

News & Views From Rollo Pews

November-December 2020



Friends-

One of the pleasures of this time of year, is the beautiful tapestry of fall colors all around us. Some vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows. I feel like we just got through fall already and it is starting all over again. Time and change, an eminent fact of life. As we get older time may seem like it goes by even faster, and of course with it, is change. We get older and wiser, as well as grayer (lol).

Ever notice how (sometimes) we don't do the same things we did when we were younger? When our birthday comes, for some of us its business as usual with adding just another year to our age.

What would it look like to really celebrate our years again – to begin shifting our focus from the fear of aging, to the rich, full lives God is calling us into as the years pass?

What would God say about how we should feel about aging? I think that if we were to listen to the One Who created us, we will hear all about grace and goodness; not fear and resistance.

It is so easy, especially now with everything going on (such as Covid), to have fear and resistance.

One thing that God reminds us in the bible is that growing old is an honor. “*Gray hair is a glorious crown...*” [Proverbs 16:31](#). The longer we live, the more experiences we're given to learn from, and the more wisdom and perspective we gain to see life in new and beautiful ways. When we see someone in their later years (or when we look in the mirror and it's us!) let's remember what a gift that is.

I ran across a quote from Oprah Winfrey, "Every year should teach you something valuable; whether you get the lesson is up to you. Every year brings you closer to expressing your whole and healed self. I celebrate that. Honor it. Hold it in reverence. And I'm grateful for every age I'm blessed to become."

Expressing yourself in new and beautiful ways with age is one of the blessings God has given us.

So, while you're taking a road trip, admiring God's creation-remind yourself how grateful it is to be a part of it. Embrace it, cling onto it, and enjoy it to fullest when you're each year older. Also-with Thanksgiving around the corner, let us give thanks for the wonderful friends and family that we all have, and may they be blessed and enriched in good health, remembering that along with God's love, they are what makes us appreciate what life has given us. Let us not forget those who will not be having a meal, let alone a Thanksgiving meal this year. Let us be grateful for the bounties God has provided to all of us and to not hesitate in sharing it with those less fortunate than we are. Amen!

God Bless and Shalom
Brian Eide
Pastor in Discernment

**Congratulations to our
Confirmands!**
Reagan Gibson
Jack Gletty
Wyatt Gletty



Treasurer's Report by Wayne Davey

FROM THE MONEY COUNTER

BUDGET \$74,910.18		Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
REVENUE	September 30, 2020	\$56,182.68	\$47,342.60	(\$8,840.08)
EXPENDITURES	September 30, 2020	\$56,182.68	\$34,553.88	(\$12,788.72)

Current Balance in Checking Account: \$46,473.51
 Current Balance in Savings Account: \$28,367.83
 150 Anniversary Fund: \$ 1,215.73
 Bathroom Fund: \$ 700.21
 Building Fund: \$ 1,072.75
 Diaconate Fund: \$ 1,636.72
 Memorial Account: \$17,147.97
 Undesignated: \$ 6,594.45



Current CD Balance as of 9/28/2020: \$ 4,463.07
 Memorial Fund: \$ 20,442.81

* Memorial Funds are currently located within the CD Investment
 And savings account

Diaconate's Report by Carol Bend

This fall has been bursting with changes, while the church is striving to keep things as normal as possible. We have moved forward with communion once a month, but are using pre-packaged juice and wafers.

All Saints Day is November 1st, and those honored are two of our long-time church members, Leota Benson and Laretta Iversen. Our bridge pastor, Brian Eide, conducted the service.

Fall decorations are complete and the NICE Center food drive is underway. This year the food will be blessed on November 8th, but there will be no Thankful Harvest Dinner afterward. After November 8th, we will be collecting mittens, gloves, scarves, etc. Sherry McInerney, our NICE Center representative, has provided us with a list of preferred items to keep our children warm. The mitten tree will be set up as soon as the food drive is complete. November 29th will begin the 4 weeks of Advent, leading up to Jesus' birth. We hope everyone embraces this very special season.

It is also that time of year that we are searching for a new member of the Diaconate. If interested, please contact Ann Gilmore, Laura Fassig or myself. It is a very rewarding experience.

Trustee's Report by Tami Johnson

- As you know, in 2019, the church hired Bovard Studio to repair and protect the stained glass windows on the East and South sides of the church. At that time, we were advised by Bovard that the stained glass windows on the North side of the church were pulling away and should be fixed in the near future. This summer we requested a bid from Bovard for the remaining windows. The bid was \$18,322 for the North side of the church, plus 1 on the West side and \$8547 for the remaining West windows (if the projects were done concurrently). After much discussion, the Trustees decided to ask the Diaconate if Memorial money might be donated for the project. The Diaconate generously offered \$16,000 of memorial money for stained glass repair and installation of new protective glass. The remaining balance will be paid from the church's checking account. We anticipate the project starting sometime this winter.
- We'd like to thank Keith and Laura Fassig and Chuck Johnson for mowing the church yard during the summer.
- Zack Kern agreed to do snow removal this winter
- There are water spots and cracks in the sanctuary walls. We will contact a painter after the window work is completed.
- The Trustees will present the 2021 budget to the congregation in early December.

Thank you for generously supporting the church during 2020. Your generosity has made it possible to complete the stained glass window renovation.

Search Committee Report by Laura Fassig

Search committee is still taking candidates to date. It has been a slow process because many are unsure about COVID. We do have one candidate that we interviewed previously and were interested in. He, however, declined due to COVID but has since said that he would be interested once there is a vaccine. Please keep the committee in your prayers. Also, a big thank you to Brian Eide for being our bridge pastor until we find someone.

Christian Ed Report by Barb Bend

We have started Sunday School on an every other Sunday schedule and if it's safe to attend. (Oct 25, Nov 8, Nov 22). A big thank you to Jamie & Reagan Gibson for agreeing to assist! We would welcome any other kids that would like to join us. Just let us know by the Saturday before, so we can have all the materials needed.

We have also started Children's Time during church again. It's surprising how many volunteers have agreed to read a story! If you have a favorite book, just let us know when you're available to read it. It's really not just for the children. The congregation enjoys the stories too.

Nov 01 – Eila Oest
Nov 02 – Mike Johnson
Nov 03 – Deb Davey &
 & Charlotte Fassig
Nov 11 – Gage Gibson
Nov 19 – Matt Maple
Nov 23 – Delaney Bend
 & Joshua Johnson
 & Mike Martin
Nov 24 – Curt Foster
 & Landon Schmidt
Nov 26 – Mike Peters
Nov 28 – Lindsay Clark
 & Randall Wald
Nov 29 – Gail Marquardt



Dec 02 – Joetta DeLay
Dec 3 – Remington Kasper
Dec 6 – Zach Kasper
 & Jonathan Ritter
Dec 07 – Dave Bateman
Dec 9 - Katie Simmons
Dec 19 – Sara Lyons &
 Ann & Bob Gilmore
Dec 24 – David Marquardt

Please Remember In Your Prayers & Thoughts

All our Service men & women
The Lost
'Shut-Ins'
Coronavirus Victims
Pastoral Search Committee
Peace for our Country
Noelle Bend Sauter
Steve Headon (*Wayne & Stacy*)
Judy Martin
Duane Fassig
Helen Algieri
Chuck Foster
Mardell Dobbins (*Betty's sister*)
Ruth & Ray McNerney
Bianca Maness (*Jamie Gibson*)
Karen Rose (*Darryl Kupecz*)
Family of Helen Nisbet



Ushers List

Nov. - Dakota Goble &
Darryl Kupecz
Dec. - Dave Bend &
Harold Svendsen
Jan. - Jeff & Larry
Svendsen

Lay Readers List

Nov. 8 - Susan Foster
Nov. 15 - Bob Gilmore
Nov. 22 - Curt Foster
Nov. 29 - Katie Koks
Dec. 6 - Carol Bend
Dec. 13 - Tami Johnson
Dec. 20 - Stacy Richardson
Dec. 27 - Carol Bend
Jan. 3 - Jeff Svendsen
Jan. 10 - Ron Wald

Cookie Fellowship List

(Only if in Phase 5 of Covid-19)

Nov. 29 - Katie Koks,
Ellen Sue Kupecz, and Barb Bend
Jan. 31 - Maegan Gletty and
Jeff Svendsen

Please keep the Nisbet family in our prayers, on Sept 21st, 2020 our church member Helen Nisbet Roberts passed away at her home in Harrisville, Michigan.

With the COVID guidelines, some of our previous year holiday events or services may not be observed, keep watching the bulletin for updated details.

It is time for the annual NICE Center food drive. Please bring non-perishables to the church by Sunday, Nov. 8th. While the NICE center is accepting all non-perishables, the food on their preferred list includes:

**Canned carrots, peas, potatoes, mixed vegetables
Ketchup & other condiments
Peanut Butter
Boxed potato side (i.e., potatoes au gratin)**

Announcements

Nov. 8 - Last Day of Food Drive
Trustees Mtg after worship
Dec. 6 - Diaconate Mtg after worship
Dec. 13 - Trustees Mtg after worship
Council Mtg to follow
Newsletter Deadline!!

We would like to go GREEN!! If you are getting the newsletter by mail and would like to receive the newsletter via email please email me at: j-rr-2@hotmail.com Anyone in your family that has moved or would like to receive the newsletter also please give us that information. Thank you!!!

Charles & Gloria Foster

In continuing with the Church's 155th Anniversary year member interviews, during our "Laity Sunday" on October 11th, our sermon time was spent with Gloria giving us a glimpse into the Charles Foster Family. This printed version is taken from interview time and the time during worship service that was recorded.

We begin with Chuck & Gloria's own beginnings and discover how this self-acclaimed "shy girl" got the husband and family she has been blessed with.

Charles Wilmer Foster was born August 20, 1936 in the Waterman Hospital to Belva & Randal Foster, baptized in our church on 3/28/1937. Chuck was raised with siblings Shirley (McDowell) Wilma & Bruce, another sibling, Ardith died in infancy. His education began at Rollo, the 2nd Consolidated High School in the State, as a first grader and continued through his senior year at Rollo, graduating with his 5 classmates in 1954. Their class was the last high school group to graduate as the school became part of the newly formed Unit District 425 and would be a K-8th grade school until its closing in 1977.

Gloria Dawn Haines was born January 12, 1938 to Mabel & Victor Haines at the Compton Hospital. Gloria's siblings were Forrest, Gale, Barb, Virginia & Don. She related how during the depression her family bought a farm on Goble Road north of Chicago Rd (where the Rick Bend family lives). Most farm homes at the time had no electricity or indoor plumbing and studying was done by old fashioned coal lamps. She recalls the coal being delivered by the truck and shoveled down the chute into the basement. Gloria and siblings attended Rollo School but she finished the last two years at the newly built Shabbona High School graduating in 1956. Her parents were Baptists, on Sundays her mom cooked for the extended family followed by early evening church services. Gloria was introduced to Rollo Church by her friends, she would tag along to PF youth group events & became a member at age 16, on April 18, 1954. After hanging around friends Harold Svendsen & Emma Lou and her brother Bob Bend, her father decided she no longer could go out with Bob so in a quick wit remark said "guess she would date Chuck Foster then". After friends let Chuck know this little tidbit, the romance began.....they started dating when she was a sophomore and he a senior in high school.

Chuck attended Bradley University for a year before spending 2 years with the Navy, returning to marry Gloria on September 1, 1957 in the Rollo Church with Rev. Arden Wild followed with a simple sandwich and cake reception in the church basement. Gloria accomplished a lot of the wedding plans, including wedding dress shopping during her lunch hour as a secretary at Wurlitzer. Her most important task was sending their invitation to Chuck in Japan so he wouldn't miss their wedding date! Gloria shared a couple of pictures at the back table one included the groomsmen Jim Mohn, Don & Frank Pardridge & Swede Svendsen. Chuck returned to attending Bradley University but when his father became ill the need to help on the family farm brought him back to Rollo. When their house trailer (parked in the yard of the family house) became a bit crowded after the arrival of their second child, Chuck's parents moved out of the main house allowing Chuck & Gloria to raise their family there on the Sleepy Hollow Road farm (where Curt & Susan reside). Gloria raised the children and assisted Chuck around the farm – telling on herself when she wiped out part of a fence row came with a neighbors concern of a possible irate husband, Gloria matter of factly stated "she was not concerned, who else would help him?" They raised Lori (McConville), Tami (Johnson), Curt & Teresa (Alexander) in that house, this church and in this community. Their four children have given them 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren so far! Many have been baptized, confirmed and married in this church.

Chuck & Gloria each took on various church rolls involving them with the Diaconate, Trustee, Chr. Ed, Men's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, Women's Circle, Young Adults, Pares & Spares. Chuck also sang in the church choir, served as Endowment Trustee & Moderator for several years. Outside the church Chuck was involved in many community activities, including the school board, Farm Bureau, 4-H Leader, Pork Producers, bowling team & the Church Softball League. At the age of 50, he became a co-founder of Baby Bacon and turned the farming over to his son to pursue his real estate license and ultimately became a land appraiser. Chuck's passion for history led to writing and publishing his own works. After raising kids, Gloria took on a part time mail position which turned into a full time mail route, working until retirement. They enjoyed the monthly fellowship pot-luck community gatherings where they played cards, games, and enjoyed small programs.

When asked about raising kids in this church, Gloria identified several other families also raising 3 to 5 children and recalls up to 25 kids in attendance under the age of 8.

Gloria listed several favorite pastors and mentions she still sees her childhood friend Linda, daughter of Rev Dupree. Several of her favorite hymns and bible verses were used throughout the morning worship hour, "In the Garden" "Great is Thy Faithfulness" "Amazing Grace" "How Great Thou Art", Isiah 40:31 and not shared was Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 "a time for everything". Truly hating surprises, she finds the most peace when strolling through their woods and enjoying the nature God has provided.

Asked in looking back, when do you think Chuck would say is his favorite time of his life, "was probably in high school when he had only 5 classmates, had a car, girlfriend, and were basketball champions". Unfortunately Chuck remains in the Nursing Home due to health setbacks, we miss him and wish him strength.

One last little tidbit – Gloria was a champion ping-pong player in high school!!!

Gloria would like to be remembered for being a good mother, (she loves babies) and a kind friend, anyone who talks with Gloria walks away feeling blessed to know her, her faith and strength are admirable. Thank you Gloria for sharing stories of youth, family, church & community, you have both played important parts in this our Rollo Church's history.



Rollo Congregational Church
2471 Weddell St.
Earlville, IL 60518