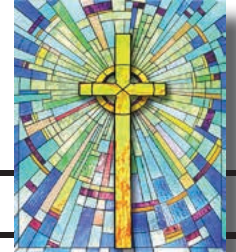




# The Heartline

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*"Where Hearts are Warmed"*

September 2016

## Hymn of the Month

[ed. note: This is a new feature for our newsletter, and takes the front page for its introduction. For background on this evolution, please read the Pastor's Corner on [page 2](#).]

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (649 in the *Glory to God* hymnal, 280 in the blue hymnal)

Many people associate this beloved hymn with John Newton's regretted participation in the slave trade and sometimes even assert that this hymn is connected with the moment of his conversion. Such an explanation is appealing but untrue: the text was written years later as part of Newton's regular pastoral duties in conjunction with a New Year's Day sermon he preached on January 1, 1773.

The author himself probably thought of what he had written as an outline of the typical spiritual journey from utter despair (first stanza: "a wretch like me") to confident faith (third stanza: "grace will lead me home"). That assumption of speaking to a general human condition accounts, at least partially, for the widespread use of this hymn.

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

“Sing to God a New Song!”

Psalms 96:1

Music, like the reformed tradition, is always reforming, always changing. We encounter old hymns with new eyes, and bring all our memories into our appreciation of new hymns.

For many years, it has been a hallmark of music at Covenant that we pull our music from a variety of sources, not only the blue Presbyterian hymnal, but also from current praise songs and hymns from other traditions and faith groups.

This tradition will continue and be made easier by the decision of our Worship Committee to purchase the new *Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnal. This slightly lighter and slimmer hymnal combines both our favorite traditional hymns and many of our favorite praise songs. It also has many traditional and beloved hymns that have never appeared in a Presbyterian hymnal before.

*Glory to God* provides churches with a blended worship experience that is life-giving.” — ANTHONY SMITH, Music Director, Chatham, Ontario, Canada

Why a new hymnal? The history of salvation, according to the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song, is the framework for our new hymnal. The committee stresses that we sing hymns and songs because they teach us something about the richness that is in God. We are invited to sing songs both old and new in praise of a God who is the first and last—the God of history and Lord of the new creation.

Featured in the new hymnal is music covering all major historical and contemporary sacred genres, including approximately thirty-five African-American/Gospel hymns (“Soon and Very Soon,” “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” etc.).

There are many older hymns from the previous collection (“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”), along with older hymns that earlier Presbyterian hymnals haven’t included (“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms,” “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling”).

Also included in the new book are contemporary praise songs (“Awesome God,” “Shout to the North” by Martin Smith, and “O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic is Your Name” by Michael W. Smith)

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[HYMN OF THE MONTH, from page 1.]

This is a hymn that looks backward and forward or, as Newton phrased it in his sermon, deals with “a consideration of past mercies and future hopes.” The “review” portion of this text comprises the first three stanzas, each of which includes the word “grace” at least once. These stanzas expand on a statement in the sermon: “When [God] knocked at the door of our hearts [we] endeavored to shut him out till he overcame us by the power of his grace.” This importance of the term “grace” was accentuated by the punctuation of the first printing, which indicated a pause to ponder the word: “Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound).”

You may be surprised to learn that this hymn’s customary final stanza in many hymnals (including this one) is not by Newton and was not annexed to this text until 1910.

The performance suggestions for this hymn includes the following humorous tidbit of information:

Because of the popularity of this tune played on bagpipes, it is probably necessary to mention that those are outdoor instruments and are not suitable for use in church, nor are they appropriate for accompanying singing.

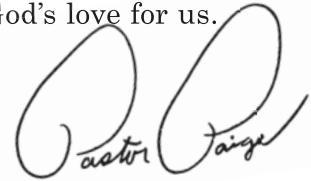
Adapted from Daw, Carl P. Jr., *Glory to God: A Companion*. Westminster John Knox Press.

[PASTOR’S CORNER, from page 2.]

In addition, there are more than twenty songs from the Taizé (pronounced “tuh-ZAY”) Community in France, as well as music from six continents.

To introduce the songs in our new hymnal, we’re expanding our newsletter to have a recurring column for the ‘Hymn of the Month’ that will explore the history of a selected hymn, whether is a dearly-loved one or a new one for us to discover together.

My prayer is that this will help our worship continue to grow in authenticity, meaning, and a deep awareness of God’s love for us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor Taizé". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

**Meditation Trail - History**

*from Mike Hein, ASLC*

The Meditation Trail is a cooperative effort of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church (ASLC) and Covenant Presbyterian Church (CPC). Approximately a quarter of ASLC’s property is considered forested wetland and can not be filled in or constructed upon. Thus the concept for a scenic trail around the wetland originated to make use of the area. The first loop of the trail

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[\[Meditation Trail, from page 3.\]](#)

was established in 2000 around the wetland east of the ASLC. Water & Air Research, Inc. (W&AR) determined the official wetland boundaries and placed permanent metal tags on some of the trees along the boundary - some of which can still be seen. W&AR personnel next flagged and cleared the initial loop of the trail outside of the wetland.

Beginning in December 2004, several loads of free mulch have been obtained each year from GRU to mulch sections of the trail, thus better defining it and helping to keep down the weeds.



Over the years, more than 90 ASLC and CPC members, friends, and preschool parents have helped spread mulch along the trail and can officially claim the title of “Professional Mulch Movers.” Additional personnel have helped clear fallen trees off the trail, scrubbed and painted the bridges and benches, and cleared invasive plants from along the trail.

In 2005, the trail was expanded around wetlands on CPC’s property. Pastor Charles Reich and Mike Hein were “exploring” the woods north of the original loop and found a large water oak that had fallen over and was covered by resurrection ferns. Nearby was an area with lots of Spanish moss hanging from the trees. Thinking this area



would be a great addition to what was already established, ASLC started expanding the trail. However, upon looking at ASLC property maps later, it was realized we weren’t on ASLC property any more. Hence the hasty decision to convince CPC to do a joint trail with ASLC!

Many changes have taken place since then, including the construction of three bridges and additional trail sections, with a total trail length today of more than a half mile. Bruce Cole and John Heinser (former ASLC members) constructed the bridge that has railings in July 2003 across the



intermittent outflow stream near Newberry Road. They actually built the bridge in their shop, dismantled it in sections, and put it back together across the stream!

The two footbridges without railings were an August, 2011, Eagle Scout project of Peter Swanger. Other scouts and parents from Scout Troop 432 and ASCL members helped. The meditation area with benches under the large live oak was another Eagle Scout project by Eric Bakuzonis (former ASLC member) in March 2006.



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[Meditation Trail, from page 4.]

On a visit from Michigan in 2005, Bill Arndt (Robert & John Pett's grandfather) became



an official mulch mover, helping spread mulch. He realized that a larger tilting trailer to pull behind the lawn tractor would result in fewer trips along the trail.

He went back to Michigan,

built one, and the following year brought it back with him. Hence the origin of the trailer we are still using to help spread mulch!

In the Fall of 2009, John Menoher (CPC) constructed the CPC Meditation Trail sign at the CPC end of trail. Plans for new signs are now in the works.



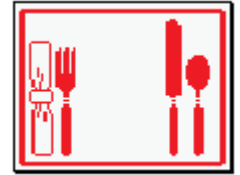
The trail is intended to help individuals reflect upon their daily lives and enjoy the wonders of God's creation. We keep trail guides and maps in mailboxes at both ends of the trail, and additional sign posts and markers guide you along the way. We

supplement native vegetation with flowering plants to ensure that something is blooming every month.



## Fellowship

Our CommUnity Dinner menu for September 4<sup>th</sup> is a True Church Dinner Classic - ham, green bean casserole, macaroni & cheese, salad, rolls, and dessert. Come join us after Worship and Communion for "comfort" food and fellowship.



Don't forget to stay after the service on the last Sunday of each month (the 28<sup>th</sup> of August and the 25<sup>th</sup> of September) for Celebration Sunday. We need your voices to help sing "Happy Birthday" to our honorees.

The Fellowship Committee is already planning to coordinate with and support other committees for activities coming up in the fall: Outreach – Family Promise and Operation Christmas Child Snack 'n Pack; Youth – Taco Sunday Fundraiser on October 16<sup>th</sup>; Worship – Veterans' Day Observance; and Stewardship – a possible tie-in with CommUnity Dinner. Hard to believe, but it's even time to be thinking about Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Eve because food helps make those activities better.

## September 2016 Calendar

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Th, 1 - Koinonia Small Group at 7:30                                   | Th, 15 - Koinonia Small Group at 7:30  |
| Su, 4 - Worship at 10<br>- Fellowship at 11                            | Su, 18 - Worship at 10<br>- Fellowship at 11<br>- Harbor Chase Devotions at 2:30 |
| Tu, 6 - Flute Ensemble reh at 7  | Tu, 20 - Flute Ensemble reh at 7   |
| Th, 8 - Koinonia Small Group at 7:30                                   | Th, 22 - Koinonia Small Group at 7:30  |
| Su, 11 - Worship at 10<br>- Fellowship at 11<br>- Session meeting at 7 | Su, 25 - Worship at 10<br>- Fellowship at 11                                     |
| Tu, 13 - Flute Ensemble reh at 7                                       | Tu, 27 - Flute Ensemble reh at 7   |
| We, 14 - Heartline deadline  | Th, 29 - Koinonia Small Group at 7:30  |

## September Birthdays

- |                       |                  |                   |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 21 - Madge Roodenburg | 22 - Prue Tucker | 26 - Lauren Traer |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|

## September Anniversaries

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Peggy & Bob Quigley | 3 - Kathy & Fred Fishel |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|

2016 Session

Moderator Rev. Paige Porter-Buhl

Debbi Alessi

Janis Bomar

John Ebbs

Larry Herrington

Susan Nimmo

Dorothy Spangler

John Tucker

***The Heartline*** is published monthly. You may submit articles either handwritten, typed, or on disk (saved in text or Word format) and delivered to the church office.

Deadline for the next newsletter is  
September 14, 2016.

If you have a question about submitting an article for *The Heartline*, please call John Tucker.