie Dorsey, Paul Gerrish, and Laura Dillman. Recent storms have damaged some fascia

pieces on the front of the C.E. building, and they will have to be replaced.

I received an 85-page breakdown of our water usage from the Village's Water Department that includes hour by hour, daily usage for the month of June and have been reviewing the details to find the reason for our high water bill. The water meter is being monitored weekly.

Jim Foster

### STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

The Presbytery of Chicago has requested our church remit the 2020 Per Capita Apportionment. To date, we have received only \$2,345 of the \$3,729 that is due, or approximately 38 members who have not yet sent in their Per Capita. Are you one of them? This is the last call for your Per Capita payments, which are **\$36.00** per active member. Please send your checks for Per Capita to the Church Office using P.O. Box 1519. Thank you.

The Payroll Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Form will be submitted through our bank to the Small Business Administration for approval in October. We qualify for the loan forgiveness, but we have to prove to the SBA that we met all the requirements.

The Presbyterian Foundation has materials and services that help small congregations like ours to set up an account for on-line giving. Sending an offering to this account electronically and securely will save you time and checks and stamps all from the comfort and safety of your home. We will keep you informed when we can successfully set this system up.

As usual for summer months, July and August were very light on general offerings. No Required Minimum Distributions were received during these months. We need an average income of **\$4,000** each week to fund our mission and operate our church. This is inclusive of pledges and identified giving as well as other income sources. So, how are we doing?

- Weekly average for January (4) \$3,526
- Weekly average for February (4) \$3,646
- Weekly average for March (5) \$2,161
- Weekly average for April (4) \$2,880
- Weekly average for May (5) \$3,265
- Weekly average for June (4) \$5,820
- Weekly average for July (4) \$1,856
- Weekly average for August (5) \$1,549
- **Weekly average for 2020 (35) \$3,029**

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending August 31, 2020, is in the following chart:

	<u>Through August</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
<b>General Fund Income</b>		
Identified Giving	\$78,583	\$130,000
Loose Offering	211	1,500
Initial Offering	413	500
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	8,266	5,000
Community Dinners Donations	770	3,000
Other Income	15,459	3,000
Dividends & Capital Gains	1,050	14,000
Sale of Investment Shares	0	37,400
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	9,000
Transfer from Designated Fund	<u>1,250</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>106,002</b>	<b>203,400</b>
<b>General Fund Expenses</b>		
Missional Ventures	\$1,194	6,500
Faith Formation	167	1,800
Facilities	24,203	51,500
Staff	49,396	82,000
Transition	27,198	54,300
Administrative Support	3,156	7,300
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	0
Transfer to Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>105,314</b>	<b>203,400</b>
<b>Designated Fund Income</b>	<b>\$9,520</b>	
<b>Designated Fund Expenses</b>	<b>12,033</b>	
<b>Total Active Members—August 31, 2020</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>108</b></span>		
<b>Average Sunday Attendance—May 2020</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>0</b></span>		
<b>Average Sunday Attendance—June 2020</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>0</b></span>		
<b>Average Sunday Attendance—July 2020</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>0</b></span>		
<b>Average Sunday Attendance—August 2020</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>0</b></span>		
<b>Summary through August 2020 (8/12 of Budget):</b>		
Income Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(\$29,598)
Expenses Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(30,286)
<b>2020 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date</b>		<b>688</b>

### FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM CLASS WITH TIM

**Cold Case Christianity** will finish up on October 7. The next class will begin on October 14 at 7 p.m. on Zoom, but the topic was not determined by the newsletter deadline.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will soon begin its search for candidates for the Session Class of 2023 and the Trustee Class of 2023. Three Session members are needed, and four Trustee members are needed. Will you volunteer? Contact Kathie Darman at 207-2813.

### Laurie Ulrich – All Is Well

Surgeries and hurricanes and cancer diagnoses and unexplained illness and surprising life-changes and unreasonable requirements for daily living and career quandaries and out-of-town moves and social unrest—not to mention a world-wide pandemic. These are the things that fill my life—and the lives of those people I care about—right now. It’s been interesting to discover how I live through these times. I say “discover” because I’ve been surprised at myself, sometimes, and grateful to find out that I really AM fine. In spite of my being someone who likes to feel that I’m making decisions that control my life and my living in a time that makes it so obvious that that’s impossible, I’ve been glad to find out that I’m fine with it all.

Like everyone else, I have so much more “discretionary” time right now. I’ve used that time to read more, think more, write more, pray more, reach out more. Even though I am still doing the “isolation thing” because of COVID, I don’t feel at all isolated. I have, as most everyone in my circle of acquaintances and friends knows only too well, learned a lot more about how to be in touch with people through many of the technological means we have at our disposal these days. I would have said I’m not much interested in digital communication—before it was forced on me because I had to find alternative ways to do the things I needed to do. Now I have skills I’d never thought I would!

I find myself more able to take a “long view” and to accept the reality that this seemingly-endless state of confusion and forced inactivity will end. At some point, it will be something in our past, something we look back on and recall as a time that changed our society and ourselves in ways we don’t know yet. I am keenly aware that God’s time is not my time, and that six months (or a year, or two years, or whatever it takes) is such a negligible amount of time when considering God’s plan for us humans.

What is that? I couldn’t even presume to guess! But I’m glad to discover that I’m okay with that and that, in all the ways that matter, all is well.

### PRAYER CARDS

The following members, friends, and staff of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood will receive a card telling them that the church is praying for them. Please pray for those listed.



Kathie Darman

### Week of October 4

Charlene Hansen  
Kathie & Jerry Hazlett  
Tom & Tricia Hentschel  
Emmanuel & Lee Hilario  
Bob & Jonna James

### Week of October 11

Dorinda Jensen  
Ken & Jessica Jursa  
Lina Jursa  
Marilyn Jerner  
Candi Kleindorfer

### Week of October 18

Melodee Leimnetzer  
Nancy Llewellyn  
Karen Maurer  
Debbie & John Maxwell  
Kristen Maxwell

### Week of October 25

Bruce & Heather Miller  
Ian, Shannon Miller  
Craig Miller  
Vern Moore  
Ray & Wanda Nielsen

### HOSPITALIZED

In the hospital during the past month were Marilyn Austin, Jonna James, and Tim Noetzel (brother of Laurie Ulrich).



### NURSING HOMES / REHAB

Mae Evert, Lemont Center Rehab; Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park; Marilyn Perdue, Clarendale of Mokena.

### BIRTHS



Raeya Marie Barksdale was born September 8, 2020. The parents are Rachael Moore and Gregory Barksdale. The great-grandmother is Evelyn Dixon.

*See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God and so we are.*

### NEW HOME

Karen Maurer has moved to Carol Stream, Illinois. She will enjoy a new apartment, new friends, new adventures, and a new church. Karen did not want her new contact information in the newsletter, so you will have to catch up with her on your own.

### THANK YOU



I thank God for all the cards and phone calls and prayers from my church family. In these COVID 19 times, they are especially meaningful. God supplies our needs! Thanks to all.  
Evelyn Dixon

## Laura Dillman

I've been pretty busy with gardening, both in the Aki Garden and at home. A photo that I took of the hydrangea tree in our own Aki Garden made it on WGN TV 9 weather photos segment with Tom Skilling on Sept. 4. Quite the surprise! It made me feel so humbled. Then a photo that I took of a coleus, that had blossomed surprising me at home, also made it on WGN TV 9 again. Then a photo taken by Paul Gerrish of geese in flight at the Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve also was included in the weathercast. Wow! I never thought that any of this would happen. I continue to be amazed at the glorious gifts of God in both flora and fauna. I will be entering a contest for Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve to be included in a calendar. I hope to be in it. I will continue taking photos all throughout the coming days, weeks, months. It's such a complete joy to do so. Feel free to look for them on my Facebook page. I may even start a separate page for just that soon. I've started a cutting of the coleus to see if I can make it last. Maybe I have a green thumb after all!

Paul and I have continued to keep up with the never-ending weeds in the Aki Garden. It's always a work in progress for the trusty Trustees. I think that I heard that our church won a Beautification Award again. I've been missing our Trustee meetings and seeing everyone, and I have missed teaching Sunday School and seeing all of our children. I am thankful for the on-line church services put together by our staff, Pastor Dudley Elvery and Tim VanNasdale, plus the hard work by Kathie Hazlett, Laurie Ulrich, and Karen Maurer. I love the Zoom class for Panera Bread Bible Study and for Wednesday Night with Tim VanNasdale. It's good to see faces at the same time. Thanks be to God!

Personally, my health issues never seem to end. The stage 3 kidney disease is getting worse, but I am trying to keep it in check with the complete blood testing and the closer together appointments. I'm still waiting on the MRI for my migraines and the referrals for the cardiologist as well. My strong faith in God and Jesus helps. Keep the prayers coming.

I will try to keep in touch with everyone as best I can. You are all in my loving thoughts and prayers each and every day.

## DON'T FORGET

Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends early in the morning on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Turn the clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.



## NOVEMBER CARILLON

The deadline for having articles placed in the November *Carillon* is **Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please turn in all materials in writing and e-mail the Editor at [ewahl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ewahl@sbcglobal.net). Remember to keep on sharing joys and concerns about our "new" life. The key word is share. Hearing about each other is good for the soul. The newsletter is getting shorter and shorter. The Editor thanks the October reporters for their assistance.

*J C =W=*

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

[Editor's Note: I apologize for typing in October birthdays as September ones last month. Hopefully, you received the correction by email. Here are the October birthdays...again.]

### October

6 John Maxwell, Jr  
12 Carolyn Wiley  
Eleanor Steiner  
15 Karen Maurer

### October

16 Kathie Hazlett  
22 James Daanen  
Bradley Armistead  
23 Bruce Miller



May God grant birthday blessings to you all this coming year.



# LOOKING TOWARD FALL