

THE VISITOR

January, 2010

Pastor=s Column

What are the deepest desires of your heart? What do you want more than anything else? If you could have just one thing in the coming year what would it be? There are probably as many answers to these questions as there are people reading this newsletter. For me the answer is a simple one: more than anything else I desire to walk completely in the way that God leads. I don=t want more stuff, more money. I don=t need more people or better friends. I am already blessed with plenty in those areas. But this year I desire to belong to God - completely and with my whole heart.

This isn=t really a new desire for me. In fact, you could say it is my standard New Year=s Resolution. But as I look back on each year, I see all the ways I=ve wandered off God=s path. All the times I haven=t loved as he loved. All the ways I have been impatient or ill-tempered. So once again, I set my feet on God=s path and determine, with his help, to stay on the path every day in the coming year.

Sometimes I get mad at myself for the ways I have failed, but usually I just resolve to start again - to get back on the path - to keep walking one step at a time. I know that God forgives me, so I have to let it go and not hang on to the past.

What do you want in this next year? Do you yearn for a deeper relationship with God? A closer walk each day with him? Give him this desire of your heart and he will reward it. A prayer that we may walk in his

way is a prayer that God always honors. *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 3:14)

What=s Good at Wedgewood

An annual tradition at Wedgewood around Christmas is the Children=s Nativity. Sometimes we do it at the Family Program and sometimes we do it Christmas Eve, but it is always a highlight of the season. This year the nativity was even better than usual due to **new nativity costumes**. Beth Greenwald worked for the last year at sorting the costumes we had, gathering fabric and patterns, and completing **new costumes** in time for the Family Program. The **new costumes** debuted with the Children=s Nativity on December 13. For the first time in more than 20 years the Wise Men looked rich instead of ragged and the angels didn=t have costumes unraveling around their shoulders.

Pictures of the Children=s Nativity are on the church web site (wedgewoodmc.org) and on the bulletin board at church. The children did a great job, Krissa Duhon narrated, and Judy McCune provided musical accompaniment. Thanks to Beth for a great job with the costumes and all her hard work over the course of the last year. **New nativity costumes** are just one more thing that is **GOOD at WEDGEWOOD**.

~~~~~

### **New Pictorial Directory**

This spring we will make a new pictorial directory with Olin Mills. Believe it or not, it has been four years since we made the last one. We will be taking most of the pictures in April, but we do have two dates for pictures in January - January 22 and 23. For every family or individual that gets their picture taken in January, Olin Mills will donate \$4 to the church. Each family also receives a free family portrait. There is no cost for getting your picture taken for the directory.

You can sign up for the January dates at church. We can have up to

60 families or individuals get their pictures taken on those two dates, which means \$240 for the church. Please consider signing up for one of these two dates.

## God Sightings

Would you like 2010 to be your best year ever? Do you want to grow in love with God in new ways? Would you like to feel closer to God than you have before? **Participate in God Sightings!**

God Sightings is a multi-part program that will help you form a deeper relationship with God and with others. You can participate in several different ways.

1. You can read the One Year Bible. Some of you have already read this - some of you have even been through it two times. Reading the whole Bible in a year is a wonderful thing and helps us understand God in new ways.

2. You can read part of the One Year Bible. Reading the whole thing is too daunting for some people. But if you just read the New Testament and Psalm readings every day, in a year you will have gone through the entire New Testament once and Psalms twice. We will have some One Year Bibles for sale in the narthex for \$13 each or you can use one that you have already purchased.

3. You can use the God Sightings Companion Guide. Each week there will be reflection questions and a place to write your thoughts and God

Sightings. It is a companion guide to the One Year Bible, but you do not have to read the One Year Bible to use the Companion Guide. The Guides are \$10 each and are for sale in the narthex.

4. You can join a Sunday School class or other small group that will be doing the group activities for the God Sightings program. This is a time to grow in Christ by sharing with others. Small groups will meet weekly. Several of our adult Sunday School classes will be having a God Sightings emphasis in the next year. Rev. Karen will lead the Wednesday night study in God Sightings during January. There will be a couple of home based groups that will meet starting in February.

5. You can join in the God Sightings conversation online by going to <http://www.mygodsightings.com>. There is a blog, a way to sign up for twitter, and a facebook page. If you spend a lot of time online this might be a good way to connect with others and grow in your faith.

*(Cont.)*

You can do all of the steps above or just choose one. You can buy the One Year Bible or read your own with the readings that will be listed in each newsletter. You can buy a companion guide or keep a journal on your own, listing God Sightings each day. You can participate in a small group or work on your own.

God Sightings is a wonderful program that will help each person who participates to grow in their faith. How will you participate? How will you

experience God in your life in this new year?

~~~~~

Coming Up

Beginning Wednesday, February 3, Rev Karen will lead a Bible Study on "Christianity's Family Tree." This is a sequel to last year's study on the major world religions. We will look at eight different Christian denominations and faith traditions and answer questions such as:

Why do Orthodox Christians use icons? What is the "baptism in the Holy Spirit" for Pentecostals? Why do Roman Catholics focus on the Eucharist? What do Lutherans teach us about salvation? What do Presbyterians teach us about God's power? How can Episcopalians deepen our prayer life? What can Baptists teach us about living for Christ? We will look at the faith traditions of Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism in this eight week study. No books are necessary. Come with an open mind and a willingness to learn and respect other faith traditions. The study will meet at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings through March.

~~~~~

### Chili Cook-Off & Family Game Night

January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Cook-Off 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Game Night B 7:30 to ??

Volleyball, Corn-Toss, Euchre & Board Games (*Bring your favorite*)

All Chili Entries are Welcome B Call Jane Bowser at 869-0428

Sample all you like for \$5.00 B There will be at least 20 different varieties

Vote for your favorite

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner Grand Prize

Door Prizes every 15 minutes

~~~~~

LOOKING FOR A JOB OR A BETTER JOB?

18 & up? Then this is for you!!

SCORE is a nonprofit organization with 40 years experience of counseling people just like YOU.

Resume workshop B Learn how to write an effective resume; how to emphasize your skills, strengths and career interests. Interviewing skills will also be discussed.

January 16th B 9:00 to 10:00 am

In the Fellowship Hall

~~~~~

**Wedgewood United Methodist Membership Class**

This class is for anyone who's interested in becoming a member of Wedgewood, but it's not limited to just those people. Whether you are new to Wedgewood or have been here for years, whether you are already a member and would like a "refresher" or are not ready to be a member but would like to know more, this class is open to everyone. We welcome discussion and different points of view. People wanting to join Wedgewood need to plan to attend all the classes, if possible. Others can come to all the meetings or just those that interest them. All classes meet Sundays at 10:45 in Fellowship Hall (*downstairs, original side of church*).

February 7 B Get to know each other. Why become part of a church family?

February 14 B History of United Methodist Church (*movie*), First Half of Spiritual Gifts Study

February 21 B United Methodist Beliefs and Social Principles

February 28 B Meet Committee Leaders (*Fellowship Sunday B class meets in Fellowship Hall*)

March 7 B Organization of UM Church, History of Wedgewood, & Second Half of Gifts Study

March 14 B April 4 A Break.

Members are asked to try out a small group and do some form of service.

April 11 B Discussion of Membership Vows

Plan on taking vows April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Heather W. (330-734-0707)

~~~~~

Welcome New Members

We are happy to welcome the following new members to our church family: Lois Bunn, Joyce Hardman and Wendy Shepherd. On December 13th Lois joined our family by Letter of Transfer and Joyce & Wendy by Confession of Faith.

~~~~~

## Thank You

*Thank you to my church family for the kindness and support during this difficult time. The Christmas gift was very much appreciated. I love you all.*

*Becky Cooper*

*Thank you to everyone who donated to the Pajama Program. We collected a total of 111 books, 26 pairs of pajamas, and several other miscellaneous items to give to children in need. The children at The Battered Women=s Shelter, ACCESS, Inc., the Spicer Street Good Neighbors, Summit County Children Services, Marian=s Closet, J.C.=s Place, Wayne County Children Services, Cuyahoga County Children Services and others will benefit from your contributions! Thanks for helping contribute to a warmer, more loving environment for children when they are at their most vulnerable.*

*Also, thank you to all who donated to the mitten tree. We collected 152 pairs of gloves/mittens, scarves and hats to donate to Ellet Good Neighbors. These items will be given to families in the area who need them this cold winter. Thank you!*

## Cleaning Buckets

We will be making 20 cleaning buckets (*formerly know as flood buckets*) to

take to Annual Conference in June. To make it easier this year, there is a board outside the Narthex with a list of items we need. Items are listed on individual slips of paper. Please take the item or items you want to purchase from the board and after you purchase the items, put them in one of the buckets. This way we will avoid a lot of one item. A full list of cleaning bucket contents is also available next to the item board outside the narthex. You may also donate cash instead of purchasing items, as it will be used to buy items we do not get and to help pay the transportation costs. For more information, visit the UMCOR cleaning bucket website at <http://www.sagerbrown.org>

### **We Care Program**

There will be a training event for those interested in helping care for others in the congregation either through the Shut-In program or through the We Care program. It is highly recommended that you mark your calendar and plan to attend this meeting. The meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 12 from 7 to 8 PM. Rev. Karen will address the group as a whole from 7 to 7:30 regarding how to make a caring connection with those in need. We will then divide into small groups from 7:30 to 8 to discuss the nuts and bolts of either the Shut-In program or your selected areas of interest in the We Care program. This last half hour is to inform of the programs functions and what role you will play in the programs. Please e-mail Julie Verrona ([frigetwest@gmail.com](mailto:frigetwest@gmail.com)) to let her know if you will be able to attend on behalf of the We Care program and e-mail Julie Eshelman ([jeshelman@all.net](mailto:jeshelman@all.net)) on behalf of the Shut-In program. Thank you.

~~~~~

Did You Know

Denise Markland has recently established her own cleaning business B J. L. Sunshine. She does home, office and commercial cleaning. If you would like some cleaning help in your home, please call Denise for a free estimate. (459-8829)

The Boy scouts are selling sauerkraut balls until the end of January. They are ready now. The price is \$5.00 a dozen. If you would like to place an order or purchase some, please see Becky Cooper or Chris & Debbie Engelhart.

~~~~~

### Acme Tapes Cash Back Program

We are still collecting Acme tapes as part of their 5% rebate promotion. Please save your tapes and encourage your friends to save theirs also. This rebate program funds our mission program. Rev. Karen uses part of the money to purchase food and gas cards for people in need. We also use it for other mission work. It's amazing how much we can receive when people turn in their tapes. The program ends on February 20, but you can bring your tapes in until February 28<sup>th</sup>. There are boxes in the Narthax and on the lower shelf in the mail boxes in the gathering area.

### Angel Food Ministries

**Order Dates**

Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> B 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> B 9:00 to 10:00 am

You may also order on line with a debit or credit card at  
[angelfoodministries.com](http://angelfoodministries.com)

**Distribution Date**

Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> B 10:00 am to noon

*Serving the Church in January*  
*9:30 Service*

***Greeters***

3 Bill & Delores Clifford  
10 Mary Jo Stewart & Wilma Riffle  
17 Joan Kennedy & Lou Gardner  
24 Marla Zwoll & Bonnie Koellner  
31 Dave & Dottie Ranson

***Nursery***

3 Dawn McKeel & Erin Ingham  
10 Irene Spellman & Dolores Clifford  
17 Dottie Ranson & Eleanor Recob  
24 TBA  
31 Diane Huth & Jean McGaffick

***Toddler Room***

3 Star Elijah  
10 Heather Herbst & Jennifer Richmond  
17 Michelle Jenson & Megan Mills  
24 Helen Smith & Pam Boothe  
31 TBA

***Altar Flowers***

3 Open B Would you like this date?  
10 Open B Would you like this date?  
17 Open B Would you like this date?  
24 Rosemary Tabor B In memory of loving  
father, John Bozin.  
31 Tom & Karen Hartley B In celebration of  
John=s birthday and in honor of Mike &  
Julia Sager.

***Liturgists***

3 Gwen Welker  
10 Bob Brown  
17 Richard Hamilton  
24 Nick Varga  
31 Sheila Green

***Ushers***

Paul Green  
Paul Blum  
Steve Varga  
Jason Elijah  
Chris Englehart  
Carl Andrei

***Children=s Time***

24 TBA

***Acolytes***

3 Alex Biege &  
Madison Summers  
10 Anna Suncire &  
Sydney Dutton  
17 Sydney McGaffick &  
Bethany Witwer  
24 Sean Merideth &  
Abbey Suncire  
31 Amanda Lugenbeal &  
Kelley Pratt

*Serving the Church in January*  
*11:30 Service*

***Head Usher***

Denise Markland

***Children's Church***

3 Shelly Biege  
10 Jenny Falls  
17 Becky Cooper  
24 Nancy Messenger  
31 Marcy Venarge

***Children's Helpers***

3 Jessica Biege  
10 Pam Varga  
17 Alex Biege  
24 Jenna Messenger  
31 Nick Varga

***Scripture Reader***

3 Mark Veronna  
10 Pat McGee  
17 Pete Reimer  
24 Becky Cooper  
31 Jessica Biege

***Nursery***

3 Billy Denton  
10 Wendy Shepherd  
17 Debbie Engelhart  
24 Charlene McKeel  
31 Kenetha Tenney

***Children's Time***

24 TBA

**Directory Changes & Additions . . . .**

Nicole Sennett  
887 #B Rocky Brook Drive  
Akron, OH 44313

Wendy Shepherd  
6223 Chittenden  
Atwater, OH 44201  
947-2710

Jerry Wining  
4051 Barrancas Ave #G285  
Pensacola, FL 32507

Lois Bunn  
2266 Lynn Drive  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221  
923-1085

Joyce Hardman  
2266 Windmere  
Akron, OH 44312  
794-2851

Denise Markland  
459-8829

**January, 2010**

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                        | Monday                                                                         | Tuesday                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                               | Thursday                                                                              | Friday                                                                                              | Saturday                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                       | 1                                                                                                   | 2<br>8:00 Men=s Breakfast                                               |
| 3 <i>2 Corinthians 5:17-21</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>11:30 Worship Service<br>12:30 Praise Band<br>2:00 Bowling<br><i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i>  | 4<br><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>11:00 Prayer Group<br><br>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts  | 5<br><br><br><br>7:00 Craft Time<br>7:00 Meeting   | 6<br>9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers<br>5:30 Dinner<br>6:00 Teen Choir<br>6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring<br>6:45 Children=s Choir<br>7:15 Kid=s Club<br>7:30 Adult Choir<br>8:15 Open Gym  | 7<br>10:00 Hand Chimes<br><br><br>6:00 AFM B Order Taking<br>6:30 Girl Scouts         | 8<br><br>4:30 Spaghetti Dinner<br><br>7:30 CODA<br><i>FLC in Use</i>                                | 9<br>9:00 AFM B Order Taking                                            |
| 10 <i>Psalms 66:10-20</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>11:30 Worship Service<br>12:30 Praise Band<br>2:00 Bowling<br><i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i>       | 11<br><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>11:00 Prayer Group<br><br>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts | 12<br><br><br><br>7:00 Care Team Training          | 13<br>9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers<br>5:30 Dinner<br>6:00 Teen Choir<br>6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring<br>6:45 Children=s Choir<br>7:15 Kid=s Club<br>7:30 Adult Choir<br>8:15 Open Gym | 14<br>10:00 Hand Chimes<br><br><i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i><br><br>7:00 Venture Crew | 15<br><br><br><br>7:30 CODA                                                                         | 16<br>9:00 Score<br><br>10:00 AFM B Pick Up<br><br><i>Parlor in Use</i> |
| 17 <i>1 Corinthians 1:18-25</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>11:30 Worship Service<br>12:30 Praise Band<br>2:00 Bowling<br><i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i> | 18<br><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>11:00 Prayer Group<br><br>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts | 19<br>11:00 Craft Time<br><br><br>6:30 UMW Meeting | 20<br>9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers<br>5:30 Dinner<br>6:00 Teen Choir<br>6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring<br>6:45 Children=s Choir<br>7:15 Kid=s Club<br>7:30 Adult Choir<br>8:15 Open Gym | 21<br>10:00 Hand Chimes<br><br><br>6:30 Girl Scouts                                   | 22<br><br>3:00 - 9:30<br>Picture Taking<br><br>5:30 Chili Cook- Off<br>7:30 Game Night<br>7:30 CODA | 23<br><br>10:00 - 5:00<br>Picture Taking                                |
| 24 <i>Psalms 147</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:45 S. School & Fellowship<br>11:30 Worship Service<br>12:30 Praise Band<br>2:00 Bowling<br><i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i>   | 25<br><br>OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>11:00 Prayer Group<br><br>7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts | 26<br><br><br><br>6:30 Ad. Council                 | 27<br>9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers<br>5:30 Dinner<br>6:00 Teen Choir<br>6:30 Adult & Girl=s Study, Tutoring<br>6:45 Children=s Choir<br>7:15 Kid=s Club<br>7:30 Adult Choir<br>8:15 Open Gym | 28<br>10:00 Hand Chimes<br><br><br>7:00 Venture Crew                                  | 29<br><br><br><br>7:30 CODA                                                                         | 30                                                                      |
| 31 <i>Matthew 9:9-13</i><br>9:30 Worship Service<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>11:30 Worship Service<br>12:30 Praise Band<br>2:00 Bowling<br><i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i>        |                                                                                |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                       |                                                                                                     |                                                                         |

## Birthdays this Month

2 Jim Oliver  
2 Derek Stout  
3 Warren Senff  
4 Lisa Dadich  
7 Jennifer Falls  
8 Jason Markland  
10 Haley Powers  
10 Ellen Jacobs-Oliver  
11 Diane McCullough  
12 Becky Davis  
13 Jacob Wood  
13 Veronica Wood  
14 Mary Calgos  
16 Michael Summers  
16 Becky Duhon  
16 Paul Green  
17 Mike Belacic  
17 Mike Sager  
17 David Mack  
17 Shelby Petit  
17 Saleen Petit  
20 Michael Oliver

20 Audrey Suncire  
22 Pete Reimer  
24 Denise McCune  
24 Emma Merideth  
24 Angela Armbrust  
25 Matt Thornton  
26 Alexa Begley  
27 Dorothy Gibson  
29 John Hartley  
30 Danny McCabe  
31 Helen Campbell  
31 William Welker

## Good Sightings

## Weekly Readings

### January 1 B January 7

Genesis 1:1 - 18:15

Matthew 1:1 - 6:24

Psalms 1 - 7

Proverbs 1:1 - 2:5

### January 8 B January 14

Genesis 18:16 - 31:16

Matthew 6:25 - 10:23

Psalms 8 - 12

Proverbs 2:6 - 3:15

**January 15 B January 21**

Genesis 31:17 - 43:34

Matthew 10:24 - 14:12

Psalms 13:1 - 18:36

Proverbs 3:16 - 4:10

**January 22 B January 28**

Genesis 44:1 - Exodus 7:25

Matthew 14:13 - 19:12

Psalms 18:37 - 23:6

Proverbs 4:11 - 5:23

**January 29 B February 4**

Exodus 8:1 - 21:21

Matthew 19:13 - 23:39

Psalms 24 - 28

Proverbs 6:1 - 7:5