



The Lamplighter



Pastor's Note

It is hard to believe that summer is about to come to a close, and yet the evidence is all around us. The sun is rising later and setting earlier, and as I crossed the bridge yesterday, I noticed that the trees along the river are starting to change colors. But probably the best evidence of the pending change is the cooler nights - nights where windows can be open to let in the cool air and the sounds of nature.

Another sign that summer is quickly coming to a close can be seen here at the church. The staff has been dreaming, planning, and meeting about fall. Mark is busy gathering new music and selecting old favorites, as he prepares to lead our many talented saints in providing special music for our weekly worship. I have been working on opportunities to learn and grow together in our faith, through study, community, and service.

As you read the Lamplighter this month, you will find information about regular programs that will be starting up again, as well as a number of new opportunities. I encourage you to come and try something new. Maybe it will be meeting on Monday mornings to look at the upcoming Sunday's scripture focus. Perhaps it will be inviting a friend in the community to come to the church for a time of *Coffee and Community*, or join the community reading of a new book each month. Maybe it will be to give your hand a try to bell ringing - or joining the chancel choir. Or maybe you will answer the tugging of your adventurous spirit and pickup a Ukulele (they are pretty inexpensive for a starter one), and join to Ukulele group in learning new chords, how to strum, and most importantly to offer up your praise to God through song.

We will also be offering a new member class this fall!! This is in response to a number of people who have let us know that they would like to take the next step in being part of our church community. If you have been thinking or wondering about taking that next step, please let me know or watch for dates and times where you can gather with others to explore the possibility. I am filled with anticipation and excitement as I wait to see where God is leading us in the coming year!

Fall Blessings,
Pastor Catherine

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

- Ushers:** Paul and Judi Delzell
- Greeters:**
 - September 1Irma Geerts
 - September 8Bob and Shirley Buikema
 - September 15Harold Bonneur
 - September 22Available
 - September 29Available



THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY September suggested donations:

- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING**August 14, 2019**

The August meeting was held at 6:00 pm in the bride's room. The clerk declared a quorum.

Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Joys and concerns were shared followed by the opening prayer by Jim Balk. The covenant of leadership was recited.

The following Elders were present: Jim Balk, Mike Hand, Megan Huizenga, Mike Kramer, Roy Nelson, Angie Smith, Dale Thayer, Cindy Wierema

Excused: Elder Dave Ray

Moved and seconded to approve the August docket. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to approve the regular session minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting. **Motion passed.**

Clerk's Report Attendance statistics were presented:

6/16/19=55; 6/23/19=59; 6/30/19=51; 7/7/19=72; 7/14/19=48; 7/21/19=50; 7/28/19=60; 8/4/19=69; 8/11/19=54

Communion on 7/7/19=72; 8/4/19=69 No Deaths reported:

Pastor's Report

Attended Presbytery Council Meetings at Blackhawk on 6/25 and 7/23

Led Worship Services at Harbor Crest on 6/30 and 7/31

Visits Out - 10

Visits In - 8

Notes mailed - 8

Attended meeting with Mississippi Regional Blood Center 7/2

Attended Finance Meetings 7/8 and 8 12

Attended Lunch Bunch 7/11

Attended a one day educational opportunity at Ebenezer in Morrison sponsored by the RCA 8/1

Fall Planning -

Study Leave 8/5/19 - 8/11/19

Managed many COM concerns

Committee Reports:

Calling & Membership: Angie Smith

Bake sale proceeds were \$1245.15. The committee will be meeting soon.

Christian Education: Megan Huizenga

Curriculum selected for the younger group at 559 – still working on the youth curriculum. Offering a weekly Bible study in the mornings once a week for adults. Offering a monthly book group opportunity during the day.

559 is scheduled to begin September 11th. A rotation model will be used this year with the younger children.

Fellowship Committee: Dave Ray and Mike Hand

There is no report

Finance Committee: Dale Thayer (chair) & Jim Balk

July Receipts = \$11,843.96

July Expenses = \$11,851.79

During the first 7 months of 2019:

Receipts exceeded expenses in 5 of those months

Expenses exceeded receipts in 2 of those months

January – Expenses were \$4,348.82 more than receipts

July – Expenses were only \$7.83 more than receipts.

January was when we revised the 2019 budget to tighten up our expenses

In the past – June, July and August have been “down” months for receipts due to vacation times.

June and July this year have been good months

Verdict is still out on August since we are only ½ way through the month

Garage Sale receipts as of August 12th = \$1,305.21

Bake Sale receipts as of August 12th = \$1,244.60.

Afghan Sale receipts as of August 12th = \$203.00

Total = \$2,752.81

Checking Account balances as of August 12, 2019:

Presbyterian Church Account = \$23,037.93

Mission Starfish Haiti Account = \$ 1,545.78

Budget requests for 2020 are due next month.

Nominating Committee: Mike Kramer

Committee is working on filling slots.

Outreach Committee: Cindy Wierema

Garage Sale total was \$1,305.21. The flower fund money is to be used as follows:

Habitat for Humanity = \$150

Kemmerer Village = \$150

Rice & Beans Haiti = \$113

There will be Christmas wreath and swags sold in December.

We will be have Rada sales from Sept 15 thru Oct 13 to raise money for school socks, pants, underwear etc.

Properties: Roy Nelson and Jim Balk

An inventory of current tables was taken: 20 rectangular tables, 2 round tables, 2 half-round tables

The Outreach Center set up for a large event is 18 rectangular tables, seating 144 at one time (8 to a table). Moving forward, we need input on how many of each type of table we want to purchase. (I recommend keeping the 2 half-round tables in the SS rooms). Also, we need to know how much memorial money is going to be used.

It was noted with gratitude that weed removal has been done by various people. We are thankful for the many people that stepped forward to help keep our grounds looking their best!

Moved and seconded purchase a new garage door opener for \$370. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to have a blanket approval for use of our building as a polling place. **Motion passed.**

Staff Committee: Mike Hand

Moved and seconded to approve family leave for the pastor to help with her father. **Motion passed.**

Worship Committee: Megan Huizenga

Worship outline was completed by Pastor Catherine during her study leave through the middle of June 2020 and has been provided to the Music director so he may begin his planning.

Moved and seconded have plays presented 2 times in the 2019/2020 church year during worship. **Motion passed.**

The ukulele group will continue.

Following a brief discussion, it was approved by consensus to designate December 29 worship service as a time when Christmas carols will be sung after a presentation of the background of that carol.

Moved and seconded to receive the preceding reports. **Motion passed.**

New Business:

Moved and seconded to change the time of the session meeting to 6:00pm. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 and closed with prayer by pastor Catherine.

New Activities in the Life of the Church

Bible Study

Every Monday starting at 9:30

You are invited to join the Pastor on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. beginning September 9th, to explore together the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday's sermon focus. Please bring your bible along - coffee and a treat will be provided.

Coffee and Conversation

Beginning September 4th and every
First and Third Wednesday of the month - starting at 9:00

Beginning September 4th 2019, we invite you to come to the church and gather around our new round tables and engage in conversation with others! This bi-monthly opportunity, which is open to the larger community, is meant to be a place where you can connect with old friends and make new ones.

Book Club

“For Mature Readers Only”

Beginning October 9th , 2019
and every **second Wednesday** of the Month thereafter

This book club, which is open to the Fulton community, is designed for those who have entered, or will soon be entering the time of life that our culture calls.... “the senior years”. The intent of the group is to read and discuss opportunities, interests, issues and concerns that have relevance for your daily lives. To kick off the group, the book “*I love Growing Older but I'll Never Grow Old*”, by J. Ellsworth Kalas, has been chosen. Below is a description of the book from Amazon....

Growing *older* is a process. Growing *old* is a conclusion. If you're growing *older* you see some hope because you have perspective and you keep learning. If you've grown *old*, you may cynically think that times have never been as bad as they are now, and that they can only get worse.

This book is about learning how to “make peace with where you are right now.” It's about learning from the past and then moving past it. It's about growing—personally, spiritually, and in our relationships with God and with others. If we think properly about growing older we'll never have to grow old.

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This book is available new on Amazon in paperback for \$11.88, or Kindle for \$9.99. There are also a few used copies available starting at \$1.11 plus \$3.99 shipping and applicable tax.

Music Opportunities

Worship Music practice

(Ukuleles, Guitars, Recorders, Special Music) -
4:30 to 5:30 every **Wednesday** in the Music Room
Begins September 11th 2019

Bell Choir

Practice is every **Thursday** from 6:00 to 7:00 in the sanctuary.
New Ringers are ALWAYS welcome!
No previous bell ringing experience required

Chancel Choir

Practice is every **Thursday** from 7:00 to 8:00 in the music room
All are welcome to join us!!!

559 Season Kickoff!!!!

The 559 team is excited to begin another year of Christian Education and Fellowship! There will be a few changes this year to our schedule, which is due in large part to not having quite enough time to spend with learning and sharing after dinner. Below you will find our new weekly schedule. Please note that our doors will not be open until 5:30 and we are requesting that there be no early drop-offs as we will have no-one on site to watch your children!

Doors open at 5:30
Dinner - 5:30-5:59 p.m.
Groups- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Head for home 7:01!!!

We currently have on the calendar a special Halloween outing for the entire group on October 30th (more information to follow), and "a Save the Date" notice for our annual Christmas program which will be December 15, 2019.

There will also be opportunities throughout the fall for our children and youth to participate in worship - so keep an eye out for more information later in September.



FINANCIAL UPDATE



Your Finance Committee provides the following update on our finances.

As of August 12th, we had \$23,037.93 in our church's checking account, and \$1,545.78 in the Mission Starfish Haiti account. During the first 7 months of this year, receipts for the church account exceeded expenses in 5 of those months. Here is a breakdown of those 7 months:

MONTH	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
January	\$10,804.04	\$15,152.86	-\$4,348.82
February	\$16,170.78	\$14,868.52	+\$1,302.26
March	\$18,222.95	\$15,545.17	+\$2,677.78
April	\$23,359.69	\$15,652.68	+\$7,707.01
May	\$13,077.22	\$12,103.16	+\$ 974.06
June	\$13,597.04	\$12,267.30	+\$1,329.74
July	\$11,843.96	\$11,851.79	-\$ 7.83
TOTALS	\$107,075.68	\$97,441.48	+\$9,634.20

The following information was already published in the *Lamplighter* a few months ago, but as a refresher, here it is again. After many hours put forth on reviewing our 2019 Expense Budget and our estimated income for 2019, we knew that our expenses had to be reduced. In early March, we prepared a REVISED 2019 Expense Budget and presented it to Session. This revised budget reduced our 2019 expenses by \$10,386 and put our 2019 Expense Budget at \$165,788. The Session approved this revised budget on March 5, 2019, at a Special Session Meeting called for the purpose of reviewing and approving our revised Expense Budget. It should be noted that this reduction in the 2019 budget put the new budget at \$7,275 below our 2018 budget. Your Finance Committee felt that additional trimming should be done, and could be done in certain areas. A few budget line items were referred back to committees responsible for those line items so that recommendations could be presented to the Finance Committee. Based on those recommendations, your Finance Committee prepared a second REVISED Expense Budget for 2019 and presented it to the Session at the Regular Session Meeting on March 19, 2019. This second revised budget reduced our 2019 expenses by an additional \$4,051, and put our 2019 Expense Budget at \$161,737. The Session approved this second revision to our budget. It should also be noted that this second reduction in the 2019 budget put the new budget at \$11,326 below our 2018 budget.

Every month your Finance Committee has been meeting and keeping tight control of our expenses. We are grateful for our Office Secretary and our Pastor, as both have been working very closely with the Finance Committee in managing our finances. The various committee chairs have also been working with us on this necessary task. We still have 5 months left this year, but we feel more comfortable now than we did in the first quarter of this year. Many difficult decisions had to be made, but we are now seeing the positive results of those decisions.

Glory to God! We have such a wonderful congregation, that when called upon to help us with our finances, many stepped forward. Thanks to all who have financially helped our church.

Dale Thayer
Chairman, Finance Committee

**MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP**
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Men's Fellowship Group continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. This month it will be September 14th, all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.


LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch meet on the second Thursday of each month. We will be at Brunch House on September 12th at 11:30 am. There is a sign up sheet posted in the hallway. Come and bring a neighbor, friend, or anyone who needs a day out.

FROM OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Outreach Committee would like to say Thank You to all those who help with the Annual Garage Sale in any way. The Sale raised \$1305.21 The beautiful Afghan Raffle raised \$203.00. We are so Blessed to have such a wonderful congregation.

We will begin another RADA Sale September 15 through October 13. Proceeds will go to buy socks, pants, under clothes for the elementary children in need.

Thank you The Outreach Committee

FEED THE CHILDREN

Feed the Children had amazing summer! With our combined efforts with 1st Reformed Church we were able to serve lunches 5 days a week. The lunches included a PB&J, chips, drink, and a couple of treats, and fruit. As you all know that we had a challenge of supplying the chips as we do every year. So, for the months of June July and August we served a total of 4298 lunches! That is 88.24 boxes of chips (that amount was based on a box of 50 chips)! I want to thank everyone who supplied items for the program and to those who donated their time into preparing the lunches! This program would not be so successful if not for all who put the time and the effort.

BLOOD DRIVE

We had a very successful blood drive on August 6th. We went over our goal of donors and the Fulton High School received \$274 in grant funds! Our drive alone provided as many as 96 blood products for patients in the local area. We had a total of 32 presented donors of which 8 were deferred. We collected 25 units of blood one of which was a double red. We had also 4 first time donors. Our next blood drive will be sometime in January or February 2020. A big thank you to all who donated! We couldn't have done any of this without you!

CALLING AND MEMBERSHIP

The Calling and Membership Committee would like to thank everyone who baked, worked at and purchased items from the bake sale on August 9th and 10th that was held at our church during the Fulton city wide garage sale. You all made it a huge success! Thank You!!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for volunteers to help with the Kiwanis Bucket Brigade which is coming up on September 6th & 7th at the intersection of route 84 and 14th Ave (Rt 136) by the Shell Station. The hours are as follows: September 6th (Friday): 9am - 5pm, September 7th: 9am - Noon. The shifts are broken up into 1 1/2 hour blocks and 8 volunteers are needed per shift. Half of what is received will be used for the Salvation Army Assistance (We have a GREAT need for these funds). They will also be using funds to purchase a wheelchair swing for the renovations to School (10th Ave) Park. Please let Pastor Catherine know if you can help!

GREETERS

We need your help by signing up to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sign up sheet which is found on the table in the Narthex. Thank You

CHANCEL AND BELL CHOIRS

The Chancel and Bell choirs will begin practicing for this fall and winter on August 29th. The Bell Choir will begin at 6 p.m. and the Chancel Choir will follow at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome!



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

*Now may the Lord of peace . . .
give you peace at all times in all ways.*

— 2 Thessalonians 3:16

The second letter to the Thessalonians was written on the same theme as the first: the imminent return of Jesus, and the triumphal resolution of God's plan for all creation. The need for a *second* letter, though, arose from growing uneasiness, frustration, and fear within the church from those who thought this was supposed to have happened already. God's time was not the Thessalonian's time. As a result, fear and hopelessness gripped the church, resulting in divisions, mistrust, and dismay that began to sap the church of its vibrant ministry. Paul writes to encourage their continued faith and sure hope. In the midst of divisions and discord, he claims a God of peace who can bring peace at all times, in all ways.

The church of every time and place wrestles with the distance between our timeframe and expectations and God's. In God's time, even the small seeds we plant can grow into sturdy trees. In God's time, the fears we carry can be transformed into new partnership and hope. In God's time, our expectations can be expanded and surpassed by God's faithfulness. The 2019 Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission to those around the corner and around the world. It is boundless peace God offers. It bursts through the shackles of time and expectation. It quiets the anxiety of each believer by joining us together, as we offer our prayer, *Now, May the Lord grant us peace in all times in all ways.*

QUICK FACTS

- Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity.
- The Peace & Global Witness Offering builds on the Presbyterian Commitment to Peacemaking established in 1980.
- World Communion Sunday (October 6) is the most common Sunday for receiving the Offering, but many congregations promote the Offering throughout *A Season of Peace* (September 1 – October 6).
- 25% of the Offering stays with local congregations, and 25% with mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions. *See page 5 for examples of how others have used their retained funds.*
- 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

September 1, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	September 16, 2019	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet
September 2, 2019	Labor Day - Office Closed	September 17, 2019	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor 7:00 p.m. Quilters to meet
September 3, 2019	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor	September 18, 2019	9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation 4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice in Music Room 559@ FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending
September 4, 2019	9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation Noon RMA to meet 4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice 559@ FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	September 19, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
September 5, 2019	8:30 a.m. Pastor to Sterling clergy book group 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	September 20, 2019	Pastor's day off
September 6, 2019	Pastor's day off	September 21, 2019	
September 7, 2019		September 22, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
September 8, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship 2:00 P.M. Harbor Crest Chapel	September 23, 2019	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet
September 9, 2019	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Finance Committee to meet 6:00 p.m. Scouts - Papers 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	September 24, 2019	Pastor to Presbytery for the day Pastor Not at Steam Anchor
September 10, 2019	Pastor to Presbytery Meeting Pastor Not at Steam Anchor 6:00 p.m. Session to meet	September 25, 2019	9:00 a.m. Quilters begin set up for Quilt show. 4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice in Music Room 559@ FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending
September 11, 2019	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice in Music Room 559@ FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	September 26, 2019	9:00 a.m. Quilters continue set-up Noon: Quilters begin registration and Quilt Show. 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice in Sanctuary. 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary.
September 12, 2019	11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch to meet 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	September 27, 2019	Pastor's day off 9:00 Quilters Set-up Noon: Quilt show opens and continues to 8:30 p.m.
September 13, 2019	Pastor's Day Off	September 28, 2019	8:30 a.m. Quilt show opens and continues to 4:00 p.m. and begins clean up.
September 14, 2019	8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Pastor's day off	September 29, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
September 15, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship Noon to 5:00 p.m. Haan Family Reunion in Outreach	September 30, 2019	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet

The poem below was written by Lisa Kuper in celebration Harold Bonneur's 90th birthday.

Dad's 90th Birthday – Who Woulda Thought?

August 12, 1929, a new baby boy
Blue-eyed, blond hair, healthy
To Evert and Ann Bonneur.
Harold LaVerne, will he be a farmer?
Who woulda thought?

Farmboy in Garden Plain,
4-H, FFA, baseball on Sunday afternoons,
Catching rabbits, one-room schoolhouse,
A younger brother to Gene,
The second step in four-steps to happiness.
Will he be a husband?
Who woulda thought?

High school sweethearts, the basketball player and the cheerleader
4 girls, 2 boys, 1 angel
Growing family, growing farm, growing fun!
Lots of work!
70 years together, will he be a grandpa?
Who woulda thought?

Marriages, 14 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren-
Grandpa Farm, Grandpa Great
So many memories, jewels in his crown
Mom used to say-
'We are responsible for all this?'
Who woulda thought?

The encouragement, the common sense, the FUN times
In the water, at sporting events,
Hayrides, Christmases, Devil's Lake,
The wisdom, the hugs,
Will he leave a legacy?
Who woulda thought?

Who woulda thought?
God thought out 90 years.
He planned each hardship and blessing,
Each laugh and each tear,
Each song and each prayer.
He gave us more than we ever dreamed or expected!
What a thought!

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Love ya, Dad!

A LITTLE HUMOR

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "And she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his Mother asked. "Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5-year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

TIME TO PRAY

A pastor asked a little boy if he said his prayers every night. "Yes, sir," the boy replied.

"And, do you always say them in the morning, too?" the pastor asked. "No sir," the boy replied. "I ain't scared in the daytime"

ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house," Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"