

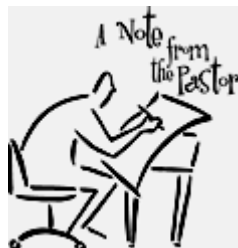
Rittman United Methodist Church

Points to Ponder

Volume 41 - Issue No. 3
Chuck Kaliszewski, Pastor
Sheila Stoll, Editor

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

Winston Churchill



Our Journey Continues

This Lenten season we are on a journey - a Journey to Hope. We have turned our faces toward Jerusalem with Christ. Being Easter people, we know the path leads to the cross and this is a difficult journey. But we also know that the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross was necessary, and we are assured of our final victory of everlasting life because of God's actions on that first Easter morning - He is alive! And so we join Jesus to find hope even amid challenge. I want to thank those who were with us on Ash Wednesday as we took our first steps on our journey.

I also want to thank everyone who is participating in our church-wide 7-week video-based Lenten study called "24 Hours That Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton. Since there's no required homework and each session stands on its own, I want to encourage those who were not able to attend our first session to sit in on at least one lesson as we look at the key events of the last day of Jesus' life. We began with the Last Supper, and we will pass through the Garden of Gethsemane to His trial and crucifixion, and end On Easter morning with Christ the Victor. You can attend at either 9:15 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

* * * * *

As I write this column, I am just days away from my day-long interview with the East Ohio Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for approval for full ordination at Annual Conference this June. I am very thankful for the prayers and the notes of encouragement I have received from all of you. I am confident that we will celebrate the results together. My confidence is based on knowing that God has called us together here in Rittman and He expects us to help Him do some pretty amazing things. Now I realize that God will do what God will do with or without me - He is an Awesome God. But isn't it humbling to realize that God invites us to share in His work, in His new creation? Notice that I said "us" - God wants all of us to work together, each using our unique gifts and talents - like the many parts of a body work together.

I've been thinking and praying long and hard this week about how I will answer the question, "So how's it going in Rittman?" How would you answer this question? As I look back at this past year together, I can honestly say we've seen God do some amazing things here. But I am also reminded of the passage in Matthew's gospel where Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matt 9:37-38) There is so much more to do here; so many more people to reach who need to connect to God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Are you willing to do your part?

May God bless you and keep you always.

Pastor Chuck

Holy Week Events

March 28th - Palm Sunday

April 1st - Maundy Thursday

Seder Meal @ 6pm

(This is a wonderful, interesting event. Come and be prepared for a trip back in time.)

April 2nd - 7pm Good Friday Service

April 4th - 7am Easter Sunrise @ Knupp Church

April 4th - Easter Sunday Celebration

Sunday School

"24 Hours That Changed The World" by Adam Hamilton - a Bible based Lenten study. Sundays, February 21 - April 4, 2010 at 9:30am and 7:00pm. Part video and part conversation, no homework and no study book. Each session is independent - miss one, pick up the next Sunday - no problem

Brenda Cook
S.S. Superintendant

February Food Pantry

97 people, 42 families including 13 new people were given food on Wednesday, February 17th.

Many enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Heather & Brett Richards and Dawn Hennie - pasta, garlic bread, salad loaded with vegetables, apple sauce, brownies & cookies.

Workers were Eleanor Winkler, Pat & Ed Seiler, Marilyn Hofacre, Nancy McMillan, John & Reah Lunter, Judy Britton, Mary Winkler, Rita & Niles Blough, Betty Winchell, Kathy Berg and Sheila Stoll. It takes a lot of volunteers to keep this helpful ministry going.

Your help is needed. These volunteers cannot always help each month. John Lunter is cooking on March 17th - can you help? Let John or Niles & Rita know. Thanks so much!

The pantry is bare. Lots of supplies are needed. These next few Sundays will be Health Supply Collection time. Just bring your donations and put in the Social Hall on a table - suggestions are: bar soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, toilet paper, paper towels, detergent, dish soap.

Coffee is always appreciated.

Thanks so much!!

WHEN GOD SAYS NO

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said, No

It is not for me to take away, but for you to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, No

His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, No

Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, No

I give you blessings; happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, No

Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, No

You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, No

I will give you life, so you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

*"To the world you might be one person,
But to one person you might just be the world"*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



-UMW

DATES-

March 1

1:00pm Dorcas Circle

7:00pm Hannah Circle

March 2

9:00am Beth Circle

Dorcas Circle

We met at 1pm in the Fellowship Room. Ruth Schumacher led in UMW Purpose and Apostle's Creed. She read a prayer.

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

Ruth's devotions were from the Guidepost "God's Promise" and scripture was I John 4:7-8, 4:11-13 and 3:4-21. She read from "Chicken Soup For The Soul". She prayed for each of us individually.

We sang "Love Divine All Love Excelling". Ruth's program was "For The Love Of God from John's Letters". We sang "Love Lifted Me". We each brought pictures of who/what we love in honor of Valentine's Day.

Ruth served delicious refreshments.

Jennie Cain
Secretary

Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle met at the church on Monday, February 1, 2010 with eight members present. Audrey took the roll call.

Ruth had devotions: 1st Part - "Ways Of The Holy Spirit" Romans 5:5; 2nd Part - "Essentials Of The Christian Faith" Colossians 1:27. She closed with prayer.

Pat read "God's Plan For The Journey Of Life". We read together "Purpose Of

United Methodist Women". Anne read the cultural moments "Survivors Of Typhoons In The Philippines". For March 7th, we need 3 people to bake corn bread for the Self Denial Dinner. Linda Kaliszewski and Eileen Williams volunteered to bake a 9x13 pan each. United Methodist Women Sunday will be April 11th. Rev. Dulin will be our speaker.

Ruth was our program leader. She opened with prayer. Title "For The Love Of God". Pat, Linda, Anne, Pauline, and Eleanor Yoss had reading parts. Each one had a 3x5 card to fill out with 2 questions to answer: 1. How does our unit of United Methodist Women help me know God's love. 2. How could our unit of United Methodist Women do a better job of helping me and others to know God's love. When we finished, we changed cards with each other, then read the answers out loud. We had some very good answers. Everyone sang together "God Be With You Till We Meet Again". We closed in unity prayer.

Anne served delicious desserts and refreshments.

Audrey Winchell
Assistant Secretary

More History

The EUB Church celebrated the 50th anniversary of the building on Main Street on March 11, 1959.

The church bell (which is on the lawn) was a gift of D.E. Spade, one of the chief people to build the church.

The average Sunday School attendance in 1926 was 200. By 1931 it was 246. On Easter Sunday 1932 there were 337 in attendance. Thus the need for the new addition of 32'x38' I spoke of last time.

On October 3, 1943, a candle was lit by Bishop Arthur Clippinger who handed it to Rev. Price who handed it to Walter Shook, president of the Trustees who burned the mortgage on a tray that can be seen in our present library.

Jennie Cain

The Saints/Our Members

Sheila Stoll and I thought it would be interesting to get a little personal glimpse into the lives of our members. She has previously interviewed and written about Wanda Fawcett and Stan Moran has had some of his story in a previous issue. Yesterday I had the privilege and delight of talking with Ruth Schumacher.

Ruth was born in a house a few miles from Sterling on Route 1, Creston. Like other people of that day, she was literally born in that house. Women had their babies at home back then, not in hospitals. Her father was English and her mother Irish. She was the oldest of three children, followed by two younger brothers.

Growing up there were lots of children in the neighborhood and she had lots of friends. She grew up on Salt Street in Rittman and it looked a lot different than it does today. Since there was no television back then (not to mention VCR, DVD, computers or X-box, etc.) the children spent hours playing games such as hide and seek, kick the can and hopscotch outdoors. She also enjoyed roller skating on metal skates that fit on the bottom of your foot and had a key to operate them.

Ruth attended Rittman schools for nine years and then her parents moved and she graduated as valedictorian from Smithville High School. Her parents weren't church people, but she and her cousin, Joy, would walk to Grace Brethren Church in Rittman. At 12 years old they both felt the call of the Lord on their lives and walked down the aisle to surrender their lives to Christ. Tears flowed as she felt the emotional cleansing of the moment. She credits her Sunday School teacher for being an inspiration that moved her to accept Christ.

When asked how life was different then, Ruth said there was no bullying when she was in school, and girls never smoked or got pregnant in high school. She had chores to do at home including the dishes and keeping her room clean. She liked learning to iron and was tickled to progress from handkerchiefs to pillow slips to clothes. As she mentioned, nowadays some people don't even own an iron! Life seemed simpler then, there were not so many activities to be running to and from. Many mothers were always at home. Her mom and dad worked at RC Can Company. They made containers for the salt company. She remembers her mother coming home at noon and would have to wash the glue off her fingers before she prepared lunch. That was back during the depression years.

Ruth's first job was cleaning offices on Saturdays while in the 8th grade. She dusted, cleaned linoleum floors and the stairs for C.E. Rhomemus. After work, she would run right to the bank to deposit her money earned. She also worked for Joe Sparks Grocery Store where they were allowed to eat anything there for supper. The shoppers would give them their shopping list and the workers would pick up the groceries for them. The owners of the store would also deliver big orders for a boarding house. Ruth and her cousin, Joy, worked at Cleveland Graphite Bronze after graduating from high school. They lived with an aunt and uncle and rode streetcars to work.

After World War II was over she married a returning soldier named Marion Bechtel on June 30, 1946. He had served in the war for three years driving heavy equipment and earned a purple heart, bronze star and other medals which Ruth has displayed in her home. Marion and Ruth had two children, Harvey, born in 1949 and Bruce, born in 1954. Marion died in 1965 in an accident while operating a shovel at work. Ruth was 39 at the time. Harvey now lives in Doylestown where he is a sergeant in the police force of Norton. Bruce lives in Texas and does maintenance work.

Ruth worked in the storeroom at The Boxboard and after the two boys came home, she was in the office. She worked with a lady named Pearl and stood up at her wedding to a gentleman named Jack at a church in Wadsworth. Pearl later succumbed to mental illness. Ruth and Jack were in the same Sunday School class and following his divorce began to see each other. Ruth and Jack were married in 1977 and Jack had two adult children, Ted and Carolyn. Ted is a campus missionary at Kent State University and Carolyn passed away in 2008 of liver disease. Jack had passed away in 1995 following a disease that in the end limited him to a wheelchair. He had been the Points to Ponder editor for many years.

While sitting at the kitchen table I glanced up and noticed little pitchers lining the top of the kitchen shelves. I couldn't help asking Ruth if she cleaned them frequently. Much to my relief, she said not THAT often! She has been collecting little pitchers since 1968, for 42 years! Many of them are gifts from people. Some friends would purchase them for her when they traveled. She has pitchers from Lovina Orr, a former member of our church and from Pauling Rastorfer and Anita Frase, present members of our church. She has a pitcher from Canada and one from Germany.

When asked how she came to belong to this church, she said she was living on "old 224" at the time and joined the Evangelical United Brethren Church and was married in that church. That denomination later merged with The United Methodist Church. The present church building was built when Rev. Donaldson was pastor.

Her favorite scripture verse is Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. Her favorite hymn is "Pass It On" sometimes called "It Only Takes A Spark". Ruth's birthday is January 24th.

Mary Winkler

The Copenhavers will be in concert along with Michael Wayne Smith of Nashville, Tennessee on March 13th at 6pm at the Canaan Lutheran Church on Friendsville Road in Creston. A free-will love offering will be taken. For more information, call Karen at the church office - 330-925-4015.



**Sunday,
March 14th
Daylight
Saving
Time
Begins**

March Birthdays



2nd	Ruth Lance Stephanie Smith
3rd	Doug Hahn
4th	George Rastorfer Vernon Winchell
5th	Kathryn Crawford
6th	Emily Peresie
7th	Jan Heasley
8th	Joanna Forrer
14th	Emily Adkins
15th	Dave Williams
16th	Bill Hopton
17th	Kelly Stromack
19th	Derek Crawford
20th	Dorothy Gamble Sarah Parker Betsy Ullman
22nd	Michael Adkins Wilma Baker
25th	Lester Boreman
27th	Judy Britton Ed Seiler
30th	Bonnie Floyd Beth Steiner
31st	Laura Cook

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

4th	Nikola & Sofija Atanasov
5th	Ted & Melanie Schumacher
11th	Chuck & Linda Kaliszewski
22nd	Chris & Nicole Hamilton

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is like the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.

Mark Twain

PRESCHOOL

On March 4th, the Illusion Factory will present the play, "If You Take A Mouse To School". The play will be held in the Social Hall at 9:30am. The congregation is invited to attend. A donation of \$2 each would be appreciated

Registrations for the 2010-2011 school year are now available.

Who is Wayne?

Wayne Wilcox is the son of Butch & Nancy McMillan. He has been a diabetic since he was 16 years old - now he's 41. He is also a fireman for Rittman.

In 2006 he went on dialysis. He has been on the donor list since last fall and got his kidney and pancreas on November 6th.

We are so happy and thank you for your prayers you asked on our behalf. What a load has been taken away for all of this family.

In God's Love,
Nancy & Family

A man was marooned on an island by himself for 35 years. Finally a boat came and he was rescued. As he was standing on the boat looking back at the island his rescuer asked, "What are those 3 huts for?" The island man said, "The hut in the middle is my house and the hut on the right is my church". He was then asked about the hut on the left side and he said, "Oh, that's the church



WOMEN'S CONNEXIONS

It's time for some laughter and fellowship for the ladies!! Come join us as we gather to eat some appetizers and play some games and get to know one another better at our Game Night on Saturday March 13th at 7pm. We will begin with a devotion and move into some fun times as we play games and have some friendly competition!! Sign up today and remember to bring a friend and an appetizer to share!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday April 24th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for our Women's Retreat at RUMC! Our guest speaker will be Ruthann Bosley and we are looking forward to hearing how the Lord is going to speak through her!! Look for sign-ups coming soon!!

Calling all Jr. High and Sr. High Youth

Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 for Youth Group. We get together and play games, eat food and have some great discussion. We are also hoping to get some special events planned out for the upcoming months so keep an eye on the calendars posted outside the room for details.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Women's Spring Prayer Breakfast



Blessed Assurance

Music and Drama by Raylene Hlaverty
(as Fanny Crosby)

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010 8:30 -10:30 A.M.
BUFFET BREAKFAST \$10

REGISTER BY Saturday MARCH 13
(See Pat Seiler for Registration Form)

Das Dutch Kitchen Dalton, Ohio

For registration information call Marilyn Mokma at 330-264-7573

POINTS to PONDER

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211 North Metzger Avenue
Rittman, OH 44270

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Chuck Kaliszewski, Pastor
pastor@rittmanumc.org

www.rittmanumc.org
info@rittmanumc.org

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



We Need Each Other

But now there are many members, but one body.

I Corinthians 12:20

Nobody is a whole chain. Each one is a link. But take away one link and the chain is broken.

Nobody is a whole team. Each one is a player. But take away one player and the game is forfeited.

Nobody is a whole orchestra. Each one is a musician. But take away one musician and the symphony is incomplete.

You guessed it. We need each other. You need someone and someone needs you. Isolated islands we're not.

To make this thing called life work, we've got to lean and support. And relate and respond. And give and take. And confess and forgive. And reach out and embrace.