

Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

July – December 2016

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

In many ways, this is a unique edition of the Peacekeeper newsletter. First, it fills a gap covering the months of July through October 2016. Second, this edition may be light on article content even while it goes heavy in the area of *hope*.

By way of reminder, as of this past World Conference, my term as President had expired and so had the term of Jennifer Redfern, as Secretary. A lack of attendees at our scheduled business meeting has forced a need for an alternate plan to cover the necessary elections. As a result, we called for an election of officers using a combination of e-mail and paper ballot. In our last edition (May, June) I asked: "Where are you? Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Peacekeepers: Where are you in the effort to provide ministry to those of Community of Christ serving on active duty in the military?"

In answer to that call, we had two nominees step forward. Jennifer Redfern has let her name stand as our nominee for the office of Secretary. Ryan Pitt, serving most recently as the Mid-Atlantic Mission Center President, has allowed his name to stand as nominee for the office of Association President.

As an introduction, here is Ryan Pitt's Bio:

Originally from Lamoni, IA, Ryan Pitt graduated from Graceland University's Community of Christ Leadership Program and a degree in Health Care Management in 2012. He started working in Bethesda, MD as an Office Manager for an Oral Surgeon while simultaneously pursuing his Masters



in Health Administration (MHA) from Mount St. Mary's University. Working and pursuing his graduate degree full-time, Ryan assumed various leadership roles with the Washington, D.C. Congregation. His leadership roles included: Young Adult Coordinator, Pastoral Leadership Team Member, Leading Congregations in Mission, Pastoral Counselor, and Co-Pastor. After completing his MHA in 2015, he began working full-time for the Mid-Atlantic Mission Center as Mission Center President. Ryan and his wife, Emma, currently live in York, PA. In his free time he enjoys watching movies, spending time on the water, hanging out with friends, and traveling the country with his wife and 9-year old dog, Henry.

Ryan also provided us with a PERSONAL STATEMENT which I trust you will find meaningful for our military ministry focus:

My time and ministry in the Washington, D.C. area fuels my aspiration to join the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corp. Working in Bethesda, many of our patients were either military or part of a military family and I frequently noticed the need for religious support and reminder of God's love. Furthermore, my congregational leadership experience revealed a need for specialized ministry with Community of Christ members and friends in the military. I realized our servicemen and women often feel a separation from God's love through

the decisions, sacrifices, actions, and experiences endured serving our country. I feel called to be a minister of presence with all God's children in places standard pastors can't reach. Currently, I am applying to Princeton University, Claremont School of Theology, and Lancaster Theological Seminary to obtain my M.Div. to begin responding to God's call and serve as a Naval Chaplain.

In light of these developments I commend to you our two nominees and want you to be aware that both have the full endorsement of the Association leadership. I ask you to vote using either the mail-in form at the end of the newsletter, or by e-mail. I know this is a busy season but we ask your prayerful and attentive support to the Association's official needs. Voting will close upon receipt of the last ballot received by e-mail on calendar date 15 December 2016, or (if using the postal system) that had been postmarked as of that date. Please vote!

And, as the Christmas season fast approaches, I pray with you for Peace on Earth (Christ's Peace) and for our focus on honoring God as stewards of creation. May the remembrance of the birth of our Savior touch each of your hearts with joy!

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim öK9ö Kunzweiler, President.

Newsletter, by Curt Heaviland

Here it is the first day of November and for the first time I can remember we missed printing the newsletter so July through October went down the drain.

This bit of growing old is for the birds. I'm beginning to find that it is getting more difficult to climb the stairs from the basement and I run out of breath very quickly when I'm just walking down the sidewalk. So much for old age ó it happens to the best of us.

By the time this newsletter gets to you U.S. citizens will have gone to the polls and attempted to elect a new President. It is my hope that the Lord has seen fit to get us in the right place at the right time. Thank goodness we can go to the Lord in prayer and ask for guidance, not only for us as

individuals but as a country. May He have guided us in the election.

Speaking of getting old, I find that I am really having a problem during church. I wear hearing aids (which are probably not the best) and we have a loud speaker in the sanctuary. In order for the rest of the congregation to hear, the speaker is turned up quite loud but this distorts the sound for me. I am very happy that we now have women in the priesthood and they quite often bring the message. When this happens I have two problems. Number one the voice is that of the female variety which is difficult for me. The second is that quite often the lady talks so fast that I cannot make out what is being said. As I understand it, that is just one of the problems of growing old. My grandson, Tim, is a paramedic and at the time of this writing is in Ft. Hood, Texas, but by the time it is in the mail he will be in Honduras. It looks like he will be there for a year helping the inhabitants. Needless to say I am quite happy with him and hope for the very best.

It is my hope that the Lord will guide us and direct us in the days to come. I feel as though I have been very blessed and have been given the chance to follow the leading of the Spirit. May each one of you know that the Lord is in charge and will direct us. It is also my hope some of you may come forth with an article that will help us in the future. May the Lord bless and keep you from harm. GOD BLESS!

Curt Heaviland

Quote Corner

- ❖ The beauty of Christmas rests in the hard, gritty truth of it: the story of God coming down to earth to meet you where you live and where obviously you need him most ó in the ordinary humdrum dust and dirt of life.
ó Edmund Steimle
- ❖ John Muir was a 19th century naturalist, botanist, conservationist and glaciologist. When asked to describe what he did, Muir explained, öI study the inventions of God.ö
- ❖ To say that God is a mystery is to say that you can never nail him down. Even on Christ the nails proved ultimately ineffective.
ó Frederick Buechner

KID'S STUFF

by Mary Yocum



Well, the boys are having birthdays (yes, again). Dominic will be eleven in December, and Ian will turn five in January.

One day in the car Ian screamed. No words, just a loud, shrill scream. Don reminded Ian that we don't scream. Ian replied, "I'm not broken."

Don asked him how we could fix him. Ian said, "Buy me a new face."

Another day in the car Ian scolded his mom, "You said a bad word!"

Beth asked "What bad word did I say?"

Ian replied "You said NO!"

Later Ian said, "My teeth it's"

Beth asked, "What about your teeth?"

Ian said "They are in my mouth."

Beth and I said we thought this was a good

thing.

Beth had a conversation with Ian at home.

"I don't want to get dressed. I like my pajammies."

Beth told him, "You have to get dressed, it's a school day."

Ian said, "No school today, I stay here."

"You can't stay here, mama has to go to work."

"No, no more work, you stay here, you bad! I don't like work! You stay here!" he yelled.

"I think my boss will be sad if I don't go to work." Beth answered.

"Okay, he's sad. No work. You stay here with Ian Bradley Winsor," he said. (He doesn't use me or I or he always uses his full name). Then he ran to get some books and toys so we could play, because we're staying home today. So Beth said, "We can play for five minutes but then we have to get ready for school, okay?"

"Okay."

Calling for your updates and stories: Peacekeepers needs you to keep us updated with your newsletter delivery information and we highly desire information appropriate for the newsletter (stories, testimonies, updates to share with other members).

Available in an E-mail and a "snail mail" edition. Active-duty military members who join the association can receive either edition for free. Non-active-duty sustaining members receive either edition with a paid Association membership; those dues are **\$10.00/yr, due in April (multi-year discounts available)**. Archive newsletters are also available on our Web site: <http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>

Officers:

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Community of Christ Chaplain Endorser and Coordinator for Military Ministry: David Anderson danderson@cofchrist.org



E-mail Ballot - 2016 Elections - Community of Christ Peacekeepers

Send e-mail to: cofchristpeacekeepers.president@earthlink.net

Use Subject: Attention: 2016 Peacekeeper Elections

Cut and paste the following text into the e-mail body:

I, **[Insert your name]**, a paid member (or sustained member - if currently serving on active duty) of the Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel (The Peacekeepers), vote for the following nominees to be officers of the Association:

Office of President: Ryan Pitt
Office of Secretary: Jennifer Redfern

[Insert Date]

// SIGNED // **[Insert your name]**

To be counted please ensure your e-mail is sent not later than calendar date 15 Dec 2016

Postal Ballot - 2016 Elections - Community of Christ Peacekeepers

For Postal Voting: Please cut out, fill in, and mail this ballot.

Mail to:

Tim Kunzweiler
(Attention: 2016 Peacekeeper Elections)
7339 Kings Run Rd
Dayton, OH 45459-3419

I, _____, a paid member (or sustained member - if currently serving on active duty) of the Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel (The Peacekeepers), vote for the following nominees to be officers of the Association:

Office of President : Ryan Pitt
Office of Secretary: Jennifer Redfern

Date

Signature

To be counted please ensure your ballot envelope is postmarked not later than 15 Dec 2016
