



JULY 18, 2019 | VOLUME 6.27

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals but I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

via Grand Blanc Church of Christ
Grand Blanc, MI

Church Events

- August 30-31 – All Church Garage Sale, 8 AM - 2 PM
- September 18 – Feeding Our Souls Dinner 5-7 PM

MISSION U IS NEXT WEEK

A one-day session will be held here at **Heart of Longmont UMC** on **July 24 from 8:30 AM—4:30 PM**. For detailed info go to <http://rmcumw.org/events/mission-u/> or grab a registration packet from the Hospitality Desk in the Gallery.

The cost is \$55 for this one day event and includes lunch and dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. ALL are welcome!

BACK INTO THE WILD

July Compassion Offering helps wildlife

by Sandi Austin

Executive director of Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Linda Tyler, has been with the organization during a large part of its growth. After having spent 42 years with Boulder County nonprofits, Linda has been with Greenwood for a little over 10 years.

"It's such rewarding work that we do," Linda said. "We have a veterinarian who is the only vet in Colorado who is also a wildlife rehabilitator and sees more difficult patients. The feeling of releasing a healed animal back into the wild is just unbelievable."

"Last year we had a total of 583 volunteers and interns who donated more than 28,000 hours of time," she added. "Although we deal mostly in animal care, there are fundraising events, our consignment shop and educational programs, too, that raise awareness of the wildlife-human interactions."

The early years of the center began in 1982 when the Boulder Humane Society founded a wildlife rehabilitation center at their facility. Eventually, because of Boulder's growth around the facility and the steady increase of animals brought in for care, the center relocated its operations to a north Longmont veterinarian's office. It was seeing a steady yearly increase of 20-30 percent in injured, sick or orphaned animals being brought in. It incorporated in 1993 with the name Greenwood, after the center's first rehabilitated raccoon.

Four years later, the center secured a lease for property along Highway 66 between Longmont and Lyons, from which it now operates in a state-of-the-arts facility, made possible by generous donations of businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Considered one of the largest wildlife rehab centers along the Front Range, Greenwood takes in and helps 3,600 animals representing more than 200 different wildlife species.

"Year-round, we have 18 part-time and full-time employees," Linda said. "There are 30 seasonal

staff during the busy season, which is March through October. That's when babies are born, and 70 percent of the animals we help during those times are orphans."

Linda added that they deal with what comes to them, but they are licensed to give help only to animals up to coyote size. They work with veterinarians to assess injuries and diagnose illnesses. Greenwood's rehabilitators administer basic first aid and physical therapy. They have the important knowledge of the species they're caring for, such as the nutrition, behavior, caging consideration, natural history of the species and, of course, the dangers the animals might present to them.

The goal with all the animals in their care is to eventually returned them to their natural habitats. Sadly, those animals that are beyond hope when they arrive are euthanized in a humane manner. Some animals that recover, but are unable to return to the wild, are placed in educational facilities.

"Last year more than 7,000 children and adults participated in our education program," Linda said. "We give presentations to schools, assisted living facilities and churches, to name a few. We want to be the main place to go for any wildlife issues such as humane ways of discouraging animals, and walk people through what they consider nuisance animals."

Rehabilitators can provide instructions on how to reunite wildlife families, and can suggest humane, long-term solutions when conflicts arise between humans and their wild neighbors.

"We want to be the main place to be for any wildlife issues," she added. "When we aren't able to help, we will know who you can contact for help."

Linda said the Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is open 24/7, and someone is always there between 9am and 4pm.

To learn more about Greenwood, visit their website at www.greenwoodwildlife.org and read about all the wonderful things that they do and how you can help.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR DAVID

Can you believe we are over six months into 2019? I must be having a blast because time sure is flying. Let me thank you first of all for your prayers and inquiries concerning my father Wayne. After a week in the hospital and two weeks in rehab, he is now at the Balfour Skilled Nursing Center in Louisville. He continues to improve with his strength and dexterity in his right hand, but his right leg is not cooperating as quickly. I have been blessed to share with my family the cards and prayers you have sent. Thank you.

Thank you to Pastor Linda Meyer. This past year she has served as an Assistant Pastor, helping the Care Team and doing visitations, assisting me in leading Bible Studies, sharing leadership for our Ash Wednesday service and some funerals. She has now been appointed to serve as pastor at Community United Methodist Church of Keenesburg, CO. Linda, you will be missed here at Heart of Longmont, but I know you will be a blessing to the people of Keenesburg.

A final big thank you to all of you for your support of the ministries at Heart of Longmont. 2019 has started strong, even with the uncertainty surrounding the larger denomination. Our expenses are tracking very well. We have staff that keeps a close eye on costs. Our giving is better than this time last year. And we have received nearly \$4,000.00 in over and above

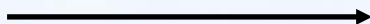


Compassion offerings. Through your gifts we are supporting missionaries Ken Cruz and Ken Koome, the OUR Center in Longmont, the Days for Girls personal hygiene project and Restorative Justice. Through your gifts we sent our BASIC Youth group to Puerto Rico to help rebuilt homes following hurricanes. Our church building becomes a supplemental facility for Alcoholics Anonymous, the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, and the League of Women Voters, among others.

We participated in a first ever Ecumenical Faith Worship to celebrate PRIDE month in June and also had a presence at the PRIDE parade. Our Facebook page and other social media are spreading the word that we believe God loves you and loves all.

So thank you. Without your continued support through your gifts of time and money we could not do all that we do here at Heart of Longmont. I am so blessed to be able to serve this generous and compassionate church family. We are putting more of God's love into the world.

Blessings,
Pastor David Burt



PUERTO RICO TRIP A REALITY CHECK

God's work leads to appreciation of home



by Sandi Austin

After landing in Puerto Rico, renting two vans, and getting lost luggage straightened out, Emily Farrenkopf, Brant Davis, and their youth group started the almost two-hour ride to Ponce, a town in the southern part of the region. For most of those in the group, this mission trip was their first time outside the mainland.

"The Puerto Ricans are beautiful people," Emily said. "The community members we met were so welcoming and so kind. Even the people at the airport appreciated us for what we were coming to do."

As the work week began, the boys replaced the flooring in a home's bedroom that had completely rotted through. They pulled out old plywood first in a job that was physically demanding, given that the house sat on concrete blocks.

The girls concentrated on a woman's home of 30 years that was in need of painting. They scraped and cleaned the walls, and then painted, using oil-based paint that holds up best against the weather. It was a slow process that will be completed by the group that arrives after them.

The team packed in some fun during their free time each day, going to beaches, going out for ice cream, snorkeling in a bioluminescent bay, and walking around San Juan on the last day before leaving for home.

During their week there, the teens stayed at the Ebenezer House, a building owned by one of the United Methodist churches in Ponce. When asked if there were certain precautions or certain rules they had to abide by, Emily responded, "Very much so. Safety was a priority. We never left a

neighborhood after dark, and never left alone."

Even though a lot of the places they visited during their trip were not known to be safe, Emily said they never felt endangered. She added that the people who would otherwise be up to no good believed in them and what they were doing there.

Although they felt relatively safe with a roof over their heads, bars on the windows and porches, and a padlocked driveway gate, the group struggled a bit with lacking the comforts of home. The sleeping arrangements were tough, there was no hot water, and cockroaches and a swarm of bees got into the bathroom.

"The hardest part was adjusting to the bathroom situation," Emily said. "By the time we left, the kids really saw it from a perspective of what they were dealing with, and that they would get to go home to comfort. They never complained."

Despite the language barrier, the teens formed friendships with the community members. One in particular was a man named Eduardo, who was a member of the Methodist church.

"He joined us for every chapel gathering and was so interested in talking with us," Emily said. "Our kids really welcomed him into the circle and, in return, he gave us all keychains before we left."

Another great friendship experience was the party in the park, during which the teens walked around the neighborhood they were working in and invited everyone to enjoy hotdogs and chips.

"There was quite the language barrier," Emily added, "but we found ways to laugh and connect."

The entire mission trip was impactful to the teens in that, after witnessing such a different reality, they became more aware of the comforts they enjoyed at home.

Emily wanted to give kudos to the group's co-leader, Brant Davis, who contributed his own money to pay for everyone's hotel stay in San Juan the night before departure.

"Thanks to Brant, the kids were able to have a good, hot shower and sleep in good hotel beds before the flight back home," Emily said.

Photos from the Youth Trip are available for viewing on the Youth board in the Gallery, and during the July 28 church service, the teens will be addressing the congregation with their Puerto Rico experiences. Don't miss it!

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRITY



The term integrity has been defined in various ways. Some would say it is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principals. Others would say it is doing the right thing all the time simply because it is the right thing—doing the right thing knowing no one will know whether you did it or not.

I want to suggest, based upon Scripture, a life of integrity is what should characterize each Christian.

A life of integrity makes us like Jesus. "... Jesus Christ...went about doing good..." (Acts 10:38).

A life of integrity protects our reputation. "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may

be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us" (Titus 2:7-8).

A life of integrity gives us confidence to face eternity. "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain" (Phil. 2:14-16).

A life of integrity strengthens the message we share with others. "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:11-12).

Doing the right thing—doing what Jesus Christ would do—will have a huge impact on our own lives and on the lives of others. Are we known as people of integrity?

*Bart Warren
Glasgow, KY
BulletinDigest.com*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD DAY

**Aug 3rd, 9 am to 4:30 pm
816 South Coffman, Longmont CO**

Bring water bottle, gloves, snacks/lunch and sunglasses. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Tools & materials supplied by Habitat. All volunteers must be 16 years or older.

No experience necessary. Habitat's professional construction staff will coach you. Tasks may include: Framing, siding, drywall, insulation, painting and finish work.

Thanks for helping local families achieve their dream of homeownership!
SPACE IS LIMITED! Register online:
Aug 3: <http://cerv.is/m?0017gFUQdeh>
Use reservation code: ABHOL

A sign up sheet is also available on the Hospitality Desk in the Gallery.