

St. John's United Church of Christ

The VOICE

OCTOBER 2013

Balm of Gilead

Shared by Robin L. Getz

Balm is used for a number of natural aromatic substances that are utilized for healing and soothing. They are obtained from certain resinous plants. During [Bible History](#), the area of [Gilead](#) was rich in spices and aromatic gums that provided balm, which was exported to Egypt and Tyre - and the land of Israel. The word *balm* is derived from *balsam*, which originated from the [Greek](#) word (pronounced) *balsamon*, which was adopted to represent the [Hebrew](#) words *baal shemen*, meaning "lord of oils." (the term *Baal* is used in various ways in the Old Testament, with the usual meaning of *master*, or *owner*. It came to sometimes mean the local pagan god of a particular people, and at the same time all of the idols of the land - see [Baal](#). It is also found in several places in the plural *Baalim*, or *Baals*. There were many variations, such as the sun god, the god of fertility, and Beelzebub, or the "lord of flies" - see [Baalzebub and Beelzebub](#)).

Balm of Gilead

Gilead was a well-known exporter of balm from the earliest of times. The Israelite patriarch Joseph was sold by his brothers to a caravan of Ishmaelite traders who were transporting a cargo that included balm:

"So when Joseph came to his

brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore [see [Coat Of Many Colors](#)]; and they took him and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty, there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites [see [Ishmael](#)] coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then [Judah](#) said to his brothers [see [Children of Jacob](#)], "What profit is it if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers heeded him. Then Midianite traders passed by; and they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver; and they took Joseph to Egypt." (Genesis 37:23-28)

Embalming took its name from the use of balm as a supposed preservative in earlier times. Both Jacob/Israel (who died in Egypt but was buried in the land of Israel at [Machpelah](#)) and Joseph were embalmed by the Egyptian method:

"And Joseph commanded his

servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel; forty days were required for it, for so many are required for embalming." (Genesis 50:2-3)

"And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die; but God will visit you, and bring you up out of this land to the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." Then Joseph took an oath of the sons of Israel, saying, "God will visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt." (Genesis 50:24-26)



OCTOBER WORSHIP NEWS

SCRIPTURES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 6 – Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lamentations 1:1-16

Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, October 13 – Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalm 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 20 – Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 27 – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joel 2:23-32

Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

(Pastor David Martin)



NEIGHBORS IN NEED SUNDAY

St. John's will be having Neighbors In Need Sunday's on October 13th & October 20th. This is one of four church wide offerings for UCC. Information will be in the church bulletins and offering envelopes will be available in the pews.

To All Ladies of St John's UCC, Fredericksburg:

The Penn Central Conference Women's Retreat is scheduled for November 22-24, 2013. This year's theme is "Chocolate Boutique" - a whole weekend of Chocolate bliss!! It will be a place where women taste and see God's goodness and grace, while relaxing, laughing, and reflecting - and growing in friendship with God and other women of the Conference. Cost for the weekend is \$100, which includes 2 nights lodging in Michaux Lodge (at Hartman Center), 5 meals, and chocolate galore! Space is limited, so sign up today. DEADLINE is November 12th.

"Safe Trick or Treat Night" by Lebanon Valley Home

Fall has arrived and we are planning our annual "Safe Trick or Treat Night" at the Lebanon Valley Home For the past twenty-four years we have welcomed children from the community into the home to collect goodies from the residents on "Trick or Treat" night. Our goal was to provide a place in the community where parents would be sure their children would be receiving safe treats.

As you can imagine as word has spread the number of children participating continues to grow over the years, as well as the expense to continue the practice. Several local organizations & businesses have made financial contributions in the past to assist us. We are therefore once again contacting our UCC Churches to see if their members would be willing to donate one bag of candy. All candy would need to be turned in to the home by Monday, October 28th. We greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide in offering this service to the community and our children.

If you have any questions contact Amy Tillinger, Director of Lifestyle Services at the Lebanon Valley Home – 867-4467.

Consistory News by Robin Getz

The Consistory had its regular monthly meeting on September 30th Discussion was held on the process of the ongoing search for a new Pastor.

As I always conclude this news I do so with the constant message that we continue to work hard to keep our church as loved and necessary as it always has been. You are the people who make it what it is. You give it life and offer it breath to sustain our Christian lives.

ST JOHN'S ALL CHURCH RETREAT "GOD'S DELIGHT" by Rachael Miller

People of God, in whom God delights! (Yes, You.)

We invite you, first of all, to consider the words of Psalm 8:3-5. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

We invite you, secondly, to let go of needing to be better, smarter, prettier, taller, more prepared, more efficient or effective. To let go of needing a perfect Christmas Letter life.

We invite you, thirdly, to set apart Saturday, October 12, 2013, for a church-wide retreat at St. John's UCC. We will begin at 9 a.m. with light refreshments and conclude around 5:30 with evening repast. The day will include: worship, Bible study, food, laughter, quiet, spirit-building activities, and just plain fun! We will explore what it means to be a created person in whom God delights.

Please hand in your registration form with your \$5 (to help defray the cost of food and other supplies) to Sharon Hibshman (717) 866-5390 or Rachael Miller (717) 333-0751. Please have your reservation and money in by Sunday, October 6, 2013.

Come be part of this Spirit-Enriching experience!

Looking Ahead to Thank Offering Sunday by Louise Walmer

The Fall Season is here and the time of year that brings to mind harvest and Thanksgiving. Our annual collection of the Thank Offering boxes will take place on Sunday, Nov. 17.

Several months ago members of the Fellowship distributed a Thank Offering box to each family. Hopefully, everyone has been adding coins or bills to their boxes whenever they find that they are thankful for something. Please bring your boxes to church on Nov. 17 and during the worship service they will be collected, presented at the altar, and blessed.

The Fellowship has decided that the 2013 Thank Offering will be given to the JOY Food Pantry. It came to our attention that the food pantry not only needs food items but they are also in need of funds. They pay \$500 per month rent plus their heat and utilities for the facility housing the food pantry. Please give as you are able to this worthwhile cause.

Homecoming for Habitat Benefit Auction

A Benefit Auction will be held at the Lebanon Country Club on Friday, October 11, 2013 with all proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity of Lebanon County. Art preview & Silent Auction will begin at 6:00 PM and the live auction begins at 7:15.

The flyer is posted on the bulletin board in the Social Room at St. John's UCC with more details.

October Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2 Wendy Dorsey | 22 Mark Tyrpin | 26 Yvette Oskam |
| 9 Tracy Hevel | 22 Joyce Myers | 27 Savannah Fox |
| 13 Colt Dorsey | 23 Lee Flanick | 30 Gerald Rudy |
| 13 Linda Tyrpin | 26 Kathryn Myers | 31 Julie Brandt |
| 16 Angela Michael | 26 Richard Rudy | 31 Marc Griffith |

Happy Anniversary to:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 Missy & Cory Daub | 18 Butch & Shirley Rudy |
| 12 Robin & Keith Gingrich | 22 Herb & Sharon Hibshman |
| 17 Rodney & Aleta Babe | 22 Josh & Crystal Stoltz |

If your information is incorrect or not included, please contact the church office.

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

October Readers
 Oct . 6- Julie Ditzler
 Oct 13- Marc Griffiths
 Oct. 20- Wendy Dorsey
 Oct. 27- Robin Getz

October Flowers
 Oct . 6- Gary Trautman
 Oct 13- Aleta L. Babe
 Oct. 20- Butch Rudy
 Oct. 27- Gerald Rudy

September Attendance
 Sept. 1 56
 Sept. 8 59
 Sept. 15- Hinkelfest
 Sept. 22- 70
 Sept. 29

October Bulletins
 Oct. 6- OPEN
 Oct. 13- OPEN
 Oct. 20- Butch Rudy
 Oct. 27- Gerald Rudy

October Coffee Hosts
 Oct. 6 & 13 Aleta Babe & Jean Ann Grimes
 Oct. 20 & 27 Ginny Knapp

October Deacon
 Angela Michael

Sponsors Needed:
 We are in need of Sponsors for:
 Flowers: Nov. 10th & Dec. 1, 15, & 29
 Bulletins: Oct. 6 & 13 , Nov. 3 & 10 & Dec. 1, 15 & 29
 Coffee Hosts: The month of December
 Sign Up sheets are in the Social Hall



From Robin's Nest to Yours

By: Robin L. Getz



It is difficult to believe that we are approaching the end of summer. Even though it has not been an excessively hot summer I am not sure that I am ready for the cold to move in. Well at least... not quite yet.

By the time this article makes it to your doorstep all things will be geared towards fall. Cleaning up the flower beds in preparation of winter, and soon enough we will be raking leaves and finally seeing the end of the grass cutting season. St. John's U.C.C., is rested following the summer schedule that we attempted for the first time and is now fully rejuvenated and ready to face whatever the future has to hold. Christian Education will again begin and life as we remember will be close to normal yet again, for yet another year. Our routines will be getting in line with all of the activities that are beginning, football, winter track, band competitions, Harvest Homes, Thank-offering and the list goes on and on.

This month has been a time for me to look at how I too can rejuvenate myself for another season. What have I done this year that has been more fruitful than last year and not just personally, but for others in my life as well? We are at a time when we must look at things past and things to come. The search continues for a new pastor and with that I must constantly question, what path is the correct path to follow? I mean, we must seriously reach a point where we except that sooner or later we must stop at a gas station or store and ask for directions.

Sooner or later we must realize that our destination sometimes takes a little longer to reach than what we once remembered. And we have probably had moments over the past few months to ask many questions.

I do not know about anyone else but I admit that I have reached times in my life where I question many things, my faith included. Am I doing what God has outlined for my journey or am I really doing what I want to do in life to suit me? Am I following God's purpose and word or am I just telling myself that I am doing as God has intended? Do you ever wonder if you have set a benchmark where your faith journey is concerned and if so, who or what do you measure it to? How do you compare your spiritual enrichment?

I sometime look at those I continue to admire. Their wisdom of God's word, his work, his direction and his intention completely enralls me. I hear them finishing a scripture by memory or a hymn or the anticipation of a thought. Am I that type of Christian? Is that something I can do as easily as I can put on a pair of flip-flops? Some might see me as that enriched person who has much to offer, who knows... I would certainly hope not, because when I listen to the many who are so well versed, I always have questions.

Why is it that I can remember who I ate Christmas dinner with in 1963, but cannot remember if Ephesians is in the New or Old Testament? I guess the point I am attempting to make is I do not think it is unusual (at least I hope not) to question many things, but I am certain my faith is not one of them. My love of God and his Son I will never question. My thankfulness of what he has brought to my life because of that faith and especially my conviction of where things belong in the world as we know it.

As with everything there will be hiccups along the way and we will have questions, such as how we could ever lose such a devout Christian as our Sister in Christ,

Peggy. How can anyone walk away from their church for a destination unknown? How can we ever question that there is a Heaven or a Hell anymore that we can question there is a beginning and an end. And how we can base our faith, or desire to continue our faith journey on people we meet along the way? I have always been taught that things will come and go, just like any other trend we experience, but God? Has God ever been a trend to accept only when convenient? Has God ever walked away from us or turned his back because we didn't meet His expectations? Has He ever forsaken us when we said or did something that might have offended Him? Has He ever taken a break from us and our needs until we got our head on straight or thought his place in our life is less important?

As fall approaches and the world and it's landscape goes through yet another seasonal change, I too must go through that same cleansing and rejuvenation of accepting the fact that no matter who is here, what things appear to be or who has influence over me mentally or emotionally, God is my true constant. His word must become my belief. His work must become my work. His love and strength must be shared with the many and not hoarded for only a few.

My daily prayers must include my thankfulness for all that is good in my life. For all who have touched my life and for the many more that I anticipate being part of my life until my last breath.

For my past and my present and my future, as long as I remain true with God, life can only be good.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS by Louise Walmer

Musical Offerings – October 2013

6 - "Come Share the Lord"	Sr. Choir
13 - TBA	
20 - "Give Me Jesus"	Sr. Choir
27 - TBA	Hand Bells

Music & Worship by Louise Walmer

There was no meeting of the Music and Worship Committee in September. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 7 at 7pm. Gary Trautman agreed to lead our devotion time.

Our Agenda will include plans for our All Saints Remembrance Day on Sun., Nov. 3. Please contact the church office or a member of the committee as we prepare a list of the members and friends of our congregation to be remembered on this day. This would be anyone that has passed away since our Nov. 4, 2012 All Saints Sunday. We do not want to forget anyone.

We will also be discussing the coming celebration of Thanksgiving Eve, Advent and Christmas worship services.

Christmas Cantata – "Bethlehem's Child" by Louise Walmer

Special rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata will begin on Wed., Nov. 6. We will rehearse for 45 minutes from 6:45 – 7:30. Regular Sr. Choir rehearsals will be from 7:30 – 8:30 during the times of the Cantata rehearsals.

I invite anyone from the congregation who would like to participate in singing this Christmas cantata to come to as many of these special rehearsals as you can. Give me a call if you have questions or concerns.

The Musical offerings this past summer were wonderful!

By Charlene Ziegler

A big thank you to our home talent St. John's Singers, Wendy Dorsey and Gary Trautman, Regina Engler and "newcomer" Pam Emery and her husband Gary.

Again we were blessed with relatives and acquaintances who provided inspiring music. We welcomed back to St. John's Glenn and Darryl Engler and Elliot Knapp who brought Sarah Moreland for a

BOSCOV's Discount Day - Oct. 22

See Priscilla Rentschler for your Boscov's Shopping Pass. You will be able to shop all day at any Boscov's on Tues., Oct 22 and receive a 25% discount off all purchase. The Shopping Passes cost \$5.00 each and the \$5 donation goes to the Auxiliary of the UCC Homes.

In addition on the Pass, you fill out the stub and deposit it in the Friends Helping Friends Ballot Box to be eligible to win prizes. Prizes include three \$500 Shopping Sprees and 41, \$100 Shopping Sprees (1 per store location). Free refreshments will be available.

Note: There are a few exceptions to the 25% discount and they are all noted on the Shopping Pass.

St. John's Fellowship News, By Ginny Knapp

Party plans were made at the regular meeting of St. John's Fellowship. The annual Cedar Haven Holiday Party will be held Tuesday, November 12th. We will be serving the residents cookies and punch and entertaining them with the Gospel Singers.

Our annual Christmas Party is planned for the Farmer's Wife Restaurant with details to be given at a later date.

Other projects announced were the Christmas Avon sale and the annual poinsettia display at Christmas.

Priscilla Rentschler is collecting the \$5.00 Boscov's pass for the annual Friends Helping Friends Day, October 22. Our proceeds will go to the UCC Church Home Auxiliary in Anncville.

Thankoffering boxes will be collected, Sunday, November 17th. The monies will go to the JOY Pantry in Jonestown.



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

By Julie Ditzler

It's time for us to start thinking about our holiday shoebox project for Operation Christmas Child! Beginning on Sunday, October 13, we will start collecting items to include in our gift boxes. To help us organize our donations, please use the following schedule and suggestions from Samaritan's Purse as a guideline for bringing items with you to church:

- October 13 - hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap, washcloths, combs, brushes, small pack tissues, socks, hair accessories, etc.)
- October 20 - school supplies (pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, tablets, small notebooks, solar calculators, coloring books, picture books, etc.)
- October 27 - toys (small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, yo-yo's, slinkys, small etch a sketch, ball caps, sunglasses, Frisbees, anything fun that is small enough to be packed in a shoe box!)
- November 3 - hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum – no chocolate!

Throughout this period we will also be encouraging our young people to fill out Operation Christmas letters to enclose in our boxes to introduce ourselves to the children who receive them. A donation of \$7 / box is requested for shipping expenses. We will be making announcements in church throughout the month for ways that you can contribute. If you have any questions, speak to Julie Ditzler. Please plan to join us

THANK YOU NOTES:

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and visits at the time of Peggy's illness. I want to thank everyone who helped at the luncheon that was provided after the service for her and also for the meals & flowers.

God Bless All—Jerry Mohn & Family

Dear Friends,

On behalf of my family I want to thank you for your prayers and concerns during my Aunt Jackie's illness and death on August 20. She enjoyed receiving cards from several of her friends in Fredericksburg. During my tenure at St. John's, Aunt Jackie enjoyed talking with you when she would come to worship or the pot-pie suppers. I want to thank you for your prayers and cards following her death as well as the death of my godmother on August 28th. May each of you continue to feel the presence of God's love as you mourn the loss of Peggy Mohn. We can rejoice that Jackie and Peggy have entered the eternal home and will be reunited with us some day!

Blessings,
Chris Rankin

FROM THE CHRISTIAN ED. CORNER by Angela Michael

At the August meeting we decided to purchase the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum for the middle school level class in order to better prepare this age level for Confirmation class. We also added two new teachers this month: Amber Daub and Andrew Eberhart, who will cover the pre-k/kindergarten age group that will continue with the workshop rotation model.

At the September meeting we discussed Circle Time! and decided to discontinue this program effective Sunday, September 29. Instead on Sunday, September 29, we will begin at 9 a.m. with a short time of devotions and announcements before beginning our Christian Connection classes. We will all take turns leading the devotional time, and we hope you'll think about leading us in devotions one Sunday as well.

Coming up in October, Melissa Seltzer will be leading the youth on an adventure to the Sycamore Spring corn maze. This outing will take place on Saturday, October 26, and anyone interested in carpooling should meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please see Melissa Seltzer.

During the month of October, children taking part in the workshop rotation model will be learning about the story of Moses.

Thank you to everyone who baked for the bake sale and to those who bought baked items at the bake sale on September 29. This sale supported the Christian Education Committee and its ministry within the church.

The next Christian Education meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 20, following worship.

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP By Neal Grimes

The Budget Committee met on August 29th to tackle the budget for 2014. We finished a preliminary report that was then presented to the search committee at one of their September meetings. We will be meeting again the last Thursday of September to again review all of the budget items. This meeting should prepare our committee to present the proposed budget to the consistory in time for their October meeting.

This report shows our August and year-to-date totals.

AUGUST	INCOME	Y.T.D.
WEEKLY OFFERINGS (4 WEEKS)	\$ 7,817.30	\$70,476.24
DEFRAY COST OF ENVELOPES	-0-	197.00
BULLETINS	20.00	230.00
JOINT MENS & WOMENS FELLOWSHIP	-0-	2,500.00
FUNDRAISING	30.00	1,888.14
SPECIAL SERVICES	-0-	315.00
SOCIAL HALL RENTALS/MISC	15.00	242.65
INTEREST	1.48	11.29
TOTAL INCOME FOR AUGUST	\$ 7,883.78	\$75,860.32
EXPENSES	\$11,310.09	\$58,465.26
NET INCOME	\$(3,426.31)	\$17,395.06

OUR BUDGET FOR WEEKLY OFFERINGS \$2,300. TO DO-DATE WE ARE AVERAGING \$2,072.83.

DELIGHT YOURSELF ALSO IN THE LORD, AND HE SHALL GIVE YO THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART.
 COMMIT YOUR WAY OT THE LORD, TRUST ALSO IN HIM AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS

PSALM 37:4-5 NKIV

OCTOBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study— Noon Choir Practice 7:00 PM	3	4 NLPRC Little Learners 9:00 AM— 11:00 Am	5
6 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Chris- tian Connection 10:30am Worship (Communion) Helen Walmer Me- morial Fund Sunday Sandwich Sale following Worship	7 7:00 PM Music/ Worship	8	9 Bible Study— Noon Choir Practice 7:00 PM	10	11 NLPRC Little Learners 9:00 AM— 11:00 Am	12 Church Wide Retreat 9:00 AM— 3:30 PM
13 Harvest Home Neighbors In Need Sunday Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Chris- tian Connection 10:30am Worship JOY Pantry Sunday	14	15	16 Bible Study— Noon 6:15—6:45 PM Bell Choir Practice Choir Practice 7:00 PM	17	18 NLPRC Little Learners 9:00 AM— 11:00 Am	19
20 Neighbors In Need Sunday Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Chris- tian Connection 10:30am Worship Following Worship Christian Ed Meeting	21	22	23 NO Bible Study 6:15—6:45 PM Bell Choir Practice Choir Practice 7:00 PM	24	25 NLPRC Little Learners 9:00 AM— 11:00 Am	26 Youth Corn Maze At Sycamore Spring—4:30 PM
27 Devotions at 9 AM Followed by Chris- tian Connection 10:30am Worship Dine & Donate Sunday Deacon's Fd. Sunday	28 7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	29	30 Bible Study— Noon Choir Practice 7:00 PM	31		

St. John's United Church of Christ

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Fredericksburg, PA 17026

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Pastor's Numbers 717-866-5390
E-mail stjohnsucc@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccfburg.org

Every Sunday
Devotions at 9:00am Followed by
Christian Connection
10:30am Morning Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace, and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.

Church Staff

Pastor Herb Hibshman, Jr. Interim Pastor
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director
Mrs. Donna Eberly-Lehman Church Secretary

Consistory

Robin Getz, President
Wendy Dorsey, Vice President
Melissa Seltzer, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

Elders

Joe Ditzler
Wendy Dorsey
Robin Getz
Jean Ann Grimes
Jerry Mohn
Melissa Seltzer

Deacons

Walter Bolles
Missy Daub
Robin Gingrich
Terry Knapp
Angela Michael
Mark Tyrpin