

# The Parish Portrait

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 2010

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Church family,

I would like take this opportunity to thank you for the generous response to the crisis in Haiti. As of Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> we have raised as a church family close to \$1700 to be sent to UMCOR in response to the Earthquake.

I also wanted to share with you the following letter written by our West Ohio Conference Bishop, Bruce Ough as he addresses the crisis in Haiti. May the Lord continue to bless us to serve as blessings to those suffering in Haiti and around the world.

Yours in Christ,

*Greg*



## Letter from Bishop Ough

Dear Clergy and Laity of the West Ohio Conference,

*The Lord is near to the broken hearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.*

*Psalms 34:18*

The people of Haiti are devastated. They are broken in heart and body. Port au Prince and surrounding communities lie in ruins. Tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of people are dead, with hunger, thirst and disease yet to take their toll. In an instant, the earthquake inflicted unimaginable suffering that will persist for years. We are sickened and baffled by the enormity and severity of the destruction. The people of Haiti, and we, are crushed in spirit.

Among those who have died are Rev. Sam Dixon, top executive of our own United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Rev. Clint Rabb, head of our denomination's Volunteers in Mission (VIM) program. Their families, the General Board of Global Ministries, and we, are crushed in spirit.

In the midst of all that seems hopeless, all that is uncertain, all that is destroyed, I rejoice that God's loving, redemptive presence prevails. The prophet Isaiah's strong voice is a source of comfort:

*The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

*Isaiah 40:8*

I encourage all of us to hold fast to this eternal absolute.

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## **United Methodist Women**

The February UMW Program is as follows:

Program: Building and Experiencing Community in New Ways (Guest Speaker) 7:00PM

Program Leader: Mary Ann Hall

Greeters: Cindy Mollenkopf, Mary Ann Hall

Hostess: Mary Ann Hall

## **Mission Committee**

Dinner this year will be held on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup>. Serving time is 11:15am to 12:30pm. The money raised will go to the mission team for use on their mission trip. There will be a free will offering and the dinner entrees will be pork loin, chicken breast, potato, vegetable, desert and drink. The Mission team will be off to Biloxi, MS on Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup> and return on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in more information or to express interest in going, please contact Dick Miller or Jon Hall.

## **Joyful Noise**

Practice is held Wednesdays after school. Transportation and snack provided. Joyful Noise practice will resume Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Administrative Board**

Beginning in January, meetings are held the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. .Administrative Board Chairman, Rick Mollenkopf

The administrative board would like to invite all to attend. We are deciding on the direction of many important issues that face our church family. We would love to have input from everyone.

## **Trustees**

Trustees meet every third Thursday of each month in the Adult Fellowship Class Room. 2009 - Glenn Gehres, Randy Bullinger, Marilyn Elder 2010 - Jeff Gleckler, Nikki Beougher, Ted Kiehl

Contact chairman, Ted Kiehl for more information

## **Christian Education**

Convoy United Methodist Church Sunday School classes recently collected items and were able to send 8 large flat rate boxes for the Adopt-A-Platoon program. The program matches active platoons serving overseas with interested groups or individuals.

We have included the letter and a picture from our platoon in Iraq who received our donations. See attached letter from SSG Jim Freund, US Army.

## **Youth Group**

The UMYF, we will be getting together sometime in February. We will be trying to schedule a trip to Pokagon State Park in Indiana to toboggan. The date is TBA. If it is not possible to schedule a date for tobogganing, we will have game night at the Leary's. We will also brainstorm to come up with some fun and service events for the rest of the year.

## **Food Pantry**

Items that are needed are laundry soap, paper products, shampoo, deodorant, soap. Canned soups are low. Thanks for all your donations this past year.

## **A Blast from Portraits Past**

### **6 years ago, February 2004**

"Kudos... Kudos...Kudos."

The Contemporary Service, 11:11 is designated by Defiance District (now Northwest Plains District) as a teaching model for the district. Delegates from churches across the district were invited to investigate for an alternative style of worship service.

### **20 years ago, February 1990**

Enjoy the attached word search that appeared in the February 1990 issue of the Parish Portrait compliments of editor, Lousie Wertengerber.

### **30 years ago, February 1980**

Stop the presses, it's been discovered. See how to find happiness through out the year compliments of the February 1980 and editor, Teri Flickinger.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you have any upcoming events you would like to have included in the next Parish Portrait please e-mail [klpp1985@gmail.com](mailto:klpp1985@gmail.com) or write it down and put it in the box marked Parish Portrait in the vestibule.

Valentines Supper	Feb 14 <sup>th</sup> 11:15am
Ash Wednesday Service	Feb 17 <sup>th</sup> 6pm-7pm
Christian Education	Feb 21 <sup>st</sup> 11:30am
Teacher's Meeting	after Sunday School
Administrative Board	Thursday January 28 <sup>th</sup> 7:00pm
Trustees	Thursday January 21 <sup>st</sup> 7:00pm
Lions Club Meetings	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday October thru May

### Winter Acolyte Schedule 2010

January 3	Sydney & Emma
January 10	Ashley & Derick
January 17	McKenzi & Katie
January 24	Ally & Emily
January 31	Sydney & Brady
February 7	Emma & Hannah
February 14	Ashley & Derick
February 21	Brady & Katie
February 28	Ally & Emily
March 7	Brady & McKenzie
March 14	Sydney & Emma
March 21	Ashley & Derick
March 28	Emma & Katie
April 4	Sydney & Brady
April 11	Emma & Hannah
April 18	Ally & Emily
April 25	Ashley & Derick

If you have questions about the schedule contact

Pam Bowen 419-749-2766

In the midst of the unfathomable destruction in Haiti, I rejoice in the response of the people called United Methodist in West Ohio and around the globe. Your prayers for the people of Haiti and those laboring to rescue and bring relief have been steadfast. Your financial gifts have been generous. Your preparations for the long-term recovery are already underway. Your response is a testimony to God's unwavering love and mercy. And, our response will need to be sustained.

The devastation in Haiti is also a powerful lesson for us. The images on TV, the internet and in the newspapers convey the undeniable fact that poverty is a scourge every bit as urgent, threatening and evil as violent terrorists. On January 14, David Brooks wrote in The New York Times: "This is not a natural disaster story. This is a poverty story. It's a story about poorly constructed buildings, bad infrastructure and terrible public services. (We are) going to have to use this tragedy as an occasion to rethink our approach to global poverty." Even as we respond to the extreme suffering in Haiti, I pray that we in West Ohio will join our voices to call for a dramatic and honest examination of what does and what doesn't work to reduce the world-wide pandemic of poverty.

Human tragedy of the magnitude we see in Haiti often reminds those who share the Christian faith about our true identity, and hope of what we can and cannot count upon. We can count on God's abiding grace. We can count on the reality of our own resurrection. But, we cannot count on being here tomorrow to do the things we have been called to do. Don't hesitate, don't postpone, and don't neglect your calling. This tragedy will require multiple waves of prayer and financial investment in Haiti's future.

Above all, we can count on the word of God standing forever. This is our hope. This is the hope of the people of Haiti. This is the hope of the world.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough

West Ohio Conference

January 19, 2010

## CHURCH NOTES TO KNOW

### FLOWER CALENDAR

The new flower calendar for 2010 is on the bulletin board. The price is \$27. Please sign up for the Sunday you are that interests you.

### NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

If you would like to have an article published in any of the local newspapers. Please let Margaret Miller know at: 419-749-2513

### Valentines Dinner

Dinner this year will be held on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup>. Serving time is 11:15am to 12:30pm. The money raised will go to the mission team for use on their mission trip. There will be a free will offering and the dinner entrees will be pork loin, chicken breast, potato, vegetable, desert and drink. The Mission team will be off to Biloxi, MS on Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup> and return on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Church Nursery

It will be available during the worship service. If you would be able to help out a Sunday, please contact Tina Pawlick, Nursery Coordinator or there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board

### Easter Cantata

Adult Choir will begin practice for the Easter Cantata, "Amazing Grace" Thursday Feb. 4th at 7:00pm. If you would like to sing in an Easter presentation, this is your opportunity.

### Annual Offering Statements

Annual offering statements are available in the vestibule if you have not already picked yours up.

## Prayer Concerns

Troy Hammond, Delores Ward, Ruth Hensel, Dorothy (Dale) Gleckler, Bill Pancake, Dick Burdon, Madison Ringwald, Sondra Shepherd, John Kiehl, Alice Gehres, Annabelle Clevenger, Janice Taylor, Mary Evans, Fred Tumbelson, Lee Ann Frank, the family of Rev. Robert Kinney, Mark Dingus, Karen Kreischer, Deb Winnenger

Donna Hoblet, (Van Crest), Mary Cherry, (Hearth & Home), Carrie Dawson, (Convoy Care), Bryan Stewart. (Convoy Care).

Please place additions or corrections in the green basket in the vestibule or downstairs on the typewriter.

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*And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and He healed the sick*

*Matthew 14:14 KJV*

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*Convoy United Methodist Church  
Sycamore and Main  
Convoy, Ohio 45832  
419-749-2383  
Enter to Worship., Depart to Serve*

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## Contemporary Service

A Contemporary Service is offered every Sunday morning at 11:11 a.m. This is held at the former Hall Lumber office downtown, located along the railroad tracks east of Main Street. It's a service filled with songs and praise. It is a casual and more relaxed Service than 9:30 service. We still offer all the same sacraments.

The Service is hosted by our praise band called "Crossroads". Members include:

Guitarist Pastor Leigh  
Lead Vocal Jeff Gleckler, Keyboard Laura Leigh,  
Drums Fred Fegley, Bass Guitar Matt Leigh or Jon  
Leigh, Female Vocalist Rita Miller

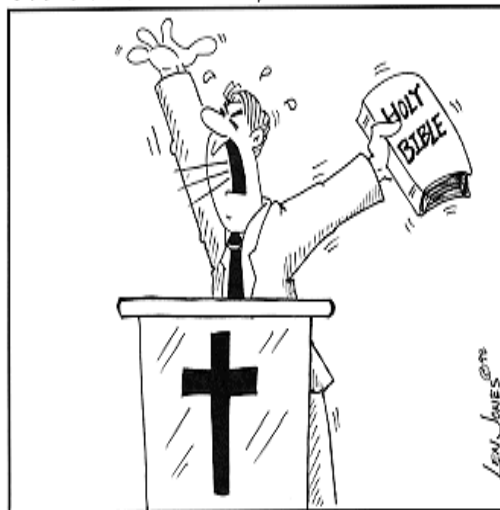
Casual dress such as jeans, T-Shirts, and ball caps are acceptable at this service. Refreshments are offered to be enjoyed throughout the service. Not on time for the beginning, not a problem. You're welcome to come in and join us whenever you get there. It's very informal, and air conditioned. You're always welcome to come join us.

Convoy United Methodist Church  
Sycamore and Main  
P.O. Box 128  
Convoy, Ohio 45832

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

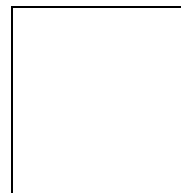
## Comic Relief

**ALTAR EGO** by Len Jones



"As we enter this football season, let me make one thing perfectly clear. Jesus would never use the *West Coast* offense against a 4-3-4 zone defense!"

Don't forget to check us out on the web at [www.convoyumc.org](http://www.convoyumc.org) for service streaming and more content about what's going on at Convoy United Methodist.



Mailing Address  
Street Number and Name  
City, State 98765-4321

## How to Find Happiness through the Year

Happiness is something you create in your mind,  
Not something you search for but can't seem to find,  
Not something that's purchased with silver or gold,  
Not something that a force can capture and hold.

It's just waking up and beginning each day,  
by counting your blessings and kneeling to pray.

It's giving up thoughts that breed discontent  
and accepting what comes as a gift heaven sent.

It's giving up wishing for things you have not,  
and making the best of whatever you've got.

It's knowing that life is determined and planned,  
and that God holds the world in the palm of His hand.

It's by completing what God gives you to do,  
that you find contentment and HAPPINESS too.