

Rittman United Methodist Church

Points to Ponder

Volume 41 - Issue No. 2
Chuck Kaliszewski, Pastor
Sheila Stoll, Editor

By the Grace of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are working together to know, love, serve and share Christ with our community and the world.



A Journey to Hope

I want to invite everyone to join me during this Lenten season on a journey - A Journey of Hope. As we turn our faces toward Jerusalem with Christ, we know the path leads to the cross and this will be a difficult journey. Yet we join Jesus to find hope even amid challenge. We will start our journey on Ash Wednesday (Feb 17th) at 7:00 p.m. I hope you will be able to join us that evening.

A key part of our journey will be a church-wide 7-week video-based Lenten study called "24 Hours That Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton. We will be viewing the video together and then forming small discussion groups both during the Sunday school hour and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. There's no required homework although there is an optional book and a devotional guide available for those wanting to go deeper. Adam Hamilton will guide us, step by step, through the last day of Jesus' life, beginning with the Last Supper, passing through the Garden of Gethsemane to His trial and crucifixion, and ending On Easter morning with Christ the Victor. This study is open to all church members and guests alike. For those not currently in a Sunday school class, I hope you will take this opportunity to share this time together on our journey of hope.

Linda and I wish to thank everyone for this past year, and for the special love offering given to us at Christmas. We look forward to another amazing year full of God's glory and love. Please keep us in your prayers, especially on Monday March 1st as I go before the Board of Ordained Ministry for approval for full ordination at Annual Conference this June. I will have three hour-long interviews that day to review my paperwork and answer questions in the areas of theology and biblical studies, spirituality and self-care, and the practice of ministry.

May God bless you and keep you always.

Pastor Chuck

A church appointed a committee of four people. Their names were Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. A very important task came up, and the committee agreed that Everybody should be asked to do it. Everybody, however, was sure that Somebody would do it, and they all knew that Anybody COULD do it. But, alas, Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job, and Everybody thought Anybody could do it. But Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. So, it ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody asked Anybody.

For me, the major point of this illustration is that everybody is a somebody - loved by God just as you are. It is my hope that Rittman UMC is a place for you to be somebody as you strengthen your relationship with God through Jesus Christ. - pc

What is CHURCH?

I was asked to write a guest editorial for this month's newsletter. So I decided I would write about CHURCH. Now some of you are thinking that there will be some cute saying for each of the letters in CHURCH. Well, I am sorry, that is not going to happen. I want to talk about defining CHURCH. Some people may immediately think of the Catholic Church or even the Methodist Church. No not that definition. Some might be thinking of the building that we worship in each Sunday. No not that either. Some may think of the church as our Sunday worship service, where we go to hear a sermon that makes us feel good... no not that either. You see all those words are nouns and I do not think that is what church is!

Matthew 28:19 says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you." When God established the early church through the Holy Spirit it was not a building or denomination, it was a vibrant, active entity. It was doing what Jesus had done - share the Good News to everyone - and that should still be our goal also. We should be doing **CHURCH**, an active verb. We need to reach out to everyone and share Jesus Christ with them. It is easy to share our views about anything, football, basketball, politics, etc., but when was the last time you shared your faith with someone?

As often happens when I write or preach, the main theme of what God puts in my heart is often directed at me. I am guilty of what I am writing about in this editorial. I am not doing **CHURCH**. But by God's grace, I can change and so can you!

Rod Thompson

Extended Table Ministry

Just a reminder to all home bound. We offer you the sacrament of Holy Communion each month as an extension of the Lord's Table. Volunteers will bring consecrated elements to you following the morning worship. They will share with you a brief devotional and join you in the sacrament. This will allow you to participate in this extension of our communion service each month. All we ask is that you or a family member or friend contact the church office the last week of each month to let us know of your desire to receive the sacrament. We will make every effort to bring it to you Sunday or Monday following our services. The church phone number is 330-925-4015 or you can email the church at office@rittmanumc.org. We do hope you will avail yourself of this most important opportunity for your spiritual life.

P.S. There will be a meeting of all volunteers January 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. We will finish before any other scheduled church activities. New volunteers are always welcome. Just join us for the meeting or see Ken Baillis or Pastor Chuck. The volunteers tell me that these times of sharing are a blessing for one and all.

Women's Connexions

The Women's Connexions is excited to announce that this ministry continues to grow and will be offering many opportunities in the coming months. We hope that you come join us in fellowship with one another and Christ. We are currently studying the Book of Esther with 19 women involved on either Monday or Thursday evenings. We also continue to have the Book club that is meeting monthly. If you love to read and would like to fellowship with other ladies, join the Book club by contacting Linda K.

Ladies, mark your calendars for Friday February 5th for a Chick-Flick Movie Night starring "The Note", a hallmark movie that will get us discussing how we live our lives and the relationships we build with one another. Please sign up and let us know if you are coming. The movie starts at 7pm followed by fellowship and discussion.

Also, mark your calendars for Saturday March 13th from 7-10pm for a Game Night. We ask that you bring an appetizer to share and come ready to play some games with your sisters in Christ. We will begin at 7 pm with a devotion time followed by some fellowship and laughter as we join in playing some games!!

Lastly, begin preparing your hearts for our next Women's Retreat scheduled for Saturday April 24th from 9am-3pm. Our guest speaker will be Ruthann Bosley. Mark your calendars now for this special day! More details to come soon!

Any questions please contact Beth Honnold at 330-612-5995 or email at bhonnold@neo.rr.com

YOUTH CONNEXIONS NEWS

Soup-er Bowl Party!!

Come for worship and stay for football and food! The whole church is invited to join us on February 7th following the Sunday Evening Connexions Worship Service at approx. 7 pm in the Social Hall to watch the big game as we project it on the BIG screen. Don't worry - we will be tape delaying the game so that we don't miss any of it OR any of the commercials. We will be having a "chili cook-off" for any that wish to participate. For those not bringing chili we will have PLENTY for you to sample and vote on! You are also welcomed to bring a side or desert if you would like to.

"Admission" to the party is any non-perishable food item that will be used to restock our own Food Pantry. In addition we will be taking a free-will offering and have other fund raising opportunities with 100% of the proceeds going to the UMCOR Haiti Emergency Fund. We are also planning on having a movie in the sanctuary, games and other fun things to do!

Contact Jeff Honnold at jeff@rittmanumc.org or at (330) 612-9405 if you have any questions.

Attention all Sr. High and Jr. High Youth

Sr. High Youth Group is meeting every Wednesday night from 6:30 - 8:00. Come and join us for some fellowship, games and discussion great discussion. We are also working on planning some fun off-site events as well. Over the last few weeks we've gone to see the movie "To Save A Life" and headed to Cleveland for the Winter Jam 2010 Tour. We're hosting the Soup-er Bowl party on Feb. 7th and are planning other great events as well. All youth in grades 9-12 are welcomed and friends are encouraged!!

Jr High Youth we haven't forgotten about you. We will be starting a Jr. High Youth group in February. As soon as the details for the day and time are finalized you will be the FIRST to know. Keep an eye on the morning\evening announcement slides and the Facebook groups for details.

Join us on Facebook

Have a Facebook account? Want to know when and what we're doing? Join one of our RUMC Youth Groups. Just do a group search for RUMC Sr. High Youth Connexions and RUMC Jr. High Youth Connexions. You can also add me as a friend and get linked in from there. I'll be using these groups as another way to schedule events, send out reminders about youth group and post any pictures from our events.

Adult Youth Workers Needed

Are you a 15 year old trapped in an older body? Do you enjoy playing silly games that make little sense and may leave you sore the next day? Do you love to fight to be heard? Do you want to help lead and mentor youth into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ?

If you answered YES to any or all of these questions we need YOU! I need help leading both our Sr. High and Jr. High youth programs (especially the Jr. High so I can get it started). Depending on the number of volunteers you may only need to come once a month or you may need to come every week (and you are ALWAYS welcome to come every week).

Please talk to me on a Sunday or contact me by e-mail at jeff@rittmanumc.org or by phone at (330) 612-9405 for more information.

Kidz Connexion

All children in grades 1 through 5 are invited to join us in the chapel at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings for a time of worship that is geared directly to them (every Sunday morning except the 5th Sundays). There are also special activities for the children on Sunday evenings during the Evening Connexions Service.



PRESCHOOL

The Illusion Factory will be presenting the play "If You Take A Mouse to School" on March 4th at 9:30am in the Social Hall. Public is welcomed to attend. There will be more information in the next issue of Points to Ponder.

Library News



"Living Faith" by Jimmy Carter
"A Man Named Dave" by David Pelzer
"A Child Called 'It'" and "The Lost Boy" - the inspiring conclusion to the New York Times bestsellers.

These books are on the shelf by the telephone

Food Pantry

Forty-seven families, 104 people were given food and paper products this January. Twenty-two new people signed up for the Food Pantry. Many enjoyed vegetable soup and sandwiches thanks to John & Reah Lunter. Desserts were made by Pauline Rastorfer, Marilyn Hofacre and Sheila Stoll. New supplies will be purchased for February's Food Pantry Day. Your help is always needed. Also needed are cooks for the February 17th meal on Food Pantry Day. Let Rita & Niles Blough know if you can help.



Recipe Corner

Here is Duane Ryland's recipe for his super yummy Twice Baked Potatoes which have been served at many church functions.

- 3 cups water
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teasp. salt
- 4 cups potato flakes
- 6 tablesp. melted butter
- 8 oz. sour cream
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped onion



Mix ingredients together with electric mixer. Pour into baking dish and top with paprika, parsley flakes, and dots of butter. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

OTTERBEIN CLASS

Joanna Shankland is the teacher. The class is studying Matthew. The first Saturday of each month is the class party. President this year is Audrey Winchell. Joanna would like to invite adults to the class on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. The seats are soft! This class meets in the Parlor/Llama Room.

TRUSTEE UPDATE

Notice the shiny floors? Thanks to Bob Hopton the hallways, narthex, social hall and basement Sunday School rooms have been waxed and buffed in the past month. If you've noticed, please compliment Bob who did this without other Trustees knowing.

Soffet project update:
We've raised \$2,218 toward the \$8,000 we need to repay the Scholarship Fund. Only \$5,782 to go!!

HELPING WHEELS

The church would like to help our church people in need of transportation to doctor and hospital appointments. If you are able to give this help to your church friends, please call the church office at 330-925-4015. Your name will be put on a list of volunteers. If you have a need for this assistance, please call the church office.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



-UMW

DATES-

February 1

1:00pm Dorcas Circle
7:30pm Hannah Circle

February 2

9:00am Beth Circle

Dorcas Circle

We met at 1pm in the Fellowship Room for the first meeting of the new year.

Ruth Schumacher led us in the UMW Purpose and the Apostle's Creed. The secretary's report was read, and Karen Copenhaver gave the treasurer's report.

Ruth's devotions were from Guideposts. She told us a story about a little girl's response to the dentist about "Barney". We worked on our meeting books for 2010.

Don't forget your "Reading for Missions" books for 2010.

Jennie Cain
Secretary

Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle met at the church on Monday, January 11, 2010 with eight members present. Audrey took the roll call.

Ruth gave our devotions by reading scripture, Philippians 4:10-19 "Be Coachable" and closed with "Just A Prayer Away".

Audrey read the November minutes, and a correction was made on the time for setting up the tables for the Cookie Walk. Pauline gave the Treasurer's report.

We read together "The Purpose of United Methodist Women". Pat read "Directions

For The Road Ahead" from Max Lucado's book. Anne read the Cultural Moments "Two Sons At War".

We filled in some dates in our program book for this year. We made \$985 profit at the Cookie Walk. The left-over cookies were taken the Autumnwood Nursing Home. The Self Denial Meal will be on Sunday, March 7th at noon.

Pat had our program, "A Gift For All People", and everyone had a part to read. Eileen served delicious refreshments.

Audrey Winchell
Assistant Secretary

UMW Thank You

Thanks to all who helped with the Buehler's Grillers and the Cookie Walk. We were able to send \$500 to Haiti. We also donated \$873 to other Missions for 2009.

More History

We sat in our pews and were served communion in little glasses from 2 tiered trays passed by the ushers, with small cubes of bread passed on little trays covered with hand crocheted doilies.

John & Gladys Walker were the earliest communion stewards I recall from the old church. John served until shortly before his passing in 1984.

In 1931 a garage was built under the parsonage on Main Street. Barely large enough for a Model T, but it was sufficient at the time.

In 1933 a building fund was started with an offering of \$61.69 to add on to our church. The Sunday School area in the basement was greatly improved and enlarged for the growing number of children. The Sunday School rooms upstairs were occupied by the Jr. High School boys and girls (separately) . The choir room was used by the men's class. The women still met in the sanctuary.

Jennie Cain
Church Historian

A Winter Dream

I had an interesting dream the other night. My daughter and I were in the car driving toward the woods. There was deep snow everywhere. She was driving quite quickly and I was panicking in the passenger seat. I saw the blizzardily looking woods ahead and could only imagine the disaster we were headed for. I was warning her to slow down, stop and turn around. She kept driving. Suddenly, as we neared the woods, everything was clear and calm ahead. There was a path into the woods big enough for us to drive through. In a matter of minutes, the path ahead was clear and unencumbered and my soul was at peace. I was awed.

Now if there is a "Daniel" reading this, please feel free to interpret my dream. I have not even remembered any dreams lately, but this one was vivid and alive and remembered in the morning. My only interpretation was that it was a reminder of God working in my life. As had happened more than once in the past, the future looked impossible. My anxieties threatened to overwhelm me. And then, one way or another, God broke through. If I could only continue to carry this thought through the rest of my life. The future is not made known to us. We are only given the strength and promise of this day. But just like God parted the Red Sea for Moses and the Jews, He will part our "Red Sea".

Mary Winkler

From the Wooster Daily Record:

The holidays are over and many families in Wayne County felt the love of the community by receiving food, clothes, gifts and toys for their families. For that, I thank you.

Yet as the New Year begins, we are still seeing many families that are struggling to survive. The "faces in trouble" are the people in our community we thought we would never see. Your neighbor, friends, family that have struggled now for months with layoffs and job losses.

People to People Ministries sees only a part of the story. Many of the United Way partner agencies are helping these families. Families are losing their homes, doing without heat or water, deciding whether food or a prescription is more important, wondering what to do, and finding more stress in the situation. We need to work together to keep this community strong. Don't let the opportunity to make a difference in our community slip away.

It takes an entire network of programming to keep families on their feet and it takes funds to keep the programs operating. Please remember, if you can give to United Way, please do. We all benefit. Live United!

Lydia Stahl, Executive Director
People to People Ministries of Wooster

February Birthdays



2nd	Karen Becker Leonard Copley
3rd	Shirley Youmans
4th	Brian Baker
5th	Andrew Berg
6th	Martha Baillis Mike Hopton
8th	Brianne Booth
9th	Keely Dreher
10th	Drew Crawford
11th	Ben Britton
12th	Joel Wilson
13th	Stephen Breckner Chuck Long Kim Rastorfer
14th	Dominic Hamilton
15th	Rod Thompson
16th	Paula Barnes Jerri Champlin
17th	Sharon Chipps
20th	Vicki Hartlaub Alberta Skraba
22nd	Dick Gillman Dustin Griffin
23rd	Chuck Champlin Mary Winkler
24th	Brenda Cook
25th	Scott Huff

Celebrating

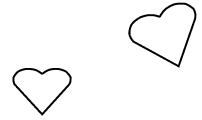
An Anniversary This Month

20th	Mel & Sharon Chipps
22nd	Lenis & Janice Snelgrove

The world famous Passion Play at Oberammergau occurs only every 10 years and 2010 is the year. A thankful village promised God – now that the Black Plaque had left their small village – they would show their gratitude by putting on a Passion Play. They have been doing so each decade for more than 370 years. You are invited to join Bishop John and Elaine Hopkins as they journey to Oberammergau on July 13. The trip will also include visits to Innsbruck, Salzburg and many other sites in Austria. An information meeting about the trip will be held at the Area Center in North Canton on Saturday, February 20, at 2:00 pm. You are invited to join Elaine Hopkins and Bill McFadden to learn more about the trip. If you need additional information, please contact Bill McFadden at 440-934-5676 or mcfelyria@aol.com.



February 14th - Happy Valentine's Day!



Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us... I John 3:1

My wife Nicole and I had been having a terrific time when we were at home with the kids. We talked when we could and laughed a lot. It was when we were alone that things became a little awkward. Not bad, mind you; it's just that out of the situation we were most used to, we were a little out of step with each other.

Then we found out that the new church we're attending provides child care once every couple of months and gives all the parents a night alone. We jumped at the chance. It had been months since we'd been alone together.

We dropped the kids off at the church that night. I was heading back to our car when Nicole told me that the church had provided a speaker for the first hour of our time. I was angry - this was *our* time to be together, and they wanted to take up some of it. How dare they!

The speaker was a comedian; he was funny and, I have to say, I enjoyed listening to him. He ended his talk by saying, "Tonight, as you go out with your spouse, you are not allowed to talk about the kids, plans for the future, schedules or anything un-fun. You may only talk about your love for each other or reminisce about great times you've had. That's it. Now go."

We did just what he suggested, and an amazing thing happened; the awkwardness we had been feeling disappeared. Looking at and remembering all that was good about each other brought back all the feelings that had made us fall in love in the first place.

When I'm feeling out of step with God, I have found this same remedy applies. If I open my Bible and read about all the wonderful, tenderhearted things God has done for me, I can't help but love Him in return.

Lord, on this Valentine's Day, remind me to take the time to rediscover Your love in the people who are dear to me, and in Your Word.

-Dave Franco
Guideposts, 2002

Best Poem In The World

I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered Heaven's door
Not by the beauty of it all nor of the lights of it's décor.
But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp
The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.
Herb who I always thought was rotting away in Hell
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, what's the deal, I would love to hear Your take.
How'd al these sinners get up here? God must have made a mistake!
And why's everyone so quiet, so somber - give me a clue.
Hush child, He said, they're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you!

JUDGE NOT

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Sunday School @ 9:15am
Morning Worship @ 10:30am



According to legend, the first Valentine was sent in February 1415 by the English Duke of Orleans. He sent a love letter to his wife from his jail cell in the Tower of London.

The tradition of Valentine's Day cards came to America with the first settlers from England.