

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

*We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith,  
and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.*



As many of you know, Xavier spends a lot of time at the Bridge house. He often comes over after church on Sunday and stays until Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. One of the things he likes to do when at our house is write on my computer. He writes scripts, short stories, speeches, schoolwork, and he even has a document on there called "My Thoughts on God." I haven't read it because I let his documents be private, but it brings to mind something I want to talk about. We all have thoughts on God, even a sixteen-year-old boy. There isn't really a question about this. Everyone has thoughts about God. The question is whether those thoughts are accurate. Do they reflect who God actually is?

I have three separate books on this topic that are all tied to the same principle. RC Sproul's *Everyone's A Theologian*, Phylcia Masonhcinor's *Every Woman A Theologian*, and Jen Wilkin and JT English's *You Are A Theologian*. The premise of all three of these books is that everyone is a theologian. There is no getting around it because theology is basically just our thoughts about God. Definitions of theology include: the study of the nature of God and religious belief; religious beliefs and theory when systematically developed. There are others, but these suffice for our discussion.

Now I have made the premise that everyone is a theologian. You may be saying to yourself that you don't study the nature of God or religious beliefs and theories; but you have thoughts on the nature of God and thoughts on religious beliefs and theories. Those thoughts are your theology. Who is God? Who is Jesus? What is the Trinity? Who (or what) is the Holy Spirit? Do all roads lead to God? Is Jesus the Son of God? Do I get to heaven by being a good person or by something else? What does Fr. Mike mean when he uses the word gospel? What is justification? Sanctification? Where do we go when we die? Will I see my loved ones again? Is there a hell? What is the resurrection? Why does it matter in my life?

I could go on and on with the questions, but chances are, you have asked or thought about some of those things in your lifetime. These are all theological questions. We all think theological thoughts. But do we think sound theological thoughts, or do we hold bizarre beliefs about God without even knowing it?

I remember being at a youth group event where a local celebrity who was also a Christian came to speak. His basic words about God and the gospel were pretty accurate, but at one point he said the strangest thing. He said that God is whatever you picture him to be. If you picture God as an old man with a beard, then that is who he is. If you picture him as a clown, then that is who he is. I was only in eleventh or twelfth grade at the time, but I remember thinking that this was not only a ludicrous statement, but that it was borderline blasphemous. It may not be offensive to picture God as an old man with a beard, but it is definitely blasphemy to picture him as a clown. God isn't made in our image or in the image of what we want him to be.

# August 2022

## at New Life

Hello August!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Summer Book Study 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Diehman	31	1 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods	2 Men's Ministry Group 10:30am @ The Davis'	3 Morning Prayer 8:00am	4	5
6 Bishop's Official Visit Worship Service 12:00pm Coffee Hour Fellowship Committee	7	8 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods August Vestry Meeting 6:00pm	9 Men's Ministry Group 10:30am @ The Davis'	10 Morning Prayer 8:00am	11	12
13 Summer Book Study 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Boyman	14	15 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods	16 Men's Ministry Group 10:30am @ The Davis'	17 Morning Prayer 8:00am	18	19
20 Summer Book Study 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Ostanders	21	22 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods	23 Men's Ministry Group 10:30am @ The Davis'	24 Morning Prayer 8:00am Men's Ministry Group 5:30pm @ The Wandries Women's Fellowship 6:30pm @ The Greenwell's	25	26
27 Summer Book Study 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Williants	28	29 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ Southwoods <i>Joyous News Deadline September 1st 2022</i>	30 Men's Ministry Group 10:30am @ The Davis'	31 Morning Prayer 8:00am	1	2

## WALLY'S GALLERY —

Nature Photographer has become my favorite photography magazine. Unlike other photography magazines this one does not contain articles on how to improve one's photography skills. Rather it provides photos of beautiful landscapes and wildlife along with accompanying accounts written by the photographer as to their background and or motivation for taking the photo. But there is more. Almost every photo has with it a quotation from various sources to give further meaning



to the photo; many of which are biblical. One such quotation caught my attention and although not from the Bible it is loaded with biblical implications.

"Happiness is the level of the soul dependent on outward circumstances; whereas joy is a spiritual quality independent on outward circumstances."  
"Chuck Smith"

There is a morning prayer that I learned long ago from the British theologian John Stott. For the sake of brevity the last portion of it is: "Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruits to ripen in my life; love joy, peace patience... and the remaining fruits of the Spirit.

Joy is the second of the fruits of the Spirit; but what is joy and is it really different from happiness? That was the question that the quote and the prayer gave me pause to consider. Thankfully the Holman Bible Dictionary provided some answers.

While it notes that in English joy is considered nearly synonymous with such words as happiness, pleasure, delight, gladness, etc. it is biblically most often associated as "the fruit of a right relation with God." In fact, the Bible clearly makes a distinction between joy and pleasure even though in English pleasure is thought to be synonymous with joy. In Greek {the language of the New Testament} pleasure is associated with self-centeredness or self-indulgence which is not ultimately enduring or fulfilling. This truth is echoed by New Testament authors.

The author of Ecclesiastes made this abundantly clear in the first eleven versus of the second chapter. In the initial eight versus he writes of all his accomplishments and possessions. In the remaining verses he summarizes by saying that there was no pleasure that he denied his heart. What was his conclusion of all that he had done in satisfying his pleasures? "Then I considered all that my hands had done...and behold, it was all vanity and a striving after the wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun." Luke tells us of Jesus' explanation of the Parable of the Sower. In Luke 8:14 Jesus says that as seeds that fall among thorns will eventually be choked off and die, so people who sow seeds of cares, riches, and pleasures in life will fall to mature in fruitful living and will fall away. In Paul's letter to Titus he reminds Titus that they too were "once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures..." (Titus 3:3) Here Paul reminds us all that pleasure seeking can

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 1*

God is a transcendent being who has always existed and caused all things to be created. I don't get to decide who he is. But I do need to wrestle with who he is. If I think that he is a clown, or even if I think that he is an old man with a beard sitting in the clouds, then I have a lot of learning to do about the nature of God. The bible presents a picture of who God is, so that is a good place to go to get my ideas about God. But not every theological point is easily understood. I remember two specific instances about teaching here at New Life that really surprised me. One was in Sunday school when I was talking about Jesus as an eternal being and someone who had been a Christian for over fifty years surprisingly said that they thought Jesus was created and began to exist at the incarnation (when he was conceived in Mary's womb). John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." There is a dramatic difference between a Jesus that is eternal and one that is a created being.

The second surprising thing was when I was teaching on the Nicene Creed and when we got to the part about believing in the resurrection of the dead, someone was surprised to learn that we were affirming that we would all be resurrected at the end. He had thought that the statement of belief in the resurrection of the dead was about Jesus being raised from the dead. But our hope and the bible's promises are in a final resurrection for all of us. When Jesus returns, the dead will rise and then the final judgment will take place. These things are pretty foundational to the Christian faith.

My point is that we are all theologians, it just remains to be seen about how accurate our theology is. We all have thoughts on God, but are our thoughts on God proper thoughts? Are they what the bible teaches? Are they what the church has taught for two thousand years? Reading your bible is one way (and the best way) to develop a strong theology. But you probably need some help (I know I do), and thus there are literally thousands of books that help explain theology. I listed three above. If you want to dip your toe in at the most entry level point of theology, then begin with *You Are A Theologian* by Jen Wilkin and JT English. It isn't full of technical language. It is an easy book that you can read in just a few hours. If you want more of a survey of different theological ideas that people hold without being told that one or the other is right, then *Every Woman A Theologian* by Phylicia Masonheimer is a good place to look. I found the last chapter on the end times to be the best part of the book. And if you want a book that goes a little deeper into theology, while keeping things at a beginner's level, *Everyone's A Theologian* is a most excellent book. RC Sproul's perspective is that if you can't explain a concept to a child, then you don't understand it. This book is certainly written that way. Not that I would give it to a child, but that it isn't written at a master's level, and it is easily understood.

I will conclude with this: you are a theologian. Just like Xavier, you have thoughts about God. It is really up to you to determine how accurate those thoughts are going to be.

~ Fr. Mike

### **FR. MIKE'S OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 1:00 – 5:00pm, Thursdays 9:00am – 1:00pm



IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ARTICLE OR EVENT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE IN A FUTURE JOYOUS NEWS PLEASE CONTACT TRACEY AT [OFFICE@NEWLIFEANGELICAN.NET](mailto:OFFICE@NEWLIFEANGELICAN.NET) OR 231.347.3448



*Continued from page 3*

become an addiction that is never ultimately satisfying.

Joy, on the other hand, encompasses a far greater understanding than the words "pleasure" or "happiness are capable of." As was mentioned above, joy is associated with a right relation with God. Once a person's heart is changed, Jesus promised that "...I should lose nothing of all that he (the Father) has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life..." (John 6:39-40) When a heart is changed a bond is established, an adoption occurs that binds one's soul to the Eternal. And how is this event described in the Bible? With joy; not happiness or pleasure but joy.

"Luke 15 is the most famous biblical reference to God's joy. The Pharisees and scribes had criticized Jesus for receiving sinners and eating with them. Then Jesus told three parables - the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the loving father. The explicit theme in each parable is joy over one sinner who repents." (Holman Bible Dictionary)

The Bible is replete with passages of God's joy. The joy of Christ's coming (Luke 1:14); the angel's announcement to the shepherds (Luke 2:10). Jesus' own joy: "These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)

It seems to me that God wants us to know that joy is something that we can carry in our hearts through all of life's trials. That truth came clear to me when I read the following verse from Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Even though it was written to others long gone, I think that it is a prayer for all of us who believe:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13) Amen.

~ Wally's Gallery

### **OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING** – Sunday, August 26, directly after coffee hour, in the green sitting room.

**GIVE A KID A CHANCE FOOD DRIVE** – New Life's current outreach project is to help to stock Inland Lakes School Youth Pantry Shelves. Please take a copy of the current bulletin insert with you when you go shopping to help fill the boxes. For more information please contact Lacy or Gretchen.

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE SUMMER NEW LIFE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP** – is meeting monthly in homes and you are welcome to join! Our next meeting will be held at 6:30 on Thursday, August 24th at Sharalen Greenwell's home. Please save the date. Please bring a salad or snack to share.

### **MEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** – meets each Tuesdays at 8:30am for food and fellowship at Southwood's Restaurant

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – Wednesdays at 10:30am at the Davis Home

**MEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM** – meeting is Thursday, August 24th at Dan Wandric's Home at 2325 Twildo Rd., Petoskey. Our meetings will include fellowship 5:30 – 6:30p.m., dinner 6:30 – 7:30p.m. and a short teaching 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Bring your beverage of choice. I hope you will join us.

# August 2023 Service Calendar

If you are unable to fulfill your service duties on the dates listed, please try to rearrange and find your own replacement.

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	September 3	September 10
ALTAR GUILD	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman
SOUND/MUSIC	Ferd & Wes	Ferd, Wes & Dylan	Ferd, Wes & Dylan	Ferd, Wes & Dylan	Ferd, Wes & Dylan	Ferd, Wes & Dylan
USHER/COUNTER/GREETERS	Don L./ TBD./ The Flynns	Dylan W./ Don L./ Sally Stump	Dan W./ Mark D./ Randy F./ The Bowmans	Randy F./ Mark D./ Dan W./ Taylor DuBois	Don L./ Dylan W./ The Flynns	Dylan W./ Don L./ Sally Stump
LECTOR	Mary Jane Zako	Leah Williams	Karen Dielman	Erika Dielman	Gretchen Lucky	Wally Stansbury
LAY MINISTER	Karen Dielman	Howard Bates	Mickey Bridge	Mary Jane Zako	Erika Dielman	Karen Dielman
PRAYER TEAM	Sally & TBD	Sharalen & Betty	Sally & Leah	Sharalen & Betty	Sally & Leah	Sharalen & Betty
CHILDREN'S NURSERY	Darlenc & Taylor	Darlene & Taylor	Darlenc & Taylor	Darlene & Taylor	Darlenc & Taylor	Darlene & Taylor
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Fellowship Committee	The Bowmans	The Ostranders	The Williams	The Greenwells	The Stumps



Thursday  
Morning Prayer  
8:00am in  
Fr. Mike's Office



## ALTAR GUILD

Aug ..... Karen Dielman  
Sept..... Karen Dielman  
Oct..... Gretchen Lucky  
Nov ..... Liz Ostrander

## Birthdays

## August

Joe Ostrander 8/07  
David Ostrander 8/09  
Yoni DuBois 8/10  
Erika Jo Dielman 8/10  
Stacie Sarasin 8/17  
Daniel Bridge 8/18  
Ellie Nicol 8/27



Dave & Courtie Woods  
Aug. 18th  
Don & Sharalen Greenwell  
Aug. 29

## Wedding Anniversaries



Don & Gretchen Lucky  
Aug. 22nd  
Ron & Susan Davis  
Aug. 31st

May the Lord richly bless you on your special day and all year!  
Please let us know if we have missed your Birthday or Wedding Anniversary  
so that we may celebrate with you and remember you in prayer.

## Congregation — We Need You!

To volunteer to serve, please contact the Team Leaders listed below.

Altar Guild:	Karen Dielman.....	231/347-3532
Altar Flowers:	Karen Dielman.....	231/347-3532
Music/Sound:	Ferd Dielman.....	231/347-3532
Ushers:	Dan Wandrie.....	231/347-5871
Greeters:	Carol Bowman.....	231/459-4566
Lectors:	Tracey Jepsen.....	231/347-3448
Lay Eucharistic Ministers:	Mike Bridge.....	231/330-0689
Acolytes:	Mike Bridge.....	231/330-0689
Children's Sunday School:	Darlene Wandrie ..	231/347-5871
Youth Sunday School: (middle & high school)	Don Lucky.....	231/622-2058
Adult Sunday School:	Mike Bridge.....	231/330-0689
Nursery:	Bonnie Bridge.....	231/445-1810
Fellowship/Hospitality:	Liz Ostrander.....	231/348-2802
Prayer Chain:	Ron Davis.....	231/330-6355
Women's Ministry:	Suzanne Schulte....	517/899-1946
Men's Ministry:	Mike Bridge.....	231/330-0689
InReach:	Gretchen Lucky ....	231/622-2057
OutReach:	Lacy Bates.....	231/373-7997
Christian Ed. Scholarship:	Susan Davis.....	231/330-4821
	Toni DuBois.....	231/330-8626
	D. W. Lucky.....	231/330-6559
Missions:	Dan Wandrie.....	231/347-5871
Building and Grounds:	Ron Davis.....	231/330-6355
	Susan Davis.....	231/330-4821
Art and Architecture:	Liz Ostrander.....	231/348-2802
Church Historian:	Bonnie Bridge.....	231/445-1810
Communications: (newspaper articles, etc.)	Lacy Bates.....	231/373-7997
Student Visitor's Liaison:	Wes Ostrander.....	231/330-4930
Treasurer:	Susan Davis.....	231/330-4821
Assistant Treasurer:	Sally Stump.....	231/881-2818
Assistant Treasurer:	Dan Wandrie.....	231/347-5871

## New Life Anglican Church 2023 Vestry

Sr. Warden, Erika Dielman  
Jr. Warden, Dylan Williams  
..... Carol Bowman  
..... Susan Davis  
..... Toni DuBois  
..... April Honeycutt  
..... Don Lucky

## Our Joyous News Needs You!

Please consider submitting  
an article or item of interest  
for the next issue of the  
Joyous News.

Submission deadline  
is August 29th.



## SAVE YOUR

## OLESON'S RECEIPTS

We appreciate grocery receipts  
from Oleson's Food Stores. You  
may leave your receipts in the  
coffee hour donation basket, in the  
Outreach shopping cart or on  
Tracey's desk.

## PRAYER CHAIN



To activate the chain call:  
Ron Davis at 231.330.6355 or  
e-mail at rsdavismgr@gmail.com

## To Help Keep You Informed

You may contact Tracey Jepsen our  
Administrative Assistant at 231.347.3448  
for copies of Vestry Approved: Financial  
Statements and Vestry Meeting Minutes.

### Treasurer's Report — June 30, 2023

	July			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Offering	15,241.99	13,562.00	1,679.99	96,973.24	94,934.00	2,039.24
Other	8096.79	1,636.00	6,460.79	10,202.13	11,446.00	(1,243.87)
Income	23,338.28	15,198.00	8,140.28	107,175.37	106,380.00	795.37
General Exp	(21,480.67)	(15,906.00)	(5,574.67)	(115,859.77)	(114,688.00)	(1,201.77)
Difference	1,857.61	(708.00)	2,565.61	(8,714.40)	(8,308.00)	(406.40)
Assets				\$614,006.89		
		Jan. 1, 2023	Donations	Expenses	Difference	July 31, 2023
211 Fund		\$130,814.89	-	1,345.21	1,345.21	\$129,469.68
211 Fund In/Out Reach		\$22,546.65	-	446.71	446.71	\$22,099.94

# New Life Anglican Church

P.O. Box 481

PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN 49770

[office@newlifeanglican.net](mailto:office@newlifeanglican.net)  
[newlifeanglicanchurch.org](http://newlifeanglicanchurch.org)

*We were therefore  
buried with Him  
through baptism into  
death in order that,  
just as Christ was  
raised from the dead  
through the glory of  
the Father, we too  
may live a **new life**.*

*Romans 6:4*



ANGLICAN CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

## JOYOUS NEWS

August 2023

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

*I am in this morning  
as the morning is in God.  
There is between us  
a standing  
in holiness;  
as I take in this moment  
the breathe of life,*

*I am created anew  
in God.  
This is my garment  
for this day,  
a blessing  
to be worn.*

BEG