

THE VISITOR

October, 2009

Pastor's Column

The purpose of the United Methodist Church is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. If you have been to any conference or district events lately, you have probably heard this purpose statement. *Make and mature disciples* - most of us in the church are disciples of Jesus Christ, but are we growing in our faith? Are we becoming mature disciples or are we satisfied with being baby Christians. Baby Christians whine and pout and cry when they don't get their way. Baby Christians are selfish. Baby Christians fight and yell "mine" when others try to use the resources of the church.

How do we become mature disciples? Through attending worship regularly. Through getting involved in small groups where our faith is challenged by being intimately involved in the lives of others. God gave us the church so we could practice loving each other and get better at it. Loving each other isn't easy - sometimes our feelings get hurt, sometimes we say or do things we shouldn't, sometimes we aren't repentant. The church gives us an opportunity to grow in love, in grace, and in our ability to forgive. We also become mature through reaching out to others outside the church and being in service to those in need.

We want to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ because we know that the world needs to be transformed. The world is sick and needs Christ's healing touch. We are the ones who can do that when we are growing in our love and service. Mature Christians realize that everything they have is a gift from God. Mature Christians are eager to do mission work, to help those in need, to reach out in love. Mature Christians know that the events and hurts of this life are fleeting. Mature Christians work to store up treasure in heaven, not on earth.

How are you maturing in your Christian faith? What are you doing to help you grow and get stronger? Are you attending worship? Praying? Reading the Bible? Studying with other? Working as a volunteer in service and mission? *When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.*

(1 Corinthians 13:11)

Rev. Karen

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### **What's Good at Wedgewood** **Mission Saturation Weekend**

This year Wedgewood joined with the seven other churches in the East Akron Cluster to be part of a **Mission Saturation Weekend** on September 18 - 20. Each church hosted one event and there was something for everyone. We ate a potluck supper at Goodyear Heights and celebrated local missions. We had breakfast at Lakemore before we went out to do hands-on projects in the community. We had lunch at South Arlington and heard about ministry to the homeless. We had supper at Mogadore and learned about missions in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The children gathered in Sunday School and heard about missions among Native Americans. The adults had a discussion on hunger. The Wedgewood Praise Band raised over \$1,000 and won first place in the Praise Challenge on Sunday afternoon. Together the churches raised over \$3,000 to fund the projects that we did on Saturday. And in the evening

Wedgewood hosted the final event of the weekend, as the youth gathered to eat pizza and learn about Clean Water for Africa.

The entire weekend was a wonderful energizing time. Working together put the United back in our name - we can do so much more together than we can as individual churches. Working together gives us more energy and enthusiasm and helps us do things that we could not do on our own. The **MISSION SATURATION WEEKEND** is one more thing that is **GOOD AT WEDGEWOOD** and in the East Akron Cluster.

## **Financial Update**

Every year we have to say it, and this year is no exception. We were hoping that careful budgeting would help us stay out of the red, but as of the end of September, we are in a deficit. Unlike the federal government, we are not allowed to carry a budget deficit, so we need your help. We know these are challenging financial times, but we must stay faithful and not give in to fear.

Have you kept up with your pledge during the summer? Many people attend church less regularly in the summer and need to catch up. We need your body in the pew and your offering in the plate. Many of you have been regular in your attendance and in your giving. But we must ask, if you are able, please give a little extra in the offering through the rest of the year. Not only our general fund but also our building fund is beginning to show some signs of strain.

We are being faithful with your money. We are spending less than we budgeted last year, and our budget for 2010 is almost \$10,000 less than this year. Please be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in return and give what you are able. Thank you.

The Finance Committee

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Thank You

Thanks you for all your hard work in putting together the spaghetti dinner fund raiser for Casey. We were overwhelmed by the love and support of our fellow believers and want you to know how much we appreciate you. This has been a very difficult time for our family and we could never get beyond today without the prayers and love of the people who surround us, people like you. Casey will once again have a room of his own.

*Love in Christ,
The Miller Family*

I would like to thank my wonderful church family for the cards, prayers, calls, and food (especially Lou's cabbage rolls) during my recent illness. I am very blessed by the love expressed by all of you.

Mary Brown

I would like to say a "Big Thank You" to all the men who helped strip and wax the floor in the Family Life Center. It looks great.

Paul Green, Chair of Trustees

Bible Study: Growing as Christians

Rev. Karen will begin leading a new Bible Study at 6:30 on Wednesday nights on October 7th. This Bible Study will be a little different, because we won't be studying a book of the

Bible, we will be studying how we can grow and mature as Christians. This study is designed to lead you into a deeper understanding of God and a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ. No matter where you are in your faith, you will be challenged to grow and take it to the next level.

Bring your Bible and a notebook or journal and join Rev. Karen in this exploration of faith. The study will last for seven weeks, through Nov. 18th.

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### **Stewardship Small Groups**

This year our Stewardship Campaign focuses on "Making a Difference." The primary emphasis will be giving because we **NEED** to give. Our giving, be it monetary or in service, makes a difference in our church, our community, and our world. We need to give because of what Christ has given for us.

In order to examine this idea more fully, we are asking everyone to attend one of the Stewardship Small Groups that will be meeting in October. Various people are hosting the events in their homes and at church, and others will be leading the groups. It will be a time of sharing and talking together about our response to the actions of Jesus Christ in our lives. How do we want to respond to what he has done for us? There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Please be sure to check them out and sign up for one of these Small Group Meetings.

You will receive the stewardship materials when you attend your small group. We will be taking pledges on Sunday, October 25. Please look at your calendar and find a time to attend one of these groups.

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Sacrament of Baptism

Trevor & Ella Ingham received the Sacrament of Baptism, Sunday, September 24th during the 9:30 Worship Service. They were presented by their parents, Justin & Erin.

Spaghetti Dinner & Auction Friday – November 6th

The Finance Committee is hosting an auction on Friday, November 6th to benefit the Wedgewood Building Fund. We need contributions to auction off. This can take any number of forms.

- Material items, of course.
- Skills that you can offer such as housecleaning, painting, or computer tech advice.
- Experiences such as hosting a dinner, renting a cabin, or giving a boat ride.
- Another good item is gift cards from various places. If you patronize any business or service that might offer gift cards please inquire about it. Past experience has taught us that a customer personally asking for such a favor is more likely to succeed than a letter sent from the church.

Any items or ideas you have for the auction are appreciated. We would like to have everything in hand or services committed by Sunday, October 25th. You can contact Jean McGaffick, Heather W., Rev. Karen, Doug Meredith, or Jerry Coen about your donation. The auction will be held in conjunction with the spaghetti supper so we also need people willing to contribute desserts for the event. Thank you in advance and see you at the auction.

Think Gifts Baskets

- Birthday
- Holiday
- Housewarming
- Baby Shower
- Thank You
- Get Well
- Wedding Shower
- Just Because
- Retirement
- Bon Voyage

Think Options

1. Do your own basket – deliver to church by October 25th
2. Take a basket, do your own and we'll wrap it for you
3. Bring items – we will assemble and wrap
4. Donate money – we will purchase items to “fill in” with. Money is due by October 11th

Congratulations to . . .

Joe & Sarah Massey on the birth of their son, Everett, born September 3rd. Everett was welcomed home by his proud big brothers, Lonnie and Kenneth.

UMW CRAFT BAZAAR

Saturday, October 17th

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Come browse, shop, and have lunch with us.

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### Note from Outreach Director

Here we are fully into fall. Everyone is wondering what happened to the summer, the warm weather, the VACATIONS. For those of you who haven't heard, the W's went on a cruise! Besides all the fun, we had food that we never would have eaten here, heard languages and accents we never would have heard here, and traveled to and saw things we never see here. I'm so glad we had this experience, and I realized that we were blessed to be able to take this trip.

So many families never get to have a trip like this, and when I compare our own lives with those of the people we saw on the trip, the street vendors and even the cruise workers who work long, hard hours, I realized how blessed so many of us are. The countries these people are from don't pay their workers as well as the United States does, laws don't exist to protect workers in their countries. For all United States' problems; we are truly blessed to be Americans.

Yet within our communities, people still struggle. No matter what we do as a nation or community, whether you think government should do more or less, there will always be those who suffer. Isn't it our job as Christians to make those numbers less?

Do you struggle financially? Do you have pain, physical or emotional? Your church is here for you. Is there someone you know who suffers within the church or outside? Think about all of those people that we don't even know who need us, people that are strangers to us *now*. Reaching out to others and sharing Christ's love can help to heal our own pain. Though I look forward to my next vacation, I know I am always glad to come home to a church and

community that believe in taking care of others. When a time comes in my life when my family deals with its own suffering, I will continue to be blessed. I will have you.

### **Administrative Council News**

At the September meeting:

- Denise Markland & Todd Herbst presented a proposal to start a Venturing Patrol, a Co-Ed Division of Boy Scouts. It was approved.
- Rev. Karen led a discussion about the purpose and process of the church. We discussed "What are the steps in becoming a mature disciple of Jesus Christ?"
- Doug Merideth & Jerry Coen, Finance CoChairs, presented the proposed budget for 2010. Because of a decrease in electrical and heating costs and a decrease in apportionments there is a \$9,000 decrease from 2009. Staff salaries were all held constant. The budget was approved.

*(Please note: Any member of the church is welcome to attend Administrative Council meetings which are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 (no meeting in June & July). You may join in the discussion of motions, however you do not have voting privilege unless you are a member. Minutes are always posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.)*

### **PAJAMA PROGRAM**

Please help us provide **new** pajamas and books to children-in-need. Many of these youngsters have been abused or abandoned and in many cases, have never enjoyed the simple comfort of having a loving mother or father tuck them in at bedtime. Through the Pajama Program we hope to contribute to a warmer, more loving environment for children when they are at their most vulnerable. Please place the pajamas and books in the containers in the Gathering Area and Narthex. We will be collecting them through mid December. They will be given to several organizations that care for these children in our area.

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The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry

This new Christian movie of the same great quality as "Fireproof" will open at the Interstate Park Cinema, located at 1089 Interstate Pkwy, just off Arlington Road on Friday, October 9th. It is the story of three young boys whose lives are forever changed through an encounter with a 75 year old man who begins to mentor them to follow the Lord. This movie is suitable for the whole family (ages 8 to ??) and will inspire you greatly.

Birthdays this month

1	Carson McKeel	17	Dave Jarvis
2	George Graham	18	Cheryl Uhl
2	Michael Kranek	18	DeAndrea Elijah
2	Carolynn Mostyn	20	Tom Schuck
4	Ted Wood	20	Kelly Davis
4	Morgan Stack	20	Payne Gable
5	Madison Messenger	21	Leonard Boden
5	Beverly Staats		
6	Becky Cooper		
6	Kyle Jett		
8	Mitch Hoskins	22	Dianna Smoot
8	Jack Mensch	22	Megan Duhon
9	Katie Williams	22	Drew Scheck
9	Michael Lugenbeal	23	Helen Riggle
10	Angela Burton	26	Frank Myers
10	Marv Collinson	26	Marcy Venarge
11	MacKenzie Savage	27	Andy McGaffick
12	Austin Croft	27	Nordine Cross
13	Randy McKinney	28	Mae Palmer
13	Jessica Mullis	28	Sarah Tucker
14	Annabelle Moore	29	Mary Ann Hanes
16	Dian Flanders	29	Alice Rich
16	Caitlin Erskine	29	Pamela Rogers
16	Sydney Erskine	30	Staci Stout
17	Eleanor Recob		

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### Angel Food Ministry is Back

#### Order Dates

Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 to 11:00

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

6:00 to 7:00

Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

10:00 to 11:00

#### Distribution Date

Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

10:00 to 11:00

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

***Greeters***

4 Anita Myers & Karen Lake  
11 Barbara Faiss  
18 Frank & Pat Sabo  
25 Wes & Eleanor Recob

***Liturgists***

4 Julie Eshelman  
11 Eva Haverstick  
18 Mark Duhon  
25 Jill McKinney

***Nursery***

4 Dawn McKeel & Erin Ingham  
11 Irene Spellman & Dolores Clifford  
28 Dottie Ranson & Eleanor Recob  
25 Heidi & Hannah Blum

***Ushers***

Ted Wood  
Art Campbell  
Curt Minier  
Bill Northcraft  
Jack Mensch  
John Ferguson

***Toddler Room***

4 Star Elijah  
11 Heather Herbst & Jennifer Richmond  
18 Michelle Jenson & Megan Mills  
25 Helen Smith & Pam Boothe

***Children's Time***

25 TBA

***Altar Flowers***

4 OPEN - Would you like this date?  
11 OPEN - Would you like this date?  
18 OPEN - Would you like this date?  
25 Marla Zwoil - In memory of brother,  
Oliver Zwoil, Jr. and sister, Merle Mullens.

***Acolytes***

4 Megan Wytryszczewski &  
Madison Summers  
11 Alex Biege &  
Anna Suncire  
18 Abbey Suncire &  
Amanda Lugenbeal  
25 Kelley Pratt &  
Sean Merideth

*Serving the Church in October*

***Head Usher***

Denise Markland

***Children's Church***

4 Shelly Biege  
11 Jenny Falls  
18 Becky Cooper  
25 Nancy Messenger

***Children's Helpers***

4 TBA  
11 Pam Varga  
18 Alex Biege  
25 Jenna Messenger

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Directory Changes . . .

Rev. Saranne Nelson-Olin
456 Peach Avenue
Lakeside, OH 43440

Ed Herbruck – 330-949-3780

Julie Verrona – frigetwest@gmail.com

11:30 Service

Scripture Reader

4 Jenny McKeel
11 Julia Sager
18 Joey Brunner
25 Alex Biege

Nursery

4 Jennie Anderson
11 Alexis Messenger
18 Debbie Engelhart
25 Charlene McKeel

Children's Time

25 TBA

Debbie Myers
126 Westwood Avenue
Akron, OH 33202

October, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 Hand Chimes 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Nominations 8:00 Worship Comm.	2 4:30 Spaghetti Dinner 7:30 CODA	3 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Adult SS Teacher's Meeting 10:00 AFM – Ordering
4 <i>1 Corinthians 5:6-8</i> 9:30 & 11:30 W. Service 10:45 S.S. & New Members 12:30 Praise Band <i>Parlor in Use</i> 6:00 YF & Parents Meeting 7:00 Stewardship Training	5 OFFICE CLOSED 11:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts	6 2:00 Stewardship - Spellman's 7:00 Craft Time	7 9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir & AMF 6:30 Adult Study & H. Help 6:45 C. Choir & Girl's Study 7:15 Kid's Club 7:30 Adult Choir	8 10:00 Hand Chimes <i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i> 7:00 Venture Crew	9 7:30 CODA	10 <i>Family Life Center in Use</i> 10:00 AFM - Ordering 7:00 YF Hayride
11 <i>Luke 5:12-16</i> 9:30 & 11:30 W. Service 10:45 S.S. & New Members 12:30 Praise Band 2:00 Stewardship - Summers'	12 OFFICE CLOSED 11:00 Prayer Group <i>Parlor in Use</i> 7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts	13 <i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i>	14 9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir 6:30 Adult Study & H. Help 6:45 C. Choir & Girl's Study 7:15 Kid's Club 7:30 Adult Choir	15 10:00 Hand Chimes 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Stewardship - Church Jane Bowser 7:00 Stewardship - Blum's	16 7:30 CODA	17 Craft Bazaar 9:00 – 4:00 10:00 AFM – Pick Up
18 <i>Laity Sunday</i> 9:30 & 11:30 W. Service 10:45 S.S. & New Members 12:30 Praise Band Choir Festival 4:00 Stewardship - Bartley's	19 OFFICE CLOSED 11:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts	20 10:00 Stewardship - Church Marla Zwooll 11:00 Craft Time 7:00 Stewardship - Duhon's	21 9:00 & 7:00 W. Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir 6:30 Adult Study & H. Help 6:30 Stewardship - N. McGaffick's 6:45 C. Choir & Girl's Study 7:15 Kid's Club 7:30 Adult Choir	22 10:00 Hand Chimes 6:00 Stewardship - Falls' 7:00 Venture Crew	23 7:30 CODA	24
25 <i>Psalms 68:1-10</i> 9:30 & 11:30 W. Service 10:45 S.S., Fellowship, New Members 12:30 Praise Band 5:30 YF Judgement House	26 OFFICE CLOSED 11:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Cub & Boy Scouts	27 <i>Family Life Center in Use</i> 6:30 Ad. Council	28 9:00 & 7:00 W Watchers 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Teen Choir 6:30 Adult Study & H. Help 6:45 C. Choir & Girl's Study 7:15 Kid's Club 7:30 Adult Choir	29 10:00 Hand Chimes 1:00 Compass Group 7:00 Finance	30 7:30 CODA	31 <i>Family Life Center in Use</i>