



Ron's Reflections



Recently I was reflecting on Stephen. Stephen was Hellenist Jew who out seemingly of nowhere was chosen for ministry. Yes, ministry. It was not some highly visible and public ministry that at first glance would put him in front of thousands as a spell binding orator, no, it was a ministry that that officially commissioned him to serve tables, the tables of the Hellenistic widows that had been overlooked in the daily distribution of food, during the days of the 1st century church. The fact that this account in scripture raises serving tables to the level of a ministry that was initiated by prayer and the laying on of hands is noteworthy to me and instructs me to always give affirmation and value to those who think simply serving by waiting on tables in the church is not considered ministry.

The biblical account tells us that Stephen was chosen among others because he was a man who had a good reputation, that he was full of faith and full of the Holy Spirit. It is also noted almost in passing that Stephen was doing signs and wonders among the people. Could this possibly mean that God was still interested in signs and wonders beyond simply empowering the apostles of the first century to do so? I think so and that should be a real encouragement to all followers of Jesus even today.

In following Stephen through his brilliant explanation/defense to those who accused him of blasphemy against God, Moses, the Law and the Temple, we can observe the fulfillment of a promise that Jesus made to his disciples in Matthew 10:19 Jesus said, "When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak of what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Again, in the ever-darkening days in which we seem to be living, this should be a great encouragement to followers of Jesus.

In those short moments of brilliant Spirit led oration, and of what would be the final moments of Stephen's life, it is mentioned that Stephen's face was radiating a peace and presence comparable to that of the face of an angel. Stephen's message was most likely recounted by Paul to Dr. Luke sometime later in its entirety. Paul who was called Saul at the time was there and his hard heart was filled with rage and hatred towards Stephen. But Stephen's final words must have burned their way into his heart and mind. Stephen's bold words planted the seeds of the Gospel that later bore much fruit in Paul.

Finally, here is what really stands out to me, Stephen realized something in those final moments of his life as he looked upwards and saw heaven open. Stephen realized that he was standing in the presence of Jesus. Jesus was standing to receive him into his eternal destiny. Dear fellow believer, when Jesus promised his disciples that he would be with us always, he meant it. As followers of Jesus, we also stand in his presence, we also are invited to run boldly to his throne of Grace in time of need, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed clean with pure water. Hebrews 10:22

So, in summary, be blessed by the ministry of those who serve. If you are serving, you are ministering to God and to those you are serving! God is on mission. He is immutable and omnipotent, and desires to show his glory! Your reputation and walk with God do matter. Do not fear, the Spirit of Jesus is here and will give you the words to speak mightily when the time to give and answer comes. And remember, Jesus is with you and has promised to always be. Come boldly to him as you stand in His presence today.

Grace and Peace be yours in abundance,

Pastor Ron



Gatherings this week

Tuesday, June 27

6:00 a.m.- Corporate Prayer meeting in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join.

7:00 p.m.- Men's group in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited. Godly men talking about real issues they face every day and how the Bible says to handle them.

Wednesday, June 28

8:00 a.m.- Senior Men's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall.

6:00-8:00 p.m.- Youth Group in the Sanctuary. Kids 6th grade to 12th grade are welcome to join.

Thursday, June 29

6:00 a.m.- Corporate Prayer meeting in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join.

6:00 p.m.- Worship Team practice. If you can sing, play an instrument, or know about sound boards feel free to come check them out. We'd love to see your gift in action.

Friday, June 30

9:30 a.m.- Senior Coffee Discussion Group in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 2

8:30 a.m.- Preservice Prayer in the Fellowship Hall/ Nursery Extension

9:00 a.m.- Coffee and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall and foyer. Get to know new faces and catch up with your church family over coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. We hope you enjoy the delicious coffee supplied by Hemisphere Coffee

9:30 a.m.- Sunday School. There are classes for everyone, if you aren't sure where to go, our greeters and ushers would love to point you in the right direction!

10:30 a.m.- Worship Service. Come and enjoy some praising of God the Father through song. Our service is a mixture of contemporary songs and hymns, something for everyone to enjoy. **After the offering is lifted**, children 5th grade and under are invited to walk down to the Fellowship Hall for Junior Worship while the pastor shares the sermon.

For the Record

General Fund Giving budget needed for a 4-week month (June) is \$16,120.76

General Fund Giving last Sunday (June 25) was \$2,875.30.

General Fund Giving so far for the month of June is \$16,135.40.

Thank you everyone for your contributions. We reached our budget goal for June!



Church News

The carpet is going in this week! Kevin Beachy is planning on being here Wednesday, mid morning, to tear out the old carpet. You are more than welcome to come out and help!

Family fun night is this Saturday, July 1st, 4-7pm at Bethany Mennonite Church. Bill and Carrie King rent out their gym for the evening for the kids to run around and burn off some energy. They only ask you bring a snack to share with everyone and your own water bottle. It is such an enjoyable time of fun and sports and fellowship, and there is no age limit! The next one will be August 5, 2023.

Our church directories should be here this week! They will be available alongside a sign out sheet the Sunday after we get them. Please make sure you mark off your name on the sheet, so we know who else needs one!
Thank you!

Coming in August!

We are starting a new club
Backyard Bible Club. August 7-11,
6-7:30pm in the Greenspace.



Perspective Classes are back!

If you are interested in the upcoming class, read on.

You can:

- Be in prayer for the upcoming class planning and for finding a church to host.
- Spread the word to people who may be interested. Watch the perspectives.org website for info in the coming months. (click: Classes > Ohio)
- Help out. Interested in being on the planning team, networking with area churches, prayer team, graders, classroom help and more? Let me know.
- Have feedback or thoughts regarding your experience in class? Let me know.

For the whole world to hear!

Dave Yoder

Perspectives Class Coordinator

Ph/text/Whatsapp: 234-300-1219



Church News Cont.

The Voice of Martyrs is presenting a live stream event July 14th from 6:30-9pm. There is going to be interviews, music, and different sessions. See Katie Harsh if you'd like more information.



July 7 & 8 we are painting the Fellowship Hall. We would love to have you help us out. We will start around 12 noon on the 7th (Friday).

July 9th we are having a bonfire, 7-9pm, in Cornerstone's backyard!! It will be a relaxing evening of fun and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

Ministry Opportunities

We are looking for someone tech savvy to help those who need tech support to get connected to our church via YouTube, Facebook, our website, and Right Now Media. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

We are always looking for people to help on the worship team, both on stage and behind the scenes. If you can sing, play an instrument, monitor the camera/stream, or know anything about running a sound board (or are willing to learn). If you'd like more information, please call the church office to schedule an appointment or audition.

Our Prayer Ministry needs you! Every Tuesday and Thursday Morning there are a small group of people that meet here at the church to pray. Unfortunately, they haven't had any prayer requests the past few weeks! We all need prayer, be bold enough to admit that you do too. We would love to pray for you, specifically, if you'll only let us know how.

If you feel lead to start a ministry you don't currently see here at Cornerstone, talk with Pastor Ron. We want to know what ignites you, what your spiritual gifts are, and it all starts with a conversation! We are always looking to dive deeper into God's Word through Bible Studies and church activities so please let us know your ideas!



Congratulations!

Congratulations and thank you to Erma, Larena, and Esther K for another hugely successful potluck! We couldn't have done it without you ladies heading everything up in the kitchen!

Congratulations to Camille Cunningham on getting her driver's license! Stay safe out there!

Congratulations to the worship team! The hard work you guys have done preparing for worship on Sunday mornings has really paid off! You guys did a fantastic job this week! Keep it up! We look forward to seeing and hearing how God is working in building this ministry up!

*If there are any announcements you'd like to see here or in the bulletin, please email them to secretary@ccchartville.org by end of day Tuesday.

Prayer Requests

Please consider writing a card, sending a text, making a call, or visiting some of our church family members that we haven't seen in a while. There are cards available in the church office if you need some. If you need additional information, please contact Katie Harsh or Pastor Ron Embleton.

Mary Ellen Yoder- 850 Sunnyside St. SW, Hartville 44632

Eva Kuhns Potts- 1420 Smith-Kramer St. NE, Hartville 44632

Kathleen Patterson- 1976 Gulf St. NW, Uniontown 44632

Lynn Schrock- 2995 Raymond St., Uniontown 44685

Ruth DeLong- 4900 Massillon Rd Apt. 19, North Canton 44720

Deb Zaluski- 1291 Countryside Cir NE, Hartville 44632

Ian Johnson- 12305 King Church, Uniontown 44685