



LEWISBURG UNITED METHODIST Church

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Lewisburg United Methodist Church Newsletter

July 2009

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RENEW YOUR WEDDING VOWS



As the last major event Pastor Mike would like to have, we are scheduling a mass renewing of marriage vows on Saturday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m. here in the church, with a big wedding reception afterwards. Every couple who participates will receive a marriage reaffirmation certificate and a DVD copy of the movie, Fireproof (with a special label signifying the event). Let the church office know right away of your desire. Special gifts to renewing couples can be made in the form of a contribution to the church for debt reduction. [If you can supply a wedding photo, please bring it to the office ASAP.]

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FROM THE PASTOR



ANOTHER VIEW FROM MT. NEBO

I've been thinking a lot about Moses these days. He led a great family after God's anointing. They left old, familiar places and were led by God on quite a journey together. God never failed them, doing some of the most spectacular things ever known and witnessed by the people. Leaders rose up. Children were born. Covenants were made. A generation died. And God's promises of a new day and of a land flowing with milk and honey were always before them.

But Moses' days with the people came to an end. He knew he had been a part of a great landscape of faith. God then led Moses up on Mount Nebo and allowed him to see glimpses of the future that would be given to the next servant, Joshua. "I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there," said

the Lord (Deuteronomy 34:4). And it was quite a sight!

After our VBS picnic on Friday, July 10, after everyone had left and I was putting out the campfire, I made my way back to the area which will be our Chapel in the Woods some day. I stood behind the pulpit made from a sturdy tree stump and read from Psalm 24 as the sun was setting behind me. "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it..."

I could see the chapel in its completed form. Hungry people were coming to worship. The birds of the air and the people of God were in perfect harmony.

I looked back across the field and saw little ones coming to our own Christian Pre-school. I could hear people shouting God's praises from both of our old church buildings in town. Our parking lot was brimming with people walking out into their personal mission fields. It was quite a sight!

Sadly, I knew I couldn't be a part of it, but it was O.K. There was an anointed Joshua smiling at the helm. I thanked God and sang the rest of the Psalm: "Lift up your heads, O gates, that the King of glory may come in" (24:9).

Know that God's grace will sustain you in everything, and that the King of glory is already in our tomorrows. We love you dearly.

Pastor Mike and Diane

RIDE WITH ROY AT DERBY DAYS



Pastor Roy will be making a special trip to Lewisburg on Saturday, August 15, to experience Derby Days. What a great opportunity for him to be introduced to our extended community! He'll be able to hang out at our R & R Tent (rest and refreshments) and ride in our Derby Days float in the morning. The last two years we have "stole the show" by being awarded the best float in the parade. Who can forget Jerry Gross with his staff leading the way last year as the legendary figure in our Noah's Ark entry? Well maybe little Brady Lock would like to (scared to death when Jerry took his teeth out and touched the tip of his nose with his tongue... just as he imagined Noah doing).

PRAY FOR THIS YEAR'S YOUTH MISSION TEAM

17 people make up this year's Student Life Mission Camp team. The group heads to Wheaton College (southwest of Chicago) on July 20. This group is joining a great legacy of faith at Wheaton that includes alumnus Billy Graham. Our team includes Sara Bierly, Cody & Emily Broughton, Shelby Eby, Kyle Gebhart, Lindsey Hartley, Josh Heltsley, Dylan Hemmerich, Brooklynn Lock, Sara Millhouse, Blake Thompson, Xara Velasquez, and staff Lyna Timmons, Ryan Gebhart, Melora & Whitt Waltman, and Pastor Mike. Follow their "Walk with Christ" through daily postings at our web site www.lewisburgumc.org. The Youth Fellowship group will provide Christ testimony in word and song during the worship service of July 26.

MEET THE NEW PASTOR



Pastor Roy Mitchell, his wife Melissa, and his children Ryan & Lily will be here before we know it! Pastor Roy's first day in the pulpit will be August 30. The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee would like to arrange a series of in-home meetings shortly after their arrival.

These informal meetings will take place in church member's homes and only last 90 minutes or so. Each group would be around 12 people, not including the Mitchell's. We will probably need to have around 15 to 20 of these meetings to adequately cover the congregation. If you would like to

host one of the meetings, but don't feel like you have the room, the church café could be an option.

The S/PPRC needs all church families to prayerfully consider being a "host family" and open your doors for these important meetings during October and November. Once the host families have been identified we will start registration for the meetings. The host families will determine the specific date, time, and refreshments.

This is an exciting time and a great opportunity to welcome the Mitchell's!! Having the opportunity to meet them on a personal level will help them, and us, continue to grow as a close and loving church family.

For more information or to register as a host family, please feel free to contact me.

Amy St. John, Chairperson,
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee
937-839-4556
momstuhjohn@woh.rr.com

A POWERFUL TESTIMONY FROM LARRY SMITH



On Sunday, July 19, Larry Smith joined Pastor Mike on stage to tell his faith story and play the harmonica. We learned that Larry had run in the Boston Marathon and at 71 still runs eight miles a day on his treadmill at home. He was an x-ray technician at Grandview Hospital for 40 years and a life-long Christian, having been active at Dayton Baptist Temple and now at Mt. Zion Church in Beavercreek where he sings in the choir. We learned that Larry was raised in an orphanage in Marion, Ohio, has never married, and has been an inspiration to Pastor Mike who has watched him "in action" at the Downtown Dayton YMCA for 45 years. Amazingly, Larry is

blind, but sees Christ oh so clearly.

OUR EASTER OFFERING WENT TO HEIFER INTERNATIONAL



Praise be to God for the 37 people (and at least 3 anonymous givers) who chose to make a special gift at Easter time to help families across the world become self-sufficient. Heifer International received a check from us for \$1,158.00 (our children are still collecting for a sheep to be sent to a family in an impoverished country).

"KROGERING" FOR THE CHURCH IS PAYING OFF



Remember that one of the easiest forms of supporting the church is to shop at Kroger using one of our gift cards. See Jack Deem, Jim Yount, or the church office if you need a gift card or clarification on how to use them. We get 4 cents on the dollar as you load your gift card. Get a card for family and friends, even if they're out-of-state. Our last monthly check was for \$527.08.

JOIN THE EFFORT TO HELP KIDS IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY



The United Methodist Women, in cooperation with the Lewisburg Area Council of Churches and the United Way, are collecting school supplies to fill backpacks for the needy children of our community. Each church in the LACC is responsible for collecting different items needed for each backpack. Our church has been asked to collect 70-page notebooks and packs of loose leaf notebook paper (if you have already purchased other supplies, still bring them to church, because they will be used). Look for the collection boxes on the table in the café and remember to bring your donation to church by Sunday, August 9 (the backpacks will be assembled that afternoon).

TELL OTHERS ABOUT CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



How awesome to play a pivotal role in helping to launch a new church! We are entering into a covenant relationship with Rev. Charlie Rhinehart, who will be the Pastor of Cornerstone COB at our old church building (the corner of West Dayton & Main Streets). Their first worship service will be Sunday, September 27 at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Mike introduced his new pastor-brother during his sermon at the July 12 Community Outdoor Worship Service, saying, "There is plenty of room at God's table for you, Charlie. If there would be six more congregations in town, most of Lewisburg would still be unchurched." Pastor Charlie and his wife, Kathy, recently wrote: "The call of the Lord to launch a new church is one of the most frightening and rewarding callings that God makes to His children." Tell others about this beautiful new church family...and pray for them.

PASTOR ROY WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 30



As Pastor Mike has described, Pastor Roy is the Joshua that the Lord has sent us to cross over into the new day ahead. What an initiation he received when agreeing to take his first pie-in-the-face at the church picnic of June 28 (pictures are available)! Together he and Pastor Mike generated \$700 for the current Youth Mission Trip. On August 30 Pastor Roy will preach on "We Are the Vineyard" (John 15:1-8), looking at what it means to live as the branches of Christ, the vine, and what the church would look like if it embraced this model for its corporate life. During the four Sundays of September he would like to have 2-3 minute recorded "I Like Mike" ministry moments, where people tell how Pastor Mike has strengthened their faith by helping them grow closer to God.

PASTOR MIKE & DIANE'S
LAST SUNDAY IS AUGUST
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Don't miss this eventful Sunday as we say good-bye to Pastor Mike and Diane after 10 years with us. As most know, they will begin serving Bethel UMC (1220 Bethel Road in Columbus) on September 1. There will be a carry-in dinner reception following the 10:00 service (the stage voice of Pastor Mike & Diane's long-time friend, Sherri Sutter, will be the special music for the morning).

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER

We have set aside September 23-26 for our latest church pictorial directory. It has been three years since our last one and many new faces are a part of our congregation. Not only is an updated directory a great evangelistic tool, but by scheduling this in early fall Pastor Roy Mitchell and his family will be helped in getting to know each of us. Over the summer you will have opportunities to schedule your family photo to be included in a directory that will have some of the latest technological features. Call the church office or contact our coordinators, Carol June and Whitt Waltman for more information

MISSION TEAMS HAPPENINGS

On Tuesday, July 8, we served lunch at the urban mission site of the East Dayton St. Paul UMC. This is a very rewarding opportunity for many of our church members, and it costs us no money from our budget (donations and volunteers). The next opportunity to experience this wonderfully spiritual event will be on Tuesday, September 22. If you are not available on Tuesday to help serve, food preparation takes place the day before.

Important Mission Team dates to remember:

July 20 (7:00 p.m.) - Mission Team Meeting

August 29 (2:00-4:00 p.m.) - Manorview Carnival (entire church is invited)

November 22 - 29, 2009 - Thanks-Living Cruise

December 6 (2:00-4:00 p.m.) - Manorview Christmas Party

PREBLE COUNTY WOMEN'S SHELTER NEEDS

Our Mission Team has learned that the Women's Shelter is currently at capacity. They are in desperate need of many items, which we will be collecting through the month of July. We are requesting that you bring items each time you come to church and place them in the bin that is marked "PREBLE COUNTY WOMEN'S SHELTER." Items needed while the women are at the shelter are: small bottles of hair care products · various sizes of diapers · body soap & lotion · cleaning supplies · toilet paper · paper towels. Items needed that can be sent home with them: gently used bedding · towels & wash cloths · household items. If you have any questions please contact Mary Morrow (902-1201), Joanne Whipp (962-2528), or Linda Creech (962-2237).

SATURDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY GROUP



The Saturday Night Bible Study Group has been going strong for almost three years. We meet on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for food, fellowship, and learning. We welcome anyone who would like to join. We are currently studying "Laugh Again: Experience Outrageous Joy" by Charles Swindoll. Feel free to join us. If you are interested, please contact Ken and Mary Morrow at (937) 687-1415.

PASTOR VAL TO PREACH ON AUGUST 23



Pastor Val will conclude Pastor Mike's last sermon series on What Makes Us United Methodists by fielding questions from the congregation. She is richly qualified to help us understand who we are in this landscape of faith, having served as Associate Pastor at Community UMC in Brookville and at Sulphur Grove UMC in Huber Heights before becoming the Pastor at nearby Ware's Chapel UMC. Although music has always been apart of her life (B. Music from WSU in 1973), she spent a number of years in public service, part of which was at the Montgomery County Jail. She has done graduate work in counseling at WSU and received her Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in 1996. She also served for many years as the Director of Music at Englewood UMC.

OTTERBEIN HOMES ANNUAL FISH FRY SATURDAY, JULY 25



They say there's "nothing fishy" about Otterbein Lebanon's 41st annual Fish Fry, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 25. Besides the excellent fish dinner with all the fixings, it's your chance to tour the grounds, enjoy great music, visit with local artists and authors, and experience the Spirit of Otterbein.

THE "OTHER" SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Yes there are two adult Sunday School classes. They meet next to each other just down the hallway from the Kitchen. All adults are invited to attend either class. The "Other" class has many lively discussions and Bible study. Please stop by and join us. We would love to have you visit us. For more information, please contact Ken and Mary Morrow at (937) 687-1415.

"THANK YOU"



I would like to thank all of the church people who sent cards. I enjoyed them all. Also, I would like to thank Jacki Gross for the lovely purple hanging basket of flowers. Also, I would like to thank Pastor Mike for the book, *When God Winks at You*. I really enjoyed reading it.

Blessings . . . Love Janice [Harmon]

A big thank you to all that have participated in the "Adopt-a-Flower-Garden" project. The flower and herb gardens are thriving. We still have a few spots left if you'd still like to help us beautify our church.

"Growing" in Christ . . . Rosemary Meinking

I wanted to take just a moment to thank everyone for their wonderful hospitality and kindness to us over the weekend of June 28 (excluding the whole pie thing, ha-ha). What a truly joyous weekend! From Mike and Diane opening their home and hearts to us once again and allowing us to invade their space, and the wonderful bag of goodies they gave to our children; to meeting and chatting with your oldest member, Beryl Surber; to being greeted first thing by Don and Joanne Whipp and allowing us to wander in the church building alone (we did not take a thing . . . ok a church brochure but that does not count); to the nice reception and the wonderful cake; to Terry and Janet Richards for the ordination card; to whoever made the homemade chocolate chip cookies for the picnic (you may not have made them just for me, but I will pretend that you did); to being treated to lunch by Dave Rankin; to Pat and Lyna and the youth who included me in on the fun of the pie-in-the-face auction; to being involved in the dedication of the "chapel in the woods"-it truly was a warm welcome. I look forward to getting to know each of you better, and serving in ministry together with you. Thanks again!

Grace and Peace . . . Roy Mitchell

Sincerely,



Your family in Christ
Lewisburg United Methodist Church
www.lewisburgumc.org

SNIFF 'N SNIP AT OUR CHURCH'S HERB GARDEN



The herbs in the herb garden bed (closest to the front entrance) are ready for harvesting . . . a little at a time. Everyone is invited to snip some fresh herbs for use in their kitchen. There is fresh "parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme." Also a salad greens section of green onions, mint, oregano, chives, tarragon, dill, etc. Check it out! and thank the herb gardeners: Jane Baker, Jack Deem, Wendy Espey, Frances Mehl, and Kanny & Linda Schlotterbeck.

"THANKS-LIVING" CARIBBEAN CRUISE



Our West Ohio Conference is promoting a special 7-day (Nov. 22 to Nov. 29, 2009) Thanks-Living Caribbean cruise, which will feature a stop-over in Belize that our own Dave Rankin will lead. Other port stops will be in Santo Tomas de Castilla, Guatemala and Costa Maya, Mexico (leaving from Tampa). This is a cruise that hopes to stimulate interest in global mission work. See Dave about this exciting trip. Posters and fliers are within the church.