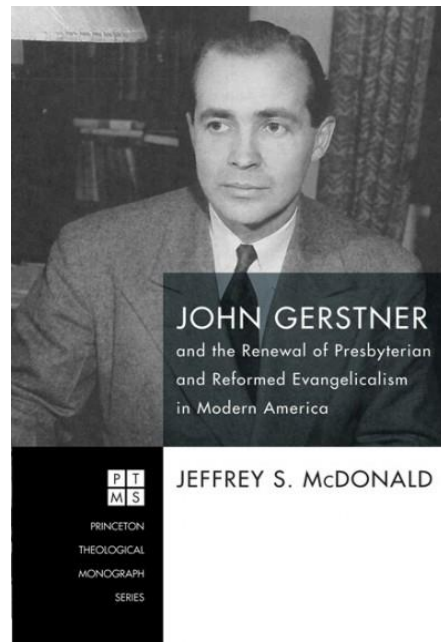


The Avery Bells

January, 2018

“Learning from the Past So We Can Witness for Christ in Our World Today”

As we approach a new year, it's often a time of setting goals for the future, but also remembering the past. I am beginning 2018 with great confidence that God will continue the good work that he started at Avery over 100 years ago. I am hopeful because His faithfulness has been consistent and his mercies are new every morning! That is one of the reasons I'm so passionate about history, we can see the fingerprints of God on the lives of those who have gone before us. The story of God's church down through the ages can challenge us and give us a better understanding of the faith we proclaim. History can also give us a better sense of who we are and help us appreciate where we came from. Moreover, church history is a reservoir of good ideas that can help strengthen our faith. If we are going to understand our evangelical Presbyterian past we need some familiarity with those who have shaped that past.



One evangelical Presbyterian leader who made a large impact in the 20th century was John Gerstner (1914-1996), who served for many years as a professor of church history at Pittsburgh Seminary. Gerstner was a defender of classical Christian faith and the trustworthiness of scripture. He debated and lectured widely and wrote many books that sought to pass on the faith once delivered to the saints. He refused to water down or compromise basic Christian doctrine and some of his actions led to the founding of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in 1981. My recently released book analyses Gerstner's life, but it also highlights the growth and expansion of evangelical Presbyterianism. One connection between Gerstner and Avery is that he was a longtime friend and classmate of Dr. Ken Smith, one of Avery's former pastors. [continued on next page]

The prophet Isaiah said “Listen to me, all who hope for deliverance--all who seek the LORD! Consider the rock from which you were cut.” W. Stanford Reid—the eminent Canadian evangelical Presbyterian historian—has commented on this scripture noting:

He [Isaiah] is thinking of Israel, the People of God. They have been hewn from a rock, and it is to their roots that he is calling them back. He wants them to realize that they have not come from shifting sand, but from roots that have dug down deep into the soil which are immovable and exemplary for them.

As your pastor my goal is to try and help church members and fellow believers understand the truth of the gospel and how that truth has been upheld in the past. My book seeks to show a continuity of faith from believers in different time periods. It also reveals Gerstner’s faith journey and how he successfully transmitted the faith of his young adult years into the future. So, if you have some time and want to go deeper in your knowledge of Christ’s church please check it out—*John Gerstner and the Renewal of Presbyterian and Reformed Evangelicalism in Modern America* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2017). If you would like to borrow a copy—please let me know—I have a couple of extra books.

My hope is that 2018 will be a year when we grow in faith and deep commitment to the truth upheld in scripture, so that we can face each day knowing that Jesus came so that we may have life and have it more abundantly!

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

*Have A
Blessed
New Year!*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Food and Fellowship: 8:30 – 9:00 am

AWAKEN the New Contemporary Service: 9:00 am – 10:00 am – Fellowship Hall

Sunday School: 10:00 – 10:50 am (lower level classrooms)

Food and Fellowship: 10:30 – 11:00 am

LEGACY the Traditional Service: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Did you know Avery is active on social media?!?!?!?!?

Like us on Facebook: Avery Presbyterian Church

Follow us on Twitter: @AveryChurchBell

We will post fun facts and important information for you about the exciting fall we have planned.

Be sure to follow and share with your friends, coworkers, and neighbors!

Grow in God, grow in love, grow in community!

Pastoral Information

If you need to contact Pastor McDonald, please contact him on his cell phone: 402-682-1439

January Communion

Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 7**. If you would like to have communion brought to your home, please contact the church office at 402-733-1104.

Stewardship and Finance

2017 Giving Statements

Giving statement summaries for the 2017 calendar year are available. Please pick up yours on the table in the back of the sanctuary to help save mailing costs! Thank you!

These summaries will serve as an official receipt for IRS purposes. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact the church office.

Congregational Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 21 @ 10:00 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME

The annual meeting of the congregation of Avery Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 10:00 am. The meeting time has changed to allow attendance by everyone from both the Awaken and Legacy Services. The meeting is for the purpose of making board, committee and officer reports, authorizing salaries for the pastoral staff and any other business as may be determined by the Session.

No Youth or Adult Sunday School will be held and there will be no Fellowship prior to the Legacy service.

2018 Giving Envelopes are arranged alphabetically on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the congregation of Avery Presbyterian Church was held on Sunday, December 17. Election of church officers, election of the 2018 nominating committee (at large members) was held.

Elders, Class of 2020

Kay Baldwin, George Hooper, Shannon Vosberg (first term)
Robert Taylor (second term)

Deacons, Class of 2020

Jeannie Yorgovan (first term)
Grace Ford, Mark Lawson (second term)

2018 Nominating Committee

Roy Bennett, Mike Huntley, Steve Nielsen,
Dan Svehla, Jim White

New Adult Sunday School Class

Begins Sunday, January 7 @ 10:00 a.m.
(lower level Watts Room)

ACTS

The History and the Glory

Teacher: Don Wharton

Join us for a fascinating study of the Book of Acts, tracing the early history of the Christian church from its glorious founding, to its growing pains, dispersion and spread across the ancient world.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

On January 10, 2018, we will begin a study of the Gospel of Mark. If you were commissioned by God to send a letter of hope to Christians facing martyrdom, what would you write? Mark, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, answers this question by writing a Gospel that demonstrates how to communicate with compassion, precision, urgency and hope to people in need. Mark's message begins with John, the Baptist, crying in the wilderness and ends with the glorious resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Mark's message is complete. Whether he knows it or not, he has writ-

ten a Gospel for the ages, inviting us to study his message, confess the Christ, and receive the power of our resurrected Lord.

Please consider joining us from 9:00 – 10:00 am Wednesday mornings in the lower level conference room. All are welcome.

January Events

Avery Church Day at Don & Millie's Sunday, January 14

The **second Sunday of each month** is Avery Church Day at Don & Millie's Restaurant (24th & Cornhusker). 20% of all purchases that day by people who say they are from Avery Church will be donated back to the church.



Avery Quilters Retreat

Friday, January 26
10:00 am to 10:00 pm
Saturday, January 27
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



A Bake Sale is coming - Sunday, January 28 Proceeds to Assist in Providing Welcome Bags for Safe Haven Domestic Violence Center

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for our Welcome Bag project this past year. The women entering the Shelter this year had longer stays and several have now transitioned to a place of their own. Due to the increased cost of hygiene supplies we worked with Safe Haven and they selected the 15 items that were most important to them. That reduced the number of items from 22 per bag to 15. These women come, often in the dark of night, with only the clothes on their back. It is our hope they will be comforted to know that the

members and friends of Avery Presbyterian Church are reaching out to make their lives just a little easier. In addition to your prayers you may want to lend financial support through our Annual Bake Sale or with a monetary gift. Our annual bake sale will be the 28th, which is the last Sunday in January. We need people to bake and people to purchase the tasty treats. Another way to help is simply writing a check to Avery Presbyterian Church and note in the memo section: Safe Haven Welcome Bags. The gift is tax-deductible and will be reflected on your giving statement.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Kay Baldwin, Janice Bright
Grace Ford, Donna Lawson, Linda Stewart
Jane Embry, Chairman (402) 331-3238

Personnel Announcement

Nursery Support on Wednesday Evenings

In the past, the nursery has been open on Wednesday evenings to support choir practice, Awaken Service rehearsals, and small group bible studies. We have noticed lately that we very seldom have any children to care for.

The nursery will now provide support on Wednesdays by reservation only. If you will be participating in an event on a Wednesday evening, please notify Steve Horn (wzman6990@centurylink.net) and Angela Lopez (aptitudecpr@outlook.com) not later than the Sunday before the event so they can schedule workers to open the nursery. This will ensure we have nursery staff to support your needs, while conserving Avery Church resources.

Mary Martha Circle

To all Avery Women,

Are you a Mary or a Martha? Do you long to learn more about the Bible or (like Mary) do you long to entertain and feed those who come to hear? (like Martha)

Well! We have the answer for you right here in the church – “The Mary Martha Women’s Circle”.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except June-August and December) at 1:00 -3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We are taking turns giving lessons (Marys), giving devotions (Both), serving desserts, etc. (Mar-

thas). But only what **YOU** feel comfortable doing. We share and we pray and contribute to a mission.

Please come and join us on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. Our founding members are all gone now, Ellie White being the last. We have two new members of our church, three not so new, and one old "not so new" member.

So come, you Marys and Marthas and try us!

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (with a few exceptions) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Please join us for fellowship, prayer and a lesson. We would love to have you join us!

New Year . . . New Study "GLORY DAYS"

DVD & study guide by Max Lucado

"Maybe you're feeling stuck. Caught in a rut. Fighting the same battles and facing the same temptations. Wondering if this is as good as the Christian life gets. If so, there's good news. You were made for more. You were made for Glory Days!

January 9, 2018
Home of: Susie Nielsen
11618 S. 39th Street, Bellevue
#402-292-9016
Lesson: Janice Bright

January 23, 2018
Home of: Lisa Aiken
10707 S 29th St., Bellevue
Home # 402-964-2217

Mission Opportunities

Bellevue Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of:

Canned Tomatoes Sloppy Joe Mix Peanut Butter
Jelly Rice Cranberry Sauce Stuffing Mix

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Clip and take to the store

January Greeters

Awaken: Steve and Susie Nielsen

Legacy: Todd and Shannon Vosberg

Volunteer Opportunity -Greeters

If anyone is interested in being a greeter for either Service, please contact Nell Fuller at garyandnellfuller@gmail.com or 402-291-2975.

January Worship Assistants

7 Dave Aiken

14 Janice Bright

21 Robert Taylor

28 Jim White

Building & Grounds

Avery Church Facilities Use Reminder

If you would like to use the church facilities for any reason, please notify the church office to check the availability of your requested date/time, and ensuring it is on the church calendar. Please return the completed application to the church office (if possible) 30 days prior to your requested date. The applications are an important communication tool for the Buildings and Grounds committee who are responsible for the opening/securing the facility, and for the Church custodian.

Everyone's cooperation in following this procedure is important and appreciated, so that we avoid conflicts of dates/times and space for all church and non-church related events. Applications can be obtained by contacting the church office. Thank you!

Avery Bells Guidelines

DEADLINE: 15th of each month

If you would like something included in the newsletter, please submit the information **by email** to the church office by the deadline date.

Information will not be included without confirmation from the chairperson or committee representative each month. Thank you!

2018 Leadership

Elders and Committee Responsibilities

Moderator of the Session: Pastor Jeff McDonald; **Clerk of the Session:** Bev Hrdy

Treasurer for the Session: Cindy Crisp

Kay Baldwin:

Mark Carpenter: Christian Education Chair

Bob Cook: Buildings and Grounds Co-Chair, Vision Team Co-Chair, President of the Corporation

Gary Fuller: IT Chair, Representative to Presbytery, Peanut Brittle Task Force

George Hooper:

Steve Horn: Personnel Chair, IT Committee

Pat Mullins: Worship, Music, and Prayer Chair

Susie Nielsen: Missions Chair; Peanut Brittle Coordinator

Richard Osterholm: Wills and Memorials Chair

Robert Taylor: Stewardship/Finance Chair, Buildings and Grounds Co-Chair, Nominating Co-Chair;
Peanut Brittle Task Force

Jason Van Holland: Membership and Evangelism Chair; **Shannon Vosberg:**

Deacons and Committee Responsibilities:

Mark Lawson: Moderator of Deacons, Care Ministry; **Barb Carey:** Secretary of Deacons, Care Ministry;

Barney Chandler: Deacon's Closet, Kitchen; **Grace Ford:** Fellowship

Nell Fuller: Newcomer Welcoming, Greeters; **Kathy Amegandji:** Fellowship, Ushers

Rodger Kendall: Care Ministry, Deacon's Closet, Fellowship, Kitchen

Mary Jo Osterholm: Funeral, Correspondence

Cheryl Stensby: Communion, Fellowship **Jeannie Yorgovan:**