

THE VISITOR

January, 2012

Pastor's Column

One of my pet peeves as a pastor is sports for children on Sunday mornings. I like sports programs for the most part - they build character, teach kids to work with a team, help you learn how to act when you don't win. But I think Sunday morning should be a time out from sports so that families can worship together, if they choose, before they begin other activities.

But many children participate in sports on Sunday mornings: traveling teams, wrestling, practices. There are children that miss church for months at a time because of participation in sports activities. And I wonder what it says about our faith as Christians that we allow it to happen. What do we worship: sports or God?

Of course, sports isn't the only thing that tempts us away from God and we all have to make choices every day about our priorities and living out our faith. There are people who miss church on Sunday morning because they went out and got drunk on Saturday night. There are people who don't have daily devotions because they are too busy watching the morning news shows. There are people who never participate in Bible Study because they don't think it will help them get closer to God. And there are people who think they are good with God if they are a member of the church - they don't really think they need to change anything in their lives.

But Christ calls us to more difficult choices. He says that following him has a cost: that we will have to make sacrifices and difficult decisions. Sometimes we have to say no to certain activities because they are not pleasing to God. Sometimes we have to tell our children no because God has a higher claim on our lives. Sometimes we have to deny ourselves (and we really hate denying ourselves anything) and take up our crosses to follow him. Matthew 16:24 has these words of Jesus: *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."*

We might think that doing this - putting Jesus first and denying ourselves - doesn't sound like any fun. But I have found my greatest joy in moments when I have chosen God's way over my own way. And instead of feeling like I've given up anything important, I've always found the blessings I've received to be much greater than I could have imagined.

As we begin a new year, I invite you to look seriously at your faith. Who or what are you worshipping? What lessons are you teaching your children? What witness are you giving to your faith in the choices that you make? Christ places a higher call on our lives. When we become Christians, our lives are not our own - they belong to Christ. How are you living out that call each day? And are there things that Christ is calling you to change in this New Year?

Rev. Karen

What's Good at Wedgewood Our Family Christmas Dinner and Program

On Sunday, December 11, about 160 people gathered for dinner and a program. The Family Life Center was full and noisy as everyone enjoyed talking, eating, and trying some new food. The extended Campbell family set everything up and did a wonderful job making sure the punch bowl was full and that there were enough rolls and ham.

Holly Reimer was in charge of the program upstairs which featured a variety of musical acts. Everyone enjoyed the congregational singing. There was a piano/organ duet by Harry and Mary. Rev. Karen played a cello solo. The Teen Choir Band debuted with a very short version of Jingle Bells. Casey Oliver led the children in "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas." There was a picture-type game where we guessed the titles of carols. And the children presented a lovely nativity. Jacob Flossie was Joseph and Ravenna Bartley was Mary. And of course, Santa came to visit and talk to all the children.

The Family Dinner and Program is one of the highlights of our church year. It is a time to relax, eat, sing, and enjoy one another. The **Family Christmas Dinner and Program** is just one more thing that is **GOOD at WEDGEWOOD.**

Aging

My Grandmother Irvin liked to collect poems and other meaningful sayings. She would retype them on her old manual typewriter in her kitchen. When she moved into a retirement home, she gave me her folder of poems and sayings, which I stuck in a drawer and found again the other day. I thought I would share a few of them with you. This first is called Aging.

Everything is farther away than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner and I notice they have added a hill. I've given up running for the bus. It leaves faster than it used to. And it seems to me they are making stairs steeper than they used to.

And have you noticed the smaller print in the newspaper? There's no use in asking anyone to read any more - everyone speaks in such a low tone I can scarcely hear them.

The material in dresses is so skimpy anymore, especially around the hips and waist. It is almost impossible for me to bend over to put on my shoes.

Even people are changing. They are so much younger than when I was their age! On the other hand people my age are so much older looking than I am. I ran into an old school mate downtown the other day. She had aged so much she didn't recognize me. Got to thinking about the poor thing when I was combing my hair this morning and in so doing I glanced in the mirror. But my land! They don't make good mirrors like they used to either!

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### ***Thank You***

*Your generosity knows no end! We are truly grateful for all the prayers and wonderful gifts everyone has provided for our family! You have pulled us up when we thought nothing could. Thank you for being there for us for so long.*

*The Massey family  
Joe, Sarah, Lonnie, Kenny & Everett*

*Thank you so much for the gift of food (Acme Cards). Your kindness is very much appreciated. The Lord will bless you. Thanks again.*

*Nancy White and family*

## *The Prayer Vigil*

*The Prayer Vigil last spring was a wonderful time of devotion for those who participated. People had an opportunity to write in a journal as they rotated through the stations. For the next few months, we will include some of the things that were written, but omit details that might identify individuals.*

*Thanking you Lord for everything I own and have and the people in my life is the easiest thing to do when it comes to you Lord. The other stuff is the toughest.*

*Beloved father, help me to be a more giving person in all ways. Help me to be able to give my all to you , not to hold back, but to trust as I must for you know this is a weakness in me to give 100%. Help me find the way.*

*So much of my life is sinful, things I do not think about , not really meaning to hurt anyone is wrong. Lord help me to be mindful of all my actions, to think about the things I say and do so they do not hurt others or offend you God.*

*To the Lord my God, give me confidence that I may be stronger in spreading the gospel and open my heart to be stronger in giving to your house. Give me strength that I will not fail in your teachings. I love you, praise you and honor you.*

*Thank you God for the many gifts you have given to me. This church, the people, our family, all the little things and the big things B you supply our needs. Help me to be more generous with my time and resources to help others.*

*It is had to shut out the noise of the world. Help me Lord; May I feel your presence and love. Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.*

## Then and now

Being raised in a Christian home and in the church, I would say I was a AHo-hum@ Christian. I like to think that after attending bible studies and teaching that I am now a real live Christian and am sharing my faith.

Gerry Hanna

I was 43 when my husband died suddenly. I still had three children at home. I had always handled any problems or illnesses that had come up and felt confident that I always could. That night when I went to bed I was overwhelmed by how I was going to manage. I worked full time, but Ken had the largest income. How would I pay the bills, handle being a single mother, take care of everything that needed done? I knew I couldn't manage alone. I got out of bed and got down on my knees and prayed. I told God I couldn't do this by myself, He would have to help me. After turning my problems over to God I found out He was there for me. Also, I learned we don't have the control over our lives that we think we do.

Kerrol Graham

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Mark this date on your calendars

January 21, 2012

This is the date of our annual Chili Cook-off! You can sample chili to your stomachs content, have a piece of pie and for those who don't like chili, hot dogs will be available.

There are prizes for the best regular chili, the best spicy chili and a new feature B the junior competition (kids under 18). We will have pre-event tickets, so invite your neighbors, friends and co-workers. More information, tickets and registration forms will be available later in the month. See you at the cook-off!

2012 Calendars

donated by Eckard Baldwin are available. You will find them on the table in the gathering area and in the Narthex. Please help yourself.

With Sympathy

Wedgewood UMC extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Annabelle Moore and Gerry Gentry. Annabelle passed away on December 14th and Gerry on December 18th.

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## Altar Flowers for 2012

It is time to renew your special date(s) on which you wish to donate the altar flowers for the year 2012. Realizing that there are some people who request the same date(s) every year and that there are others who want that date, but are not able to get it, the Worship Committee will follow the same policy used for the past several years.

Please fill out the following form with the date(s) you want and mail it and your check (made payable to Wedgewood UMC) to Brenda Ferguson (71 Donze Court, Tallmadge, OH 44278). She will work on filling out the flower calendar on a first-come first-served basis.

If two people request the same date, Brenda will call the one whose request came in later and talk to them about an alternate date, perhaps the Sunday before or after the requested one, or perhaps the two would be willing to split the flowers for the requested date.

The flowers will be \$35.00. Thanks to everyone who provided the beautiful flowers in the year 2011.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Please note: Flowers must be paid for at the time of ordering. Please make check payable to Wedgewood UMC and mail it with the form to Brenda Ferguson.)*

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

***Greeters***

- 1 Curt & Pat Minier
- 8 Mark & Becky Duhon
- 15 Mike & Kathy Summers
- 22 Joe & Jenna Schadle
- 29 Frank & Anita Myers

***Toddler Room***

- 1 Star Elijah & Erin Ingham
- 8 Jennifer Muffley & Dawn McKeel
- 15 Jennifer Richmond & Makaleigh Donges
- 22 Jenna Schadle & Marcy Venarge
- 29 Jean McGaffick

***Children's Time***

- 8 Jane Bowser

***Altar Flowers***

- 1 Jim Oliver – In deepest gratitude for the band of angels who prepared supper following my my surgery.
- 8 Open – Would you like this date?
- 15 Open – Would you like this date?
- 22 Jim Oliver & family – In memory of son & brother, Jim Oliver, Jr.
- 29 Tom & Karen Hartley – In celebration of Mike Sager, John Hartley, Julia Sager & Devon Sager's birthdays

***Liturgists***

- 1 Tracy Pratt
- 8
- 15 Fabian Schadle
- 22
- 29

***Ushers***

- Paul Green
- Paul Blum
- Steve Varga
- Jason Elijah
- Chris Engelhart
- Josh Green

***Acolytes***

- 1 Sarah Tucker & Megan Wytrzyaszczewski
- 8 Alec Jenson & Abbey Suncire
- 15 Bayley Cooper & Audrey Wytrzyaszczewski
- 22 Lauren Pratt & Amanda Lugenbeal
- 29 Sean Merideth & Mackenzie McLeod

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

***Head Usher***

Shawn & Tiffany Raines  
Pat McGee

***Children's Church***

1 Jennifer Muffley  
8 Jenny Falls  
15 Becky Cooper  
22 Bev Merideth  
29 Tiffany Raines

***Children's Helpers/Nursery***

1 Pam Varga  
8 Alex Falls  
15 Debbie Engelhart  
22 Charlene McKeel  
29 Mare Solomon

***Scripture Reader***

1  
8 Pat McGee  
15  
22 Kris Moye  
29

***Children's Time***

8 Jane Bowser

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Directory Additions

Kris Moye
900 Martindale Drive
Tallmadge, OH 44278
330-794-7383

Shawn & Tiffany Raines
815 Cree Avenue
Akron, OH 44305
216-526-3756

Fabian & Mary Schadle
2127 Waterbury Drive
Uniontown, OH 44685
330-699-5831

Claude Stone
2241 Edmund Avenue
Akron, OH 44312
330-733-6868

Cathy Tisch
2151 Tyrone Street
Akron, OH 44312
330-798-7637

Aimee Trunko
60 Akers Avenue
Akron, OH 44312
330-338-2314

Barb & Harry Walker
224 Roosevelt Avenue
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
330-929-0647

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL - 2012

Karen Hartley	Pastor
Paul Blum	Chairperson
Anita Myers	Vice Chair
Robin Merideth	Secretary
Kerrol Graham	Lay Member to Annual Conference
Jerry Coen	Lay Leader
Kathy Summers	Treasurer
Joanne Cooper	Financial Secretary
Tracy Pratt	Chair of Finance
Paul Green	Chair of Trustees
Becky Duhon	Chair of SPRC
Robyn Gable	Chair of Education
	Chair of Worship
	Organist
Harry Walker	Adult Choir Director
Danielle Witwer	Youth Choir Director
Holly Reimer	11:30 Worship Leaders
Mike & Julia Sager	Youth Director
Melissa Donges	Sr. High Representative
Kelley Pratt	Jr. High Representative
Zac Belacic	Membership Secretary
Pat Jarvis	Historian
Diane McCullough	UMW President
Julia Sager	Fellowship Coordinator
Cheryl Pratt	Mission Coordinator
Kerrol Graham & Julie Verrona	Medical Coordinator
Tony Suncire	Camp Coordinator
Jane Bowser	We Care Coordinator
Sue Newberry	Web Master
Tracy Pratt	Boy Scout Liaison
Harry Walker	Girl Scout Liaison
Heather Wyrzyszczewski	

Council at Large

Karen Lake

Honorary Members

Tom Hanna

Gerry Hanna

Frank Myers

Judy McCune

Annabelle Moore

Administrative Groups

Trustees

*M Wytrzyaszczewski
P Green
D Engelhart
R Cross
K Shepherd
D Anderson
B Duhon
R McCullough
B Lucas
H Youssefi

Program Groups

Worship

*

D Witwer
H Walker
H Reimer
M Sager
J Sager
E Hawkins
B Ferguson
J Eshelman
P Jarvis
D McKeel
G Graham
K Graham
C Minier
P Minier
P Green
T Wood
M Wytrzyaszczewski
D Jarvis
P McGee
T Raines
S Raines

*Chairperson

**Coordinators

Finance

*T Pratt
K Summers
J Cooper
M Verrona
N Vought
R Eckard
R Blum
T Pratt
MJ Stewart
J Elijah
J Schadle
M Venarge
M Wytrzyaszczewski
K Graham
P Blum
J Coen
B Duhon

Education

*R Gable
C Pratt
R Merideth
S Bartley
R Gable
K Williams
B Cooper
M Solomon
M Summers
T Pratt
T Hartley
K Summers
J Bartley
P Minier
G Hanna
D Merideth
D Haverstick
E Haverstick
K Eckard
B Green-Pallotta
M Venarge
M Donges
M Solomon

SPRC

*B Duhon
J Bartley
D Huth
MA Hanes
G Cross
J Hardman
D Merideth
S Green
D Jarvis
K Graham
J Coen

Ministry Teams

Fellowship

**C Pratt

Mission

**K Graham

**J Verrona

Medical

**T Suncire

We Care

**S Newberry

Nursery/Toddler

**D McKeel

11:30 Worship

**M Sager

**J Sager

11:30 Children's

Church Coord

** M Solomon

Nominations

*K Hartley

LJ Wood

B Hite

J Croft

C Pratt

N McGaffick

P Minier

C McLeod

K Mensch

K Moyer

J Coen