

June, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 6



The Circuit Writer!

THE CROWN OF LIFE

I have been engaged in my own in-depth continual study of the Book of Revelation again for some time now. And, today, as I compose this month's pastoral note to you, I am reflecting on the letters to the seven churches in Asia.

There are many things happening in various churches around the world and in our own denomination that bring about concerns—that so many churches are becoming worldly. I ask that you hold the UMC in your prayers as Annual Conferences are held around the globe this summer. This is an election year and Karol Rader, Warren Carey, Emily Christman, & I will be attending our West Ohio Annual Conference June 6-10 as we vote on lay & clergy delegates for the 2012 General Conference of the UMC. Warren will be casting our lay member vote this year and Emily will have her first experience as a youth representative. Every General Conference addresses a variety of important issues, adopts changes to our *Book of Discipline*, which includes our doctrinal standards, our social principles, and other polity matters, such as the position and missional statements of our denomination worldwide. **WE MUST BE IN PRAYER FOR THE UMC AS WE PRESS ON IN THESE DISCUSSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS.** I cannot emphasize that enough. **PRAY** as we head into these elections both in our annual conference and in preparation for 2012.

I do not want us to become, **as a local church or a denomination**, the Church of Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17), the church in an evil environment that TOLERATED wrong doctrine and the teaching from heretics. Nor, do I want us to become like the Church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22) that was spiritually lukewarm and blind to needs. And, I do not want to see us die away as the Church of Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6), heading toward spiritual death due to apathy and inactivity. This leads me to some concerns of our own congregation...

We are entering more fully into a time of dramatic and exciting change as we patiently (or not so patiently) wait for good weather to continue forward with our building project. In June, we will be removing the contents of the cornerstone of our current building and transferring them, along with additional items, to the cornerstone of the new building as we lay the foundation. While no specific date can be confirmed at this time, we are in hopes that we can incorporate it into our celebration and the progressive dinner planned for June 25th. Please "stay tuned" for more information and details in the coming weeks.

We have many things to celebrate. Not only are we celebrating the building project (after 24 years), but our "Rainbow Bridges" After-School program was a great success. I want to thank Nancy Knight and all those who volunteered with this monthly outreach to the community. Kudos! Well-done, good & faithful servants!

As we celebrate this time and our achievements so far, let us not become apathetic or inactive during the summer. This is a time when we need to continue with our mission to the community and to continue working on fundraisers to pay for this new facility, which we believe will truly benefit the DeGraff and surrounding community as a whole. We are committed to fulfilling the God-given vision through every avenue before us.

So, what kind of church do I long to see us become?

(continued on next page)

Continued from front page

I want to see us become a blend of the weak, but loyal Church of Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13) and the poor, rich Church of Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11). Now that may not sound attractive, but they were praised for “keeping the Word” (Philadelphia) and for their “spiritual endurance, perseverance, and holding on to the heavenly treasure” (Smyrna). Thus, they become “spiritual pillars” and receive “The Crown of Life.” We cannot sit idle if this is our longing. We are to press on, faithfully standing up against the evil in this world and putting God’s Word into action.

What kind of church do you want to be? WE are the church and YOU can make a difference.

Live blessed,
Pastor Carolyn

A Moment for Missions—

June 11th, DeGraff Yard Sale Day, will hopefully find our Church parking lot full of various items for sale. Groups or individuals can reserve a free spot to sell their items. This is a GREAT opportunity for our Church groups to do a building fundraiser. Just give Kris a call by June 1st with your name and what you’re selling so she can put it on the list. A flyer with map will be distributed throughout the community and to yard sale shoppers. Other sales in town will also be listed on the map on the back of the flyer. Come on out and support our building fund efforts by selling and/or buying and help our community at the same time!

Sometime in the next 2 months we will be holding a free car wash in our Church parking lot. This will be a practical way to show God’s love to residents in our community. We will need volunteers to help wash cars and pass out cold drinks. Please consider helping with this outreach project. We will select a date soon.

As always we are collecting non-perishable food to donate to Five Loaves Pantry in Quincy. The donation box is at the back of the Church. We are concentrating on providing spaghetti sauce and canned fruits & vegetables, but all items are welcome and appreciated. Thanks for supporting this on-going ministry in our community. Hunger is not seasonal!

Watch for details regarding Church shirts which can be purchased. We are working on a design and pricing now and hope to have them available soon.

Missions Team welcomes all comments, suggestions and questions. We invite all to join us in our continuing adventures as the hands and feet of Jesus. Together we can truly fulfill our mission to grow spiritually and show God’s love through action in our community!

Worship Leaders and Helpers...

Acolytes	Greeters	Lay Reader	Nursery	Jr. Church	Children's Sermon
June 5 Nicholas & Christopher Smith	Lucinda Holycross Gail Dodd	Debi Mohr	Shelly Perk	Maddens	Connie Madden
June 12 Olivia Perk & Meghan Orr	Dale & Sue Hirschfeld	Sue Walls	Cierra Rhoads	Kauffmans	Kelly Kauffman
June 19 Evan & Kara Kauffman	Martha Siders & Sue Walls	Karol Rader	Nancy Knight	Jenkins	Darcie Jenkins
June 26 Brody Rhoads & Malaina Jenkins	Martha Jackson & Esther Mohr	Warren Carey	Cierra Rhoads	Karol Rader	Nancy Knight

Bits and Pieces.....

- Your Kroger Card that puts money into the Building Fund needs to be re-enrolled with the program. If you need help, bring your Kroger card to the church office and Kris will help you!!!!
- Pastor Carolyn will be out of town for Annual Conference June 5-10. Therefore, we will celebrate Holy Communion in worship on Sunday, June 12th this month.

Congratulations Deb Orr!!!!!!!!!!

**Deb was recently awarded with Mary Rutan Hospital
"Nurse of the Year" Award....
Way to go Deb!!!!!!!!!!**



From the Pastor's Spouse.....

THE FLAG

I was created by Betsy Ross for the revolution and the Continental Army by the Request of George Washington, and the Army to victory and Independence. I inspired Francis Scott Key to write the national anthem when I was flying over Fort McHenry while the British Navy fired cannons at the fort during the war of 1812. I also grew more stars as the nation grew more states. I have been saddened by the civil war when half the nation no longer wanted me and brother fought brother to make the nation whole again. I went overseas in 2 world wars to keep us free and show the world how a democracy will defeat any dictator in the world and that all men are created equal. I have flown with pride on every 4th of July. I have been burned in protest and I have been in POW camps and I have covered the coffins of those who fought and died for freedom to let us know our Freedom does come with price. I have been there on 9/11 when the twin towers fell and from the ashes they found me and hung me up to inspire those who were searching for survivors and to let those who caused the twin towers to fall know that we will have the final victory. I am a symbol to the world that the United States stands for freedom for all people and when nations need help they can depend on us to help. Please on this Flag Day, Tuesday June 14th fly me with pride and remember those who have fallen and those still serving to give us our freedom.

May God always Bless America
Dan



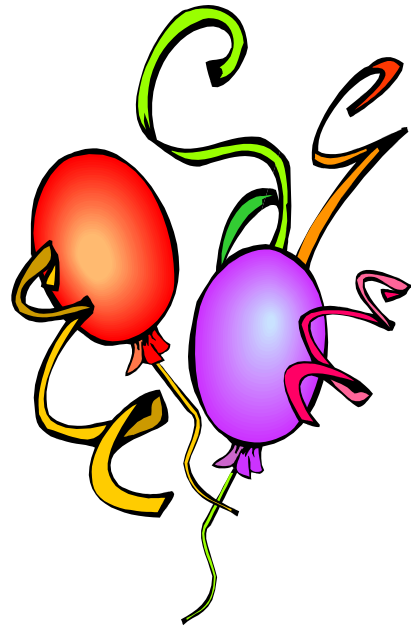
Report of the April Finance Meeting

- The April minutes and financial reports were approved as presented
- The debit card has been reordered
- The audit has been completed
- Nicholas & Christopher Smith will mow the church yard this summer.
- The committee discussed the use of automatic withdrawals for tithes and contributions
- Discussed transferring fuel from one tank to another
- Trustees are looking into different kinds of chairs to be used in the new facility
- The Kroger Rewards Program will continue for 2011
- May 22, special offering for creating new places for new people in West Ohio and all around the globe (in the Congo, the Volga District in Russia, Viet Nam and Mexico.
- The Upper Room receipts will be moved to the General Fund.

A Time to Celebrate!

Who: Everyone - you/families/guests
 What: Progressive Dinner
 When: Saturday June 25, 2011

3:00 - 4:00	Tour new church (very tentative)
4:00 - 5:00	Appetizers (Siders/Orr)
5:00 - 6:00	Soup and Salad (Holt/Rader)
6:00 - 7:00	Entrée (Knight Farm)
7:00 - 8:00	Dessert (Bonar's)



Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. More information to follow!

Will you?

The Administrative Council is challenging every group (small group, ministry team, Sunday School Class, youth group, choir, etc.) to sponsor at least 1 fun(d) raiser for the building fund this year.

1. Someone to organize fellowship activities (movie nights, bowling, card tournaments, family game night, etc.)
 2. Someone to oversee funeral dinner ministry.
- Again, if you are interested, please see Pastor Carolyn or call the church office.

We are looking for someone or some group to host a church ice cream social outside this summer with musical groups of some sort providing entertainment (Christian band or other appropriate gospel music). If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Carolyn or call the church office (585-5511)

CALL TO ACTION FOR DEGRAFF UMC MAY 2011

I found out this week that Springhills Presbyterian Church will be closing down by the end of summer. They are down to 12 members and can no longer support it's ministry in their community. I grew up in both DeGraff and Springhills Presbyterian and am saddened to realize they have both become history. This causes me to think even more about our own struggle to grow and survive here at DeGraff UMC.

Our community needs us to be a healing light in their lives. God has given us time, talents and resources to spread His love and grace. He commands us to help one another to fill our physical, emotional and spiritual needs. God isn't directing us to do anything that Jesus didn't already do in His earthly life. Jesus ministered to the people where they lived and met their needs. Then He made the ultimate sacrifice for us all. God asks that we honor His teachings, sacrifice and the commitments of those who have gone before us.

One day we will all have to account for how well we accomplished those commands throughout our earthly lives. Our fellow servant, Lindsay Hill, met each day with a passion for the work God gave her. She fully tapped into the time, talents and resources she was blessed with to accomplish those tasks. How can we do any less with those same blessings?

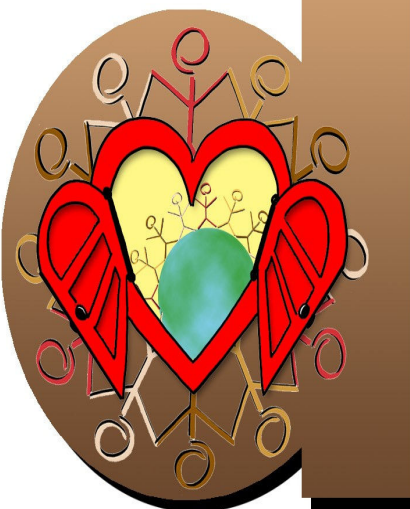
I implore all of us to find ways we can contribute to this church's ministry, God's ministry, and help it grow. It is time for serious action or we will see an end to our Church period. We have come too far to give up now. Let us find ways together to breathe new life into our mission so we can truly become what God has called and equipped us to be!

Sue Walls

Missions Team Leader

*Mission Statement:
To grow spiritually and show Christ's love through action in our community.*

DeGraff UMC
Box 545
118 North Main Street
DeGraff, Ohio 43318



The DeGraff United Methodist Church

umc

growing spiritually and showing Christ's love through action in our community