



# The Signpost

Harlem Road Church

March 2019

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## No Matter What, I Love People of Prevailing Faith

By Pastor Bud Leskovac

As I write this note, our denomination is in a Special General Conference struggling to find its identity in the world. As of this writing there is nothing definitive to report. And once we do know the decisions of our Lay and Clergy delegates, it will likely take some time for us to sort out the ramifications for our denomination and especially for our beloved church. So for now, I'll focus on what I know for sure. I'll write about my confidence. I'll write about you. You are people of Prevailing Faith.

Recently I read and re-read Hebrews 11 and 12. If they titled chapters in the Bible, these two should be titled Prevailing Faith. Whenever I think of you, Harlem Road Church, I think of an amazing church family — a transforming church family — a risk-taking church family — even a prevailing, and faithful, church family.

What brings extraordinary results through our lives and our common church ministry? According to Hebrews 11 and 12, it's faith... plus God's power. I'm not saying "we've arrived." But I am saying that I've walked with you long enough to see who you are as people; a people of Prevailing Faith.

Consider just a few of the characteristics of people with Prevailing Faith: You are **Fixed on Jesus**. The strength to be a Christian of prevailing faith comes from Jesus, not yourself. Only by fixing your eyes on Jesus can you move beyond where you ever dreamed to go, or see spiritual possibilities that you didn't see before. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross." (Heb.12:2) In Jesus, we become more than we could ever hope to be on our own. In Christ, we find strength beyond ourselves.

People of Prevailing Faith are **Visionary People**. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Vision is faith with a picture attached. Visionary people see the preferred future and communicate it in such a way that others can see it also. Visionary people see it before others. For many years, the people of Harlem Road Church have been seeing what could be, and they have been partnering with God to get it done!

You are **Pioneers**. "By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance." (Heb. 11:8) People of prevailing faith do not always know where they are going! They are pioneers, not settlers. Pioneers believe church can be relevant, it can be alive, it can be growing, it can change, and it changes the lives of unbelievers! Pioneers are always discovering that God can do something they were afraid, by themselves, to do. They trust in God to carry them through!

You are **Entrepreneurs**. Do you see the entrepreneurial spirit in these verses? "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." (Heb. 11:3) God has often created much out of nothing. As a creative God, he created the world by calling into existence that which was not here. As people of prevailing faith, I have watched you repeatedly cooperate with the creativity of God, calling much into existence that wasn't previously there.

And as people of Prevailing Faith, you are **Gatherers of People**. As together we have worked hard for years to build a relevant church, God has blessed us as gatherers of people. After all, that is God's purpose in allowing us to partner with Him. Our work is solely fixed to bring "one more" into relationship with Jesus and the Kingdom...and then another, and another....

Just one last thing I'll say about you. People of Prevailing Faith are willing to pour their hearts and souls and resources into the vision Jesus has placed in our hearts. You are willing to try...and try...and try again, with all the passion God has placed within you. And all, for the Glory of God. Yes! God's people known as Harlem Road Church are people of Prevailing Faith!

Again, we have yet to arrive. We are not perfect, and we have much to do in the years ahead. But I am proud of you and grateful that God brought our lives together. Regardless of the decisions that loom over our heads, I will always be proud of you, I will always love you, and we will work though this together. Just like people of Prevailing Faith always do.

Much Love and Many Blessings,

Pastor Bud

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## Visiting Haiti

By Anna Klingensmith

Since this was my first time visiting Haiti, I decided not to have too many expectations or assumptions before experiencing it firsthand. With that in mind, I was both excited and nervous, as it was the first time I had ever gone on a plane to another country or on a mission trip. When we landed in Port au Prince and began driving towards the orphanage, a sense of peace came over me. I felt an immense warmth and friendliness from the Haitian people just within the first hour of being there and I felt God was telling me all would go well.



I found the trip to be very rewarding in many aspects; however, what I loved the most was simply the people. While Haiti needs a lot of help in many areas, the people are still so joyful in many ways. Whenever I would say hello or smile towards someone, I received the same, if not a bigger smile, back. The children at the orphanage were very friendly and positive. I did not hear a lot of complaining or annoyance, but rather expressions of excitement and curiosity. The mission clearly puts a lot of importance on education, church, and family. The kids treated each other respectfully and were quick to help each other.

I think that Melissa and Imagine Missions are doing amazing work for the kids in this orphanage and school, giving the children many opportunities for self-growth and a sense of community. There is a strong presence of

faith and a healthy environment for these kids to learn and grow together. Unlike other institutions which may only focus on the food and housing for orphaned children, Imagine Missions' philosophy of teaching the kids specific career paths is very helpful - it allows the kids a greater outlet for self-growth, relieving some of their stress, and a great environment to stimulate growth in faith.

This trip has made me understand better all of the things we take for granted in the US, such as material items and other factors of living like security, safety, health, and clean streets. There are a lot of small things that go unnoticed in our country that are a constant worry in other countries. This trip helped me to realize how blessed we both are in many different ways.

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## Calling All Singers - Easter Cantata



If you like to sing, we'd love to have you join the Easter Cantata Choir! We are rehearsing after the 11 am worship service on Sundays through Palm Sunday (April 14). We end rehearsal promptly at 1 pm.

We have rehearsal CDs available with your part highlighted so you can rehearse from home, your car, etc. Join in the fun! Just show up at rehearsal and grab your book and CDs. We will have a full rehearsal Wednesday, April 17, and then we will present the cantata on Easter Sunday (April 21) at the 10 am service.

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## Women's Conference

Join us for the 2019 RE-NEW women's conference on Saturday, March 9 from 8:30 am until 2 pm.

Cost is \$10. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided.

Sign up today by contacting Pam Leskovac at

[pam@harlemroadchurch.org](mailto:pam@harlemroadchurch.org) or texting her at: 614-507-1577



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## Summer Nights Live!

On June 10, 11, and 12, join us for "Maker Fun-Factory – Created by God for a purpose!" SNL is a three-night event from 6:30-8:30 like Friday Night Live – but dinner is not included. It's for kids ages 4 through finishing 5th grade. (A toddler class is available for our volunteers.) There will be student sign-up sheets in the lobby beginning April 1. We'll also be trying a new "online" signup. We'll let you know when that is uploaded and ready!

If you'd like to volunteer for this great outreach program for kids, please touch base with Kate Steele – cell: 614-312-7691 or email: [ksteelie@gmail.com](mailto:ksteelie@gmail.com)

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## Health and Wellness News

By Sue Wilcox

*One of God's arrangements is that after winter, there should come beautiful spring days. It happens every year and it happens to every life.*

- Father Joseph

### Congregational Survey

It has been 3 years since we asked you all to participate in an online survey at Survey Monkey. We used the results from that survey to help us plan programs to meet your needs. But now our church family has grown. Ideas and needs have changed. And we are asking you to complete another survey.

If you could take a few minutes to do the survey electronically, it would be very helpful to us in planning for future programs. It takes only a few minutes of your time. Just go here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/3BBSZMV>

The survey begins March 1 and ends March 15. For those of you not quite comfortable with computers, our youth will be available for the next two Sundays in the lobby with their laptops in to help you complete the survey online. Diana has paper copies too, if that helps you.

### March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month

Colon cancer can be prevented with early detection and prevention.

What causes colon cancer? While there is no specific cause of colon cancer, certain factors can increase your risk of developing the disease:

- Age 50 or older
- Family history
- Genetic alterations
- A diet rich in fat and red meat
- Heavy alcohol use
- Cigarette smoking
- Obesity, diabetes, and lack of exercise

Everyone is different, and not all people who have a risk of colon cancer will develop the disease. Even if you have no family history of colon cancer, keep in mind individuals who are younger than 50 but whose lifestyle includes the risk factors listed above should consider getting screened. If you may be at risk for colon cancer, it's important to talk to your doctor about regular screenings. Karen, a colon cancer survivor, had "virtually no symptoms. I had very little bleeding in my stool, but nothing major enough to scare me to finally follow through with the appointment."

It's important to keep an eye on any changes in your health. Colon cancer often has no obvious signs or symptoms in the early stages. By the time symptoms show themselves, the cancer has advanced to a later stage.



If you start to experience any of the following symptoms, it's important to see your doctor right away to find out if the symptoms are caused by colon cancer:

A change in bowel habits, such as diarrhea or constipation that lasts for more than a few days

A feeling that you need to have a bowel movement that is not relieved by having one

- Blood in your stool
- Cramping or stomach pain
- Weakness and fatigue
- Unintended weight loss

What can be done to prevent colon cancer? Andrea, executive director of the Colon Cancer Prevent Project, says "Colon cancer is one of the most common cancers among men and women, but it doesn't have to be. That's the clincher. It's highly preventable. By knowing about this disease and its symptoms, talking with your family about your family history, and talking with your physician about the right time for you to be screened, it's possible to take charge of your health and prevent this disease. If my dad had had that education and discussion with his physician, his story would be very different."

If you are 50 years old or older, it's important for you to get screened. Why? Screening offers the opportunity to find colon cancer or polyps and to stop disease progression. Even with the high rates of colon cancer, if it's found early enough, it is highly treatable. Don't wait for the symptoms before talking to your doctor about getting screened.

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## Children's Ministry News

By Pam Leskovac

### Friday Night Live – Connecting Kids to Christ

FNL is Harlem Road Church's kids outreach program for all children age 4 through 5th grade in our surrounding communities. The program runs from 6:30-8:30 pm – dinner is provided – on the 3rd Friday of the month. We have games, stories, crafts, music and lots of fun! And we share the Gospel message with every child that comes through our doors. **We still need some folks to run with the children throughout the evening from station to station** – so if you'd like to volunteer to help with this program, please contact [pam@harlemroadchurch.org](mailto:pam@harlemroadchurch.org).

For this month's FNL, on March 15, we will be working on "What's Faith?"

On April 19, we're opening up FNL to kids age 2 through 5th grade – and we're asking parents of kids ages 2 and 3 to stay with their child for the evening. We'll be holding our annual EASTER EGG HUNT at this event. Contact [pam@harlemroadchurch.org](mailto:pam@harlemroadchurch.org) for more info!



Friday Night Live breaks for the remainder of the school year after our April event. We resume in September when school is back in session.

## Easter Eggs (and Candy!) Needed

We will be collecting plastic eggs and candy for our annual Friday Night Live Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. You can drop donations of candy off in the basket at the back of the main lobby near the playground doors. Thank you in advance for helping to make this a great event for our children!

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## Missions News

By Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka

Harlem Road UMC focuses its Mission Outreach efforts in two key areas: our local Big Walnut community, with an emphasis on Westerville Estates, and our global Haitian community in the Imagine Missions orphanage.

### Mission Ministry Volunteers

Please give an extra hug or handshake to these folks who are currently involved in different Missions ministries: Free Tax Ministry at Church of the Saviour - Ron Van Winkle and Jeff Hecker; Homework Help at Westerville Estates - Allen Fling, Pop Can Tabs for Children's Hospital - Jeff Hecker; Free Produce Giveaway - Mishelle Soule, the Danne family, Pat Gowin, Melinda Hill and Dan Eubanks, Anna Klingensmith, Yvonne Lake, Jeff and Michelle Murdoch, Sheryl Shaw, Mike Soule, Susan Soule, Kathryn Strohm, and Ray and Sue Wilcox; Bountiful Backpacks Ministry - Sally and Wes Morris, Jean and Jim Christian and Linda and Rocky Narney; Big Walnut Friends Who Share March "Fill the Shelves" - Glenn Day; Haiti Child(ren) Sponsors - MaryBeth Cowans, Ron & Lisa Danne, Jenny and Jeff Hecker, Mark Hertel, Ellen Jacobs, Tahna Pasqua, Bobbi Pollock, Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka, Holly & Kris Thomas and their kids, Julie & Kevin White, Eva & Tom Wolfe.

### Local Outreach

Our local outreach is done in partnership with other churches and organizations: Galena UMC, Church of the Saviour UMC, New Albany UMC, New Albany Church of the Resurrection Catholic and Harlem Township Helping Hands. We call our combined group "SidebySide."

**Homework Help:** The Souders principal let us know that our efforts with these kids has improved their reading skills. Besides the academic focus, this ministry gives kids a chance to relate to adults who are focused on them and who offer constant encouragement. Kids who have "aged out" of our program still come around to help because they just love to be with us. We strive to have a one-on-one arrangement between adult and child for each afternoon session. Sessions last from 3:30 – 5 pm, one day/week. If you are interested in giving 90 minutes to a child, please let Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka know! (614-565-3395, [judysharpekos@insight.rr.com](mailto:judysharpekos@insight.rr.com)) If you have books suitable for 3rd and 4th graders, Homework Help would like them for our students. Please bring them in and place them under the "Missions Table" in the back of the main hallway.

**Bountiful Backpacks:** THANK YOU for being so supportive of this new ministry that supports needy families at Big Walnut Middle School Because of your wonderful support, we have a good supply of many food items; only some of the menu items are needed at any one time. Sally and Bud Morris are heading up this ministry and they post in the Sunday Celebration Folder the items which are needed at that time. If you have an interest in being part of this ministry, please contact Sally and Bud Morris (740-936-5551, [budemorris@yahoo.com](mailto:budemorris@yahoo.com)).



**Big Walnut Friends Who Share:** March is our church's month to "fill the shelves" at the Friends Who Share food pantry in Sunbury. Beginning Sunday, March 3 and through Sunday, March 31, please consider donating one or more of the following items. You can bring them to church and place them in the back of the main hallway. Needed items are: Cereal boxes, baby food jars, peanut butter (14/20 oz jars), grape jelly, spaghetti sauce (16 oz cans), spaghetti, spaghetti shells, tuna, mac & cheese boxes, ravioli, soups (15 oz cans), canned fruit (15 oz cans), canned vegetables (15 oz cans), Hamburger Helper boxes, canned or boxed potatoes, boxed or bagged pasta or rice, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo (16 oz bottles), dish soap, diapers, laundry soap.

**Free Produce Giveaway:** Our monthly produce giveaways for 2019 will start up again on March 16 and will be held every month on the third Saturday, from 10:30 am - 1 pm. If you would like to help, please contact Mishelle Soule at [bristol2425@yahoo.com](mailto:bristol2425@yahoo.com).

### Global Outreach – Our Orphans in Haiti

Please see Anna Klingensmith's article on her first trip to Haiti, earlier in this newsletter!

Once again Haitians are rioting to protest government changes. Imagine Missions' orphanage is not near the riot areas but has been impacted by them. When such riots happen, our orphanage staff must exercise extreme caution in traveling outside the orphanage on the weekly trips to get food and fuel. Most recently, the riots lasted for about 12 days which meant that food for our kids and diesel for the generators fell to very low levels. Thankfully, the riots stopped for a few days allowing our staff to go out to buy food and diesel. However, indications are that the riots will start up again. In addition to the impact of not being able to shop, Imagine Missions' weekly expenses are rising because of the higher prices for fuel. Since almost all food in Haiti is imported and trucked into stores, many of the grocery items used in the orphanage are much more expensive. One example: a gallon of cooking oil that used to be about \$5 is now around \$9. The orphanage uses 3 gallons each day. Also, fuel oil is used to run the generators that power the orphanage.

The riots in Haiti have been over raised fuel prices. After the 2010 earthquake, the Haiti government did two things to help Haitians: 1) They purchased fuel from Venezuela at a very good rate which would allow the Haitian government to save funds for recovery and 2) they froze diesel fuel prices to help Haitians with post-earthquake recovery. Recently, however, political pressures from Venezuela and America have forced the government to rescind these two actions. The Haitian people - including our orphanage - are suffering - again. Please continue praying.

An excellent book to read about Haiti's history since the earthquake is *The Big Truck That Went By...How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster*, by Jonathan M. Katz. Jenny and Judy have copies of this book if you want to borrow it.

You can stay current on happenings in Haiti by visiting the Imagine Missions page on Facebook where Melissa posts updates almost daily: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ImagineMissions/>

**Do You Shop at Amazon?** If so, please consider using SMILE.Amazon.com instead. It's the exact same Amazon except that you can select a non-profit to receive a donation from Amazon equal to a percentage of your purchase. Chose a charity of your choice! Perhaps Imagine Missions could be your designee.

### Ongoing Missions at HRUMC

**Kroger Community Rewards:** Here's another great way to help your church! We have several households who are shopping at Kroger and using their Community Rewards card to bless Harlem Road UMC. YOU CAN ALSO HELP IN THIS WAY! Please go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and follow the instructions for Community/Community

Rewards – and thank you!! If you've enrolled in the past, your enrollment expires each 12 months so please re-enroll.

**Crochet Necklaces:** Each month, necklaces made by an HRUMC-trained Westerville Estates woman are taken to the Ohio Art Market for sale. Please patronize the Ohio Art Market, located in Uptown Westerville on the corner of Main and State streets.

**Aluminum Pop Tabs:** Please bring in the tabs off your aluminum cans and we will take them to the Columbus Ronald McDonald House which recycles them to raise funds to purchase wheelchairs. Receptacles are on the table at the back of the main hallway.

**BoxTops for Education:** Please bring in the BoxTops for Education labels from your food packages and we will take them to Souders Elementary School. Receptacles are on the table at the back of the main hallway.

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## Legacy Fund Reminder

By Dave Patterson

Did you know that Harlem Road United Methodist Church has a Legacy Fund? Completely separate from traditional giving, the Legacy Fund provides a means of supporting important functions into perpetuity. The Legacy Fund is made up of different endowments. We currently have endowments established for Capital Improvements, Children/Youth Ministry, Missions, General Fund Support, and The Spiritual Care for and Well Being for Ill Persons and Families Fund (established in honor and memory of Linda Bright). Or you may choose to establish your own endowment for a cause that is near and dear to your heart.

There are many ways that people may choose to donate to the Legacy Fund. Remembering the Church in your will is just one of them. For more information, please pick up a brochure at church or ask to speak to one of our Legacy Team members. All conversations will be handled privately, discreetly, and confidentially. Thank you for your consideration.

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## Reynoldsburg Emmaus Walks

By Judi Ayers

Listed below are the up coming Reynoldsburg Emmaus Walk dates for 2019 (men & women). If you are interested in attending an Emmaus Walk in 2019, please contact Judi Ayers by e-mail (ayers\_judi@yahoo.com) or by cell phone (614) 915-6825.

Emmaus is for you, if you are interested in becoming closer to Jesus Christ and developing a stronger personal relationship with him.

Walks 2019

- Men's Walk #87 – March 14-17, 2019
- Women's Walk #110 – May 2-5, 2019
- Women's Walk #111 – July 25-28, 2019

- Men's Walk #88 – October 10-13, 2019
  - Women's Walk #112 – November 7-10, 2019
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## Community Connection Groups

Thinking about joining a small group, but not sure which one might be right for you? Contact the leaders to find out more about the people in the group and what they do!

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** Meeting Time/Place: Tuesdays at 7 pm in the pastor's office. All men are welcome!

Leader: Jim Bernhardt (bernharj@gmail.com or 614-895-1807)

**WOMEN'S TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** Meeting Time/Place: 2e have just begun a study of angels, which should last through most of the month of March. At the completion of the angel study, we will begin a study on prayer. We meet every Tuesday at 7 pm, at the home of Ellen Jacobs, 148 Nicole Dr., Westerville. All women are welcome to join us.

Leader: Ellen Jacobs (jacobsellen53@gmail.com or 614-406-4337)

**WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP** Meeting Time/Place: We are reading the book *Unshakeable Hope*, by Max Lucado. We will meet at 6:30 pm on March 13 at the church, and on March 27, place TBD.

Leader: Diana Robertson (office@harlemroadchurch.org or 614-882-9487)

**WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCH** Meeting Time/Place: Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, March 7 at noon at Applebees on Polaris Parkway.

Leader: Bobbi Pollock (bobbi10820@gmail.com or 614 496 7405)

**SATURDAY COUPLES GROUP** Meeting Time/Place: Please contact Lisa Danne for the latest information.

Leaders: Ron and Lisa Danne (lisad@columbus.rr.com or 740-244-7223)

**THE AYERS GROUP** Meeting Time/Place: Our next meeting is at the church, at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 19. Theme of the evening TBD by Judi and John Ayers.

Leader: Depends on the month.

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## Prayer Requests

**Expectant Moms:** Kerri Grove, Heather Hartz, Emily Patrick, Lisa (Gall) Peters

**Requests:** Faith Myers, Bill and Carol Bebee, Lindsey Wolfe, Liz Stimer, Janet Falk, Jane Piper, Bruce Rorher, Debbie Clark, Erni Lyle, Kathy Fracasso, Kevin Wilson, Lexie Aumiller, Alma McCoy, Liz Fravel, Jeanie Hatfield, Donna Evans, Dolores Wandtke, Joseph Abraham, Lorraine Karns, Ben Walls, Jason Falk, Carter Becker, Sawyer and Mason Danne, Janeene Brown, Jeanette Moreland, Helen Cocchi, Ray Baumburger, Dick McCoy, Mary Reed, Dave Straiko, Emily Jacobs, Mary Rogers, Joel Hecker, Herb & Bonnie Wilson, Kelly Hanlin, Yvonne Lake, Arthur Saunders, Sara Roberts, Sophia Hill, George Pollock, Joel Wilcox, Clyde Fravel, Linda Emerson, Suellen Peterson

**Cancer Treatment:** Barbara Shumaker, Jeff Kirn, Eileen SImans, Charlene Miller, Robert Rogers, Alma McCoy, Troy Beasy, Iris Centofanti, Linda Houk, Allie Anderson, Nate Roston, Marilyn Akers, Doug Miller, William Hill, Jeff Gyurko, Crystal Rustine, Jack Conley, Michelle Danne, Robin Cumberledge, Bunny Pearson, Robin Smith

**Military Service & First Responders:** Kyle Disbennett, Jacob Hutchinson, Logan Booty, Ethan Mosely, Jakeb Cokeril, Michael Albaugh, Joe Pasqua, Jeremy Ragan, Christina Hahn, Chad Cunningham, Scott Crowell, Sean Hatch, John Smock, Stuart David, Nathan Brumbaugh, James Martin, Michael David-Gish, Nathan Bertram, Tyler Albaugh, Chaplain David Hogg, Alex Hussey, Kevin Miller, Spencer Morris, Mike Neely, Kevin Peterson, Justin Pickworth, Josh Ripley, Matt Robertson, Rob Sagle, Dave Wheeler, Brian Williams, Lucas and Conner.

