

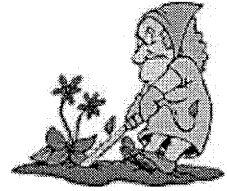
Pastoral Ministry Assistant
Leslie Foxworth

What an adventure we had in June! Our trip across the U. S. and our travels in Alaska were everything we had hoped for. A big thank you goes to all of you who kept us in your prayers during that time. The most amazing things for me were the snow-capped mountains - everywhere, and the "midnight sun." The vastness of the land and the truly wilderness areas were very impressive. We did get to see a good share of wild animals including bear and moose. It was all very different from my environment in Huron, Ohio.

Since I've returned, I have been doing a lot of weeding in the garden. It is just amazing how quickly those weeds grow and can take over while I am not paying attention. Traveling on our vacation was a great experience and a good thing to do, but the neglected garden was filled with weeds when we returned. I think it is like that with our lives. We can be busy keeping up with work, family activities, and even doing some very good and worthy services, but back home the weeds take over.

There are those little buttercups of omissions-the cards I didn't send, the calls I didn't make, and the prayers I left unsaid. Then there are those fast-growing thistles of angry thoughts that grow and produce prickles of unkind words and mean actions and, if left unchecked, produce seeds that scatter with the wind and grow many more thistles. It requires special care to pull them out so that I don't just get the tops of them, but get the roots too. Then there are the dandelions of "judgmentalism." Those dandelions grow just about everywhere and even produce what some would say are bright perky flowers, but underneath there is a very deep tap-root of judging others that requires much effort to dig out. And, just when you think you are all

done, here come those weeds again. That is why I must be vigilant and diligent daily to take time to read scriptures and devotions and to pray.



Well, I'm back in Huron and my focus is on Huron and Zion. There are many new things going on here. We are getting **new hymnals**, and **new worship times**. We are looking forward to a **new Sunday School year**. The Bd. of Youth is planning **new activities** for our Chi Rho Students and our Confirmed students.

We are continuing the Master Schedule sign-up sheets for this fall. It is very helpful to those of us who need to see that worship goes smoothly to have people check their calendars and offer to serve in the various capacities as worship helpers. Ushers are needed at both the 9:00 and 10:15 service. Youth are encouraged to be candle lighters, worship leaders, and scripture readers at 9:00. Confirmed members may serve as communion assistants. Chi Rho students are to serve as acolytes at the 10:15 service. The Master Schedule allows you to select times that are most convenient for you. It is fine to sign up for several Sundays or even a month at a time. We especially hope whole families would help on a Sunday.

As we return to the fall schedule, we want to have a vital Sunday School program and nursery service which requires your prayers, your recommendations and your willingness to serve. The music program also seeks choir members, musicians, and song team members to enrich our worship services. God has given us all gifts and talents to be shared to build up the church; may we use them to His glory.