

MARCH 27, 2022

## CROWN HILL NEWS

### Prayers

- Pray for peace between Ukraine & Russia.
- Remember Larry Morrison and Brady Murry as they undergo chemo treatments.
- Remember our people in nursing homes: Patt (&Earl), Suzan, Martha & Carolyn.
- Pray for our shut-ins: Pete Stauffer, Paul Troyer, Elmer Richard, Mary Nussbaum, Ila Zimmerly, Brady Murray and Fred's mother Doris Hoffman.

### Upcoming Events/Announcements:

- **REMINDER:** Please have any directory updates to the church office by April 10. We would also appreciate a recent photo to include with your directory entry. Contact Kelsey if you have any questions or updates.
- We are looking for a few people to be on the funeral food committee. We have 3 people who do it consistently and would like to have a few more. We know we have those of you we can call on in a pinch but would really like to build the team to 5 - 6 on a consistent basis. Like the old English proverb says..."many hands make light work". Please contact Jeannie Wilson if you'd be willing to join the team. Thanks for your consideration
- Have you invited anyone to our Crown Hill gathering on August 6th? We want to invite all the people that have a connection to Crown Hill! Please invite your kids, grandkids, friends & relatives! There are extra "Save the Date" postcards on the greeting table.
- Throughout Lent we are praying together with our sister churches: Akron Swahili Mennonite, Oak Grove, Martins, Orrville, Salem & Wooster. Each church is submitting 5 prayer requests which adds up to 40 prayer requests for the 40 days of Lent. Let's join together in praying for one another!
- Spring Work Day at the Manor. April 23 (rain date May 7) has been set as a day for spring cleanup and working on the project list. Both inside and outside jobs are on the list. Lunch will be provided. More information will be coming.
- Manor Game Night. Come on over to the Manor on Thursday evenings, starting at 6 PM, for fun, fellowship, and maybe some food. We'll be playing table games like Euchre or Dominoes, or a favorite that someone brings.

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PREACHING: THOMAS

SCRIPTURE TEXT:  
2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

SERMON TITLE:  
FROM DEBTORS TO BEQUESTORS



26 PEOPLE JOINED OUR FIRST MEET & EAT OF THE YEAR AT DRAVENSTOTTS. IT WAS A FUN EVENING TOGETHER!

## Pastoral Letter

In my boyhood years I remember a time when we were all gathered at my aunt & uncle's house. Before the meal I was looking through the books and magazines on the coffee table and I picked up an older photo album, perhaps expecting to see pictures of my aunt and uncle and cousins, but what I found was a bunch of pictures of houses. The houses weren't anything amazing--just a variety of houses that'd you see in northeast Ohio: some ranches, some split levels, an occasional house that had a unique design. I asked my uncle why he had a photo album of random houses on his coffee table and he told me those were all the houses that he and his dad had completed. Uncle Steve is a carpenter who started building houses with his dad and brother and has continued to this day. Even as a young boy I was able to appreciate the satisfaction that my uncle must have felt in completing a house and being able to hand over the keys to the new owner afterwards knowing that you have built that house with your own hands.

I think this sense of satisfaction at a completed job is something universal to humanity. Whether it's finishing a quilt for the Relief Sale, planting a garden, harvesting a field or building a house the feeling of satisfaction is the same. I have experienced this most recently as I've been cutting firewood on our family farm over the winter. It fascinates me how much fulfillment I get from cutting, splitting and stacking firewood. It is almost like a drug--no matter how I feel or what I'm going through I know that if I can head down to the farm, get a chainsaw and maul and process some firewood I will feel better.

These projects we can complete and feel good about, I believe, are a gift from God. However, like all good things, it is something that we need to be mindful of how we can turn it into something unhealthy. It is easy to develop an unhealthy obsession with tangible projects that we know we can control and bring to completion. This typically goes along with an aversion to those projects where we have less control and we don't know that we'll ever actually "finish the job." I submit to you that these areas where we can't "finish the job" are the most important even though they don't always give us the sense of accomplishment that we crave.

I am thinking of things such as: raising children, having a vocation, being in a relationship, serving at church, living a life of faithfulness to Christ etc. In these areas you rarely, if ever, can you step back and say, "The job is done! Let me snap a picture of this and add it to my photo album of completed projects." Many times the opposite feels true. Like we've been investing in our children, our grandchildren, our marriages, our church, our jobs, our faith and never know if we've really done a good job or be able to step back and observe the fruits of our labor.

I do not have a wise way to wrap these thoughts up and resolve them. My hope is that this can be an encouragement to you to keep investing into the most important areas of your life even though you may never feel like you've finished the job. Our hope is built on the promise that one day we will hear Jesus say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant." I believe a good and faithful servant keeps going even, or especially, in those areas of our lives where the job may never be complete.