**JUNE, 2014**

**THE REVELATION TO JOHN – PART III**

by

Roger P. Howard

**READING CHAPTERS 4-7**

 “This was some dream! Twenty-four elders dressed in white, colored horses, creatures with wings and eyeballs, a great worshiping multitude, and more. You don’t need special effects to make this passage come alive. Some have tried to determine exactly what every detail means. But for our purposes, it’s more helpful to look at the big picture: This is a vision of heaven.

 “What’s your picture of heaven? A common view is that heaven is a place in the clouds where people go after death to strum harps and watch their relatives below. Country music makes it sound as if the best thing about heaven is that we get to meet Mother and Dad. Maybe we will, but the best thing by far will be to meet Jesus. The Lamb of God is at the very center of heaven. Nothing else compares to that.

 Yet there are some ominous aspects to John’s vision. For example, the way to heaven isn’t always a sentimental journey; sometimes it involves suffering. Also, it seems as if things may get worse before they finally get better. But for those who belong to the Lamb, the end becomes the beginning of a wonderful eternity with Jesus.

 “So what will we do in heaven? The book of Revelation (Notice: no “s” on the end of the name of this book! It is ONE revelation!) highlights worship as the main activity. What else could you do in the presence of Jesus? And note the makeup of this spectacular worshiping community: ‘Every nation, tribe, people, and language’ will be represented. The reason we should share the Good News with all people and welcome them into our churches is not to be politically correct. It’s because that’s what heaven will be like.

 “Questions: Why do you want to go to heaven? If God said to you, ‘Why should I let you into heaven?’ what would you say?”

**SERMON NOTES**

June 1: “You Did Your Best”

…Deuteronomy 34:1-12

…Children’s Day

…**10:00 a.m. Worship Begins**

June 8: “Antidote to Envy”

…Matthew 20:1-16

…Pentecost

…Confirmation/New Members

…Reception 11:15 a.m.

June 15: “Marveling Magnificence”

…Psalm 8

…Trinity Sunday

…Scottish-rite Communion

…Special Congregational Meeting

…Following Worship

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 MAY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

On May 15th, eleven elders and Pastor Howard met for the regular monthly Session meeting. Also present were Kathy Hamsher, representing the Board of Deacons, and Denon Hubbard, a Boy Scout, seeking approval for an Eagle project. The Session approved the placement of a flagpole, with a light, beside the old church bell near the cemetery for Denon’s Eagle Scout project. Congregational membership at the end of April was 295 members due to the transfer of two members, Stacy Betts and Robin Pancari. During April the weekly worship attendance averaged 164. Weekly Church School attendance averaged 41 people for three weeks.

Our envelope giving for the month of April totaled $24,100.00. This was $9,000 below the budgeted amount.

 April – Year to Date

ACTUAL BUDGET

Income $114,973.91 $129,076.00

Expenses $130,320.20 $143,131.00

Excess/ ($15,346.29) ($14,055.00)

(shortfall)

Our total income was $15,000 below the budgeted amount, due to less envelope giving and rental income from the Youth and Community Center. If your family was behind in envelope giving, now would be a good time to update your pledge.

Baptism was approved for Harper Reese Wiley, daughter of Garrett and Rebekah Wiley, to take place during the 10:00 AM worship service on May 18, 2014. The Udvaris were the counselors. Session approved the following guest preachers for June 22 - Rev. Ron Schermerhorn and for July 6 - Rev. John Free. Session also approved the elimination of the 8:30 AM service beginning in September, due to low attendance at this service. The 10:00 AM service, which starts on June 1, will be the only service from that time forward.

Discussion continued on how to incorporate the Rose of Sharon efforts with the Session Committees. Lucy Lenz and Debbie Prostko will continue to talk with the teams and Session to decide on a way to proceed.

Joe Udvari and Heather Schermerhorn were approved as new co-opted members of the Personnel Committee.

Session approved the amending of the call of a Congregational Meeting for June 15, 2014, after the 10:00AM worship service, to include the election of one elder to a 19½ month term. The Nominating Committee will put forth the name of Grace Peters for election.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Keller

Clerk of Session

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**Pentecost**

 **Sunday**

 This year Pentecost Sunday falls on June 8.

 Pentecost is observed as the birthday of the Christian Church and comes 50 days after the Passover on which Jesus was crucified. According to the Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire accompanied by the sound of rushing wind and gave them the power to speak in such a way that people of different languages could understand them. Peter spoke powerfully to the people, and Acts 2:41 states “Those who accepted his message were baptized and about three thousand were added to their number that day”.

 In honor of this important day in our church history, we will receive new members and confirmands into Sharon Presbyterian Church at the 10:00 a.m. single service of the summer. We welcome you to celebrate this by wearing red, the color of the Church, on June 8.

 Please plan on attending a reception in Fellowship Hall after the service to meet and greet our new members and confirmands.

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 **TRINITY SUNDAY**

 **TARTAN**

 **DAY**

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 On Sunday, June 15 at 10:00 a.m. we will celebrate Trinity Sunday as well as Tartan Day.

 Trinity Sunday is the Lord’s Day following Pentecost, and it concludes the cycle of the Christian Year that begins with Advent. This day reminds us that we worship the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit--and is filled with songs of great praise to our Lord.

 Tartan Day commemorates all the best in Scottish history and culture, as it recognizes the contribution of great Scots such as John Knox to the fulfillment of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. We will celebrate the Scottish tradition with the sights and sounds of Scottish Rite Communion through the Scriptures, the pastor and the liturgist “piping in” and the elders setting the Lord’s Table during the service.

 If you are of Scottish descent, please wear your kilt and tartan to celebrate your ancestry.

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JUST A REMINDER…

**Sunday, June 1st begins our summer schedule of one worship service at 10:00 a.m.**

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 On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, one new member and two confirmands will be publicly received at the 10:00 a.m. service. We are very happy to have them with us!

*Ms. Barbara Ann Kephart*

*108 Curry Court*

*Moon Twp. PA. 15108*

*412-264-2603*

 I returned to the Moon Township area after retiring in 2013 from the medical field as a practice Manager, Billing/Coder. I am looking forward to being a Sharon Community Church member again and enjoying new and old friendships.

**TO ALL OUR DADS…**

Blessings and congratulations to our new Confirmands as they begin their faith journey…

Shane Michael Corcoran

Lauren Nicole Shutak



 To all of our High School

 and College Graduates…

 Our sincerest best wishes for

 futures bright with promise as you

 prepare for the many opportunities

 that lie ahead for you. God Bless

 and keep you all in his care.

 The Staff and all

 the Members of

 Sharon Church

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**CONCERNS**

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED SERVICES

 Donnie and Brett (brothers of Holly Henry)

CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

**Concerns:** Rick Mullaney (friend of Michele Camerson’s), Art Waters (friend of Joanne Hagar), Sandy Mahle (Sherri Busch’s mom), Sutton Rose (Laverne Petri’s great-grand-daughter), Mary McClellan and Allegra Frank (friends of Carol Musgrave), Milton Griffin (Nancy Moore’s brother), Joey O’Rico (child with health issues), Henrietta Kalman, Bernie V. (friend of the Kellers), Bea Quirk (niece of the Taylors), Robert Montgomery, Diane Herald, Dunnoch Snow, Donald Scott (former member), Kathy Wintner (Elisa Messner’s aunt), Henry Mores (Janet McGuire’s brother-in-law), Caleb James Painter (Lori’s grandson), Evan Harrenstein (Thanet Kisow), Esther Schermerhorn (Ron’s mother), Lois Neely (Melissa Bigelow’s grandmother), Lois Ehrin (Dave Gordon’s sister), Jack Vochinski (Linda Kepka), John Doutt (Kathy Hamsher’s cousin), Ralph Hogsett (Kathy Hamsher’s father), Finn Roessler (2 yr. old with cancer) Carl, Nancy (Kathryn Roth), Mary Godfrey and Sue (friend and sister of Joe Sharkey), Debbie Sherwood (friend of Pam Wieland), Eliza Mazeka and Jordan (child with brain tumor – and friend of the Shaffers), Kitty and Dorothy (friend and sister of Gladys Sanderbeck), Amy Dunlap, Mimi Cain and her father Bud (daughter-in-law to Tom and Barbara Cain), Art Waters, Janet, and Michele (Joanne Hagar’s friends), Debbie McCutchen, Glenn Jackel, Valerie Bell (The Waltschott’s daughter, Jan’s brother, and their pastor in Florida), Shirley Lintner (Bob’s mother), Peg Thompson (former member), Christina Schuliger (Wayne and Jane’s granddaughter), Ed Balchon and Bob Moore (friends of Bruce Thompson), Doug Arndt (friend of Myra Tokar), Ann (Nancy Handerhan’s aunt), Gwen Soergel (bagpiper’s sister), Sharon Sorgel, Rev. Ed Bowen, Peg Behling (former member), Enos Abel (friend of the Campbells), Fred Andy, Bob Simon, and Bob Simon, Jr., Glenn, Matt Gress (cousin, friends and brother of the Camersons), Paul Wasko (friends of George Hollis), Jennifer Smith (Lorraine Keith’s granddaughter), Duane Sprott (friend of Lorraine Keith), Frank Behm (brother of Roger Behm), Martha Van Beers (Dick Shirra’s aunt), Pauline Christian (Sally Shirra’s cousin), Kenneth Bowden (Grace’s son), Tim (Janet Loadman’s nephew), Darla Johnson (Betty Stewart’s daughter), Michael Ritter (working in Haiti). (5/20/14).

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 by

 Lee Ann Heinlein

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 On June 8th we will receive Shane Corcoran and Lauren Shutak into membership. They have spent time studying the sacraments, the Trinity, reformed theology, and what it means to be a Presbyterian. There will be a reception following the service and we invite all of you to come meet our two newest members.

 A big thanks to all our Sunday School teachers who served this year. It is with sadness we say goodbye to Bob and Linda Kepka, Michele Camerson, Lynn Ellenberger, Karen Fedin, and Ashley Shutak. They have been faithful to their calls to service in the Sunday School program. Obviously, we have need of new saints to step up to the plate and continue to help with the spiritual formation of our children. If you feel God calling you to help with our Sunday School classes, please contact Lee Ann Heinlein in the church office.

CHURCH LIBRARIAN NEEDED

 Do you love books? Do you have some organizational skills? If so, perhaps you can help the church out with our church library. The library is in pretty good shape, but we need someone to return books to shelves, look at books that may be donated and see if they are useful for our library, and perhaps, if you like, read some of the books in the library and write a short review that could be published in the *Good News* so people might be aware of the numerous resources we have. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**June 22 to June 26, 2014**

**6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**WEIRD ANIMALS: WHERE JESUS’LOVE IS ONE OF A KIND**

**VBS Director: Chira Cratsley**

 Come and join Axl, Fern, Milton, Shred, and Iggy as we learn even when you are left out, Jesus loves you; even though you’re different, Jesus loves you; even when you don’t understand, Jesus loves you; even though you do wrong, Jesus loves you; and even when you’re afraid, Jesus loves you!

 **We are looking for station leaders and teen helpers.** If you can give us a hand, please call Chira Cratsley (412-956-7489) or the church office (412-264-7400).

 **We are also looking for baked goods** that our volunteers can munch on at their break. These can be brought in to the office or the kitchen next to Fellowship Hall.

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Hand Wipes 400

Napkins 250

Plastic Drinking Cups 250

Vanilla Yogurt 15 cups/120 oz

Strawberries 100

Peaches 13

Oranges 15

Maraschino Cherries 50

paper towels 3 rolls

9 oz clear cups 100

Plastic Spoons 200

ice cream scoop 3

1/2 cup measuring cups 5

3-4 inch round sugar cookies 50

vanilla frosting 2 cups

chocolate frosting 2 cups

M&Ms candies 2 cups

Twizzlers pull n peel licorice 1 bag

chocolate sprinkles 2 cups

yellow sprinkles 2 cups

small dessert plates 50

1/4 cup measuring cups 3

popcorn 50 cups popped

fruit snacks 250

non-latex food prep gloves 50

1 cup measuring cup 3

sliced bread 3 loaves

butter 3 sticks

cinnamon 3 containers

sugar 1 bag

3x5 notecards 1 pack

empty salt shakers 3

gelatin 25 cups/200 oz

non-dairy whipped topping 100 tablespoons

art masterpiece print 1

hand mirror 1

Small, Round, Colored Stickers 250

bottles of water 5

Hand Towels 12

beige sheets 2

bright colored bed sheets 6

blue mesh fabric

large foam slabs

cardboard tubes

cardboard boxes 10

birthday cake with lots of icing 1

birthday candles 1 pack

Oreo cookies 1 box

lighter wand 1

small foam balls 3

caution tape 1 roll

duct tape 1 roll

round plastic platter 1

shawl 1

small electric fountain w/ water 1

3 oz Dixie Cups 150

rope lights several strands

blankets 2

washcloths 6

pita bread 8 pieces

white sheet 1

hammer 1

piece of wood (about 8 x 10 inches) 1

newspaper 5

rubber bands 1 large bag

large marshmallows 100

flippers 2

large plastic tumbler 1

buckets 8

Starburst Candies (1 bag) 1

Plastic Baseball bat 1

Cooler 1

bath toys 10

large bath towels 3

ice (bags) 2

baking powder (small box) 2

green washable ink pad 1

purple washable ink pad 1

clear plastic bin 2

small rocks

rubber chicken 1

bowling ball less than 11 lbs 1

sealable sandwich bags 250

balloons 10

toy tops 3

large butterfly net 1

leaf blower 1

tall clear vase or pitcher 1

disappearing ink 12oz

meat baster 1

black balloons 20

black trash bags 10

6 inch blue balloons 30

colorful tablecloth 1

large tarp 1

large colorful tub 1

bag of sugar 1

clear pitcher 1

blue and red food coloring 1

bag of flour 1

large jar of salsa 1

container of eggs 1

gallon sealable bag 10

bag of potato chips 1

 handheld

**Important Vacation Bible School dates for staff and crew**

**Staff & Crew Meeting**

**June 8, 2014 at 9 a.m.**

 Both staff and crew leaders are asked to attend as we prepare as a group for the week of Vacation Bible School.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SET UP**

**June 20 & 21, 2014**

**9 a.m. til ????**

 We are looking for people to volunteer to come help set up our stage and decorate rooms on Friday, June 21st and Saturday, June 22nd. Wear comfortable old clothes and come and join us as we prepare to create a festive week for the children.

**Staff & Crew Commissioning**

**June 22, 2014 at 10 a.m.**

 We will commission both staff and crew leaders at the 10 a.m. worship service. Please be sure to mark this on your calendar!

**OCTOBER 11, 2014**

**9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Led by Rev. Allison Bauer**

**Raccoon Creek State Park**

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**eaning**

 Our Spring Clean-Up Day was held on Saturday, May 3. A big **THANK YOU** to the 16 members that came out to help: Grace Bowden, Rob & Kathy Hamsher, Megan Hamsher, Bob & Judy Lentz, Lud Reim, Joe & Jeanne Sergi, Dan & Grace Peters, Brenda Donegan, Thanet Kisow, Bob Hribal, Pat Bricklemyer, Terry Doughty. There were 9 Cub Scouts and 13 Boy Scouts from Troop 310 there also.

 Grace kept most of us busy by cleaning 100 screens, while we removed screens, cleaned windows, window sills and replaced screens. Other folks worked hard to clean the pews and pew cushions. And still others cleaned all of the bugs out of light fixtures. The scouts were busy doing outside work such as raking leaves, cleaning out brush, cleaning the upper parking lot and repairing the split rail fence around the cemetery.

 So the next time you see one of these people, give them a big thanks for helping keep **OUR** church looking neat and clean.

*To the Congregation of Sharon Church,*

 *I want to thank the congregation for*

*the may cards, prayers, and kind thoughts following my stroke and hospitalization on March 25. I especially want to thank Rev. Howard for bringing Kay and I communion on the Saturday before Easter at Presbyterian Hospital where I was being treated. I am now home doing quite well rehabbing some weakness in my left arm and leg. We hope to join you for regular services shortly.*

 *Thank you,*

 *Harry Schurr*

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*To the Congregation of Sharon Presbyterian Church,*

 *Thank you for your donation to the West Hills Food Pantry for Easter.*

 *Your generosity is very much appreciated; your contribution allows the pantry to meet an ever-growing community need.*

 *Because of people like you, the future of the food pantry is much brighter.*

 *Thank you.*

 *Pete McGuire,*

 *Treasurer*

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|  **Hit the road** |
| When a teenager received his driving permit, he asked his father, if they could discuss use of the car. His father said, “I’ll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut, and then we’ll talk about it.” A month later, the young man returned to continue the discussion. “Son, I’ve been real proud of you,” the father said. “You’ve brought your grades up and studied your Bible diligently, but you didn’t get your hair cut!” The teenager replied, “You know, Dad, I’ve been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair and even Jesus had long hair …. ” “Yes,” the father said, “and they walked everywhere they went!”\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |



