

# *Rittman United Methodist Church*

## **Points to Ponder - July 2010**

Volume 41 - Issue No. 7  
Chuck Kaliszewski, Pastor  
Sheila Stoll, Editor

### **Vision: Looking Ahead**



No matter how much I prepared for it, no matter how many people I spoke to about it, my ordination ceremony was indeed spirit-filled and very special and more indescribably meaningful than anticipated. It was a special blessing to have so many from my church family there with me, and so many more the following Sunday. My thanks go to all, especially to my wife Linda, who has been by my side throughout my calling and my journey - our journey really. God is truly good, and indeed blesses us greatly when we heed His call.

I know that summer has barely begun, but much like the large department stores, I can't help but look toward the fall - to our "back-to-school" season. What is exciting is that our summer promises to be full of fun and activity - we don't have to wait until the fall for the fun to begin. But we need to be intentional in taking time to make plans now for the fall as well as make sure our summer happens. And so our praise band will be practicing this summer, and our education, worship and preschool committees and our trustees will be meeting each with an eye toward the fall.

It is exciting to see so many stepping forward to help as we pull together our plans for two worship services on Sunday morning as well as re-committing ourselves to a vibrant and growing Sunday school. To be sure, our success - our faithfulness to God's calling to make followers (disciples) of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world - will take the efforts of many in our congregation. We aren't seeking volunteers - we're seeking out those who wish to be blessed in their faith journey, because giving of your time and talents will become a blessing. So be prepared to be asked to commit to at least one of several wonderful opportunities to share your blessings with others. I pray that many will not only be spiritually fed, but will also exercise their faith, as well.

"So Pastor Chuck, just what is your vision for the Rittman United Methodist Church?" To fully answer that question will require more than this column will allow. But suffice it to say that my vision is not primarily about filling the pews on Sunday morning, although I do pray that more people will come each week. My vision is more about helping those who do come on Sunday discover their Spiritual gifts and talents and to empower them to use these gifts as servants of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Volunteers give of their own time; servants serve as our Master determines.) My vision "sees" church as a verb and not a noun - church is what we do and how we live, not where we go on Sunday.

I also see the Rittman United Methodist Church as a place for people of all ages. I am excited at not only the plans we have for families of preschoolers, but also the plans we have for our seniors. I also see our church as a place for intergenerational gatherings - that's a big word to talk about how we can share with one another regardless of our age. Imagine afternoon gatherings of seniors who are assembling and delivering activity kits to nursing homes. Imagine our youth planning a mission trip for next summer. Imagine young parents being taught basic home-making skills like cooking from scratch by those who have lived through some tough economic times in years past. Imagine people of all ages using a computer lab to learn how to send an email with a picture, or talk to a distant grandchild via webcam. Imagine small groups that not only study the Bible, but who also plan and carry out service projects for those in need.

Above all, I ask you to pray - pray not only for your church, but ask God to show you how you can be His faithful servant. But be prepared for God to answer!

*God is good, all the time.*

*Pastor Chuck*

Pastor Chuck Kaliszewski was ordained as an Elder of the United Methodist Church, East Ohio Conference at Lakeside, Ohio on June 15, 2010.

At a worship service that included laying on of hands, 10 candidates were commissioned to preach God's Word. Family and friends of each candidate stood as the bishop laid his hands upon him or her. There were 6 women and 4 men ordained.

Each candidate was presented with a red stole around his or her shoulders, the color red signifying the Holy Spirit. Each stole was different in design. The stole represents the yoke of Christ.

Many people from both the South Euclid - Hillcrest United Methodist Church and Rittman United Methodist Church were present.

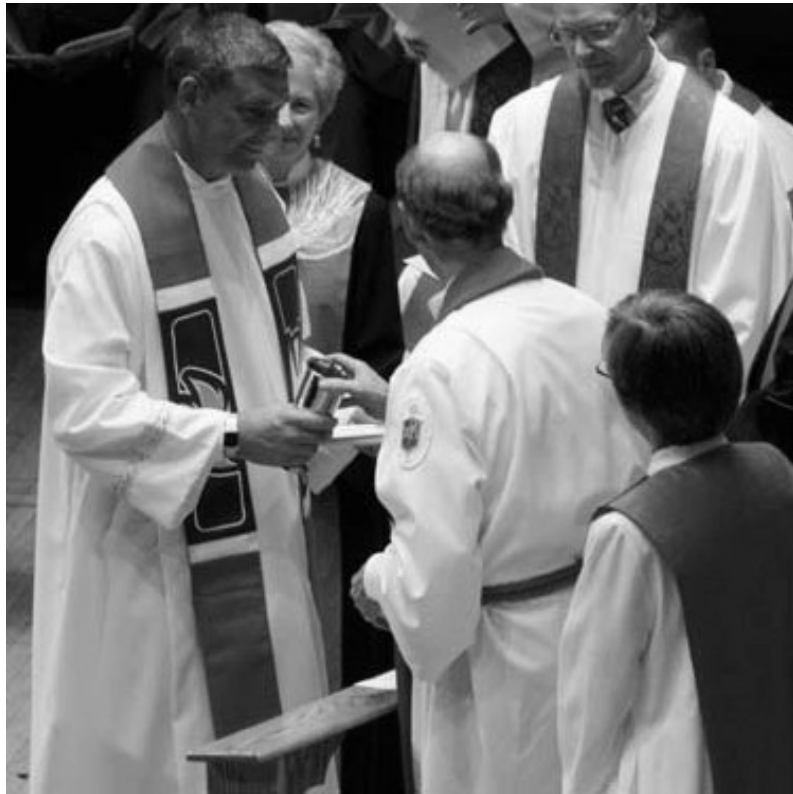
There were four major cameras shooting at different angles and presenting the service on a screen. In the close-up shots one could see the emotion on the candidates faces. One woman was moved to tears and her face almost shown with radiance. She was also seven months pregnant so this may have had something to do with her glow!

Our church held a reception after the following Sunday service.

Pastor Chuck graduated from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (Delaware, Ohio) with a Master of Divinity degree which involved three years as a full-time student. He was then commissioned as a provisional elder in 2007 which involved three years of full time service before ordination as an elder in full connection. This means that he is now authorized to do the sacraments of baptism and communion anywhere, not just in his appointed church.

Chuck felt the call of God upon his life to go into the ministry and feels that he was in particularly called to the Rittman United Methodist Church. He says that he has been blessed by all the support here and is looking forward to continued blessing as we work together for the greater glory of God and His kingdom.







## July Birthdays



<b>1st</b>	Dale Stahl Cassidy Taylor
<b>2nd</b>	Samantha Huff Eleanor Yoss
<b>6th</b>	Gregory Metzger Janice Snelgrove
<b>8th</b>	Nancy Booth
<b>9th</b>	Ed Fetter
<b>10th</b>	Matt Seiler
<b>12th</b>	Wayne Wilcox
<b>13th</b>	Tina Richards Lynn Staley
<b>15th</b>	Danny Kiefer
<b>16th</b>	Dana Dysinger
<b>18th</b>	Dave Burkhart
<b>19th</b>	Scott Adkins Fred McKenzie
<b>21st</b>	Chris Hartlaub
<b>22nd</b>	Brandy Bickel
<b>23rd</b>	Josh Carey Trevor Rastorfer Fred Winkler
<b>24th</b>	Ty Ramsier
<b>25th</b>	Jennifer Heasley Bailey Yoss
<b>27th</b>	Ruth Baker Kyle Schumacher Michael Skraba
<b>28th</b>	Irene Hopton
<b>29th</b>	Jordan Barnes
<b>30th</b>	Elaine Fetter

There were no responses to the article “Birthdays in July”, so we cannot share special birthdays and/or new births. Instead is this lovely prayer shared by Sally Schwab:

### *Today Is My Birthday, Lord*

*Of all the gifts I've received  
I hold the gift of Your Love closest to my heart.  
Of all the friends I've known,  
I cherish above all Your Friendship.  
There have been difficult days on this journey  
called Life, even sorrow.  
But You have been there for me.  
There has been joy and laughter  
and I've seen Your presence there.  
You breathed life into my soul  
and You chose me to live!  
I hope You are pleased with me.  
I ask that You forgive me when I fail You.  
Today is my birthday, Lord,  
and I offer this day to You.  
I ask only that You walk with me.  
Lead me home, O Lord,  
where I will celebrate this journey  
of friendship and love  
in the everlasting life prepared by You.  
Thank You for this birthday, Lord!*

The Lord Says: *“A new heart I give you and a new spirit I place within you. I will help you walk in My way and keep My commands.”*  
Ezekiel 36:26-27

## Celebrating

*An Anniversary This Month*

<b>1st</b>	Joe & Holly Staley
<b>11th</b>	Mike & Debbie Knapic
<b>21st</b>	Carl & Madeline Schwab OJ & Bev Thompson
<b>26th</b>	Michael & Alberta Skraba
<b>29th</b>	Butch & Nancy McMillan

*“A new command I give you: love one another as I have loved you.”* John 13:34

## **CHURCH HISTORY**

Letter from January 12, 1993:

Dear Cecil & June,

We of the Administrative Council and everyone at Rittman United Methodist Church thank you very sincerely for your generous gift of the llama rug. It is truly beautiful.

It is always gratifying to have our brothers and sisters in Christ who are self-sacrificing.

We are going to make a wall-hanging from this one, so it can be touched. Mike even suggested that he could identify with it as a quilt or coverlet, he could really cut some ZZZ's from its softness. Thank you again.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Jennie Cain  
and all of us at Rittman

## **MORE CHURCH HISTORY**

from an old newspaper clipping:

United Methodist Church - The CBMC Outreach Banquet will be held at 6:30pm at Williams Restaurant on Thursday. Chuck Noe will be the guest speaker. The Girl Scouts meet at the church at 7pm Thursday. Saturday at 6:30pm, Christ Seekers Class Party will take place in the Otterbein Class room. Sunday School begins at 9:15am with Sherri Lance the superintendant of study. The morning worship service begins at 10:30am. Pastor Seith's message will be "God's Signs for Our Lives". Scripture Lesson will be Matthew 2:1-15. The Quarterly Offering for Copeland Oaks will be taken. The Junior Youth Fellowship will meet at 6:15pm with Bill Craig.

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## **OTTERBEIN CLASS**

### **Going Back to School - School Days**

Otterbein Class met for our quarterly carry-in dinner. It's so amazing the variety of foods we share without specific planning!! It's always good and more than enough! While eating, we started on a roll about going back to school and other school stories!

In our business meeting, Audrey Winchell as president, shared some readings on fathers. Minutes were read. Since we are greeters for June, a sign-up sheet was passed around the group.

With some changes to our class social hosts, Bruce and Carol Gradwohl will host our July get together at 6:30pm on Saturday, July 10th - NOT the 3rd.

In prayer requests, we included Rita and Niles Blough and the Gulf oil spill.

Iren Hopton made a motion that we give a \$25 memorial gift to the church in memory of Mary Paulos and put her name on the back of our picture in the classroom. Audrey made the second, and it was approved.

We will be considering some other activities at our next class social on Saturday, July 10th at 6:30pm

Joanna Shankland  
Secretary

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



## **-UMW DATES-**

### **July 5**

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

### **July 6**

9:00am Beth Circle

### **July 23**

10:00am Buehler's Griller  
@ River Styx

### **July 31**

10:30am Buehler's Griller  
@ Medina

### **Dorcas Circle**

On June 6, 2010 we met in the Fellowship Room for our regular meeting at 1pm. Ruth Schumacher led us in the Apostle's Creed and UMW Purpose.

Her scripture was Deuteronomy 8:11-20 and she read devotions from the Upper Room.

Ruth reported on the May 11th Unit Meeting.

Secretary's report was read and Karen Copenhaver read the treasurer's report.

Jennie Cain read the multi-cultural report. We each shared some interesting things that happened since we last met.

We'd be glad to have you visit/join our 1pm circle anytime.

Jennie Cain  
Secretary

### **Hannah Circle**

Hannah Circle met on Monday, June 7, 2010 with seven members present.

Ruth Baker had devotions by reading scripture from Philippians followed by reading "Be Coachable" and "Just A Prayer Away". She finished with prayer.

Minutes were read and then Pauline Rastorfer gave the treasurer's report. Our offering was then taken.

Pat Seiler read "A New Player On Our Team" by Max Lucado and also read Ephesians 2:5.

Linda Kaliszewski gave our multi-cultural moment. She read "Signs Of Life". We read together our Purpose of United Methodist Women.

Our first Buehler Griller was on Saturday, June 5th. It rained and it went slow - not many tips. There were 15 people at the Unit Meeting in May. The speaker at the Copley meeting was very good.

We have 2 more Buehler Grillers left; July 23rd at River Styx from 10am - 3pm and July 31st at Wadsworth from 10:30am - 4pm.

Pat Seiler showed a spiritual/humorous video by Liz Curtis Higgs - very good.

Elaine Fetter served refreshments.

Elaine Fetter  
Secretary



**Remember to sign up for one of our Buehler Grillers. There are still a lot of empty spaces on the sign up sheets on the UMW board in the hallway. Men are welcomed to help out as well. Thanks!**

There are no crown wearers in Heaven who were not cross bearers here below, as Spurgeon points out.

Never forget Gethsemane. Never, never forget Christ abandonment. Everyone got cold feet - nowadays we call them his friends who went to hide. How human. How sad.

Jesus needed comfort from His Father. But the Father was sad also. Just imagine your dying son calling to you for comfort and you cannot look at him face to face because all the sins of the world are on him. Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

God loves us so much, that His beloved Son He gave for us. For our very soul, God went through sorrow. I have never thought of that till now.

The passion of Christ, His abandonment. When the earth got dark at 3:00 in the afternoon and the earth shook. Oh, my Jesus, my Jesus, have mercy on us and the whole world. What You have done for all of us. At this moment I steep in the passion of Christ. I ask Jesus for mercy for the whole world.

Now I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me (Galatians 2:20). God is our Father, we are His children. God wants us to go to Him on our own free will. Just like we want our son or daughter to come to us on their own free will.

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

What communion means to me is sanctification. God brings you closer to Him in holiness. Jesus is the quest of my soul. Every time I receive Holy Communion I am not worthy of receiving communion, but we can prepare ourselves in thought, word and action. We can do our best and keep ourselves in the state of holiness.

I need You every minute of my life, Lord. As poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of love, my Jesus.

May there be more prayers said in the world than sins committed - for people to hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ.

Sally Schwab  
Guest Editor

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## THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the beautiful service and for caring so much about Mary. Also for the lovely flowers and wonderful luncheon you provided.

God Bless,  
William Paulos

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If you are interested in reserving tickets for the July 24th concert at West Hill Baptist in Wooster with The Copenhavers, Soul'd Out Quartet, and Charlotte Ritchie, please call 330-786-9416. The Copenhaver's newest CD "Sunday Morning Feeling" will be available that night!! Tickets are \$10 pre-sale and \$12 at the door. Concert starts at 7pm.

## FOOD PANTRY

We need cooks for July, August and September!!

In June the Food Pantry served 88 people, 39 families and 4 new families. Meals were served and cooked by Kathy Berg and Betty Winchell. And Lisa Winchell and Wilma Baker also helped serve and washed dishes. Also, Anita Frase made desserts. Thanks everyone!



Rita and Niles Blough were missed. Rita was recovering from surgery and Niles nursing a very injured big toe. Thanks to Mark Turnbow for taking over this month.

Thanks to Pat Seiler, John and Reah Lunter, Nancy Britton, Mary Winkler, Rod Britton, Dick Gillman, Eleanor Winkler, Scott Turnbow and Sheila Stoll. If you would like to help out one of these months, tell one of these people listed above that you would like to take their place and give them a rest.

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## Book Club

You're invited to join us the fourth Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m., as we discuss our book of the month. Come as often you like - no attendance taken!



July - Who Stole My Church by Gordon MacDonald  
August - Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall  
September - Walking on Broken Glass by Christa Allan  
October - They Almost Always Come Home by Cynthia Ruchti  
November - Finding Father Christmas by Robin Jones Gunn

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If you have items for the August issue of Points to Ponder, please have them in the church office by Friday, July 23rd.



## **A WOMAN'S WEEK AT THE GYM**

Dear Diary,

For my birthday this year, my husband (the little dear) purchased a week of personal training at the local health club for me.

Although I am still in great shape since being a high school football cheerleader 43 years ago, I decided it would be a good idea to go ahead and give it a try.

I called the club and made my reservations with a personal trainer named Christo, who identified himself as a 26 year-old aerobics instructor and model for athletic clothing and swim wear.

My husband seemed pleased with my enthusiasm to get started! The club encouraged me to keep a diary to chart my progress.

**MONDAY:** Started my day at 6am. Tough to get out of bed, but found it was well worth it when I arrived at the health club to find Christo waiting for me. He is something of a Greek god - blond hair, dancing eyes and a dazzling white smile. Woo Hoo!

Christo gave me a tour and showed me the machines. I enjoyed watching the skillful way in which he conducted his aerobics class after my workout today. Very inspiring!

Christo was encouraging as I did sit-ups, although my gut was already aching from holding it in the whole time he was around. This is going to be a FANTASTIC week!!

**TUESDAY:** I drank a whole pot of coffee, but I finally made it out the door. Christo made me lie on my back and push a heavy iron bar into the air, then he put weights on it! My legs were a little wobbly on the treadmill, but I made the full mile. His rewarding smile made it all worthwhile. I feel GREAT!! It's a whole new life for me.

**WEDNESDAY:** The only way I can brush my teeth is by laying the toothbrush on the counter and moving my mouth back and forth over it. I believe I have a hernia in both pectorals. Driving was okay as long as I didn't try to steer or stop. I parked on top of a GEO in the club parking lot.

Christo was impatient with me, insisting that my screams bothered the other club members. His voice is a little too perky for that early in the morning and when he scolds, he gets this nasally whine that is VERY annoying.

My chest hurt when I got on the treadmill, so Christo put me on the stair monster. Why would anyone invent a machine to simulate an activity rendered obsolete by elevators? Christo told me it would help me get in shape and enjoy life. He said some other bogus stuff too.

**THURSDAY:** He was waiting for me with his vampire-like teeth exposed as his thin, cruel lips were pulled back in a full snarl. I couldn't help being a half hour late - it took me that long to tie my shoes.

He took me to work out with dumbbells. When he was not looking, I ran and hid in the restroom. He sent some skinny bimbo to find me. Then as punishment, he put me on the rowing machine - which I sank!

**FRIDAY:** I hate that Christo more than any human being has ever hated any other human being in the history of the world. Stupid, skinny, anemic, anorexic little aerobics instructor. If there was a part of my body I could move without unbearable pain, I would beat him with it.

Christo wanted me to work on my triceps. I don't have any triceps! And if you don't want dents in the floor, don't hand me the barbells or anything else that weighs more than a sandwich.

The treadmill flung me off and I landed on a health and nutrition teacher. Why couldn't it have been someone softer, like a drama coach or the choir director?

**SATURDAY:** Satan left a message on my answering machine in his grating, shrilly voice wondering why I did not show up today. Just hearing his voice made me want to smash the machine with my planner; however, I lacked the strength to even use the TV remote and ended up catching eleven straight hours of the Weather Channel.



## **POINTS to PONDER**

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211 North Metzger Avenue  
Rittman, OH 44270

Vol. 41 No. 7

**Chuck Kaliszewski, Pastor**  
pastor@rittmanumc.org

www.rittmanumc.org  
info@rittmanumc.org

Prayer Connexions @ 8:00am  
Sunday School @ 9:15am  
Morning Worship @ 10:30am



## **AMERICA**



Our fathers' God, to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King.