

The Parish Portrait

Volume 1, Issue 34

December 2013, January 2014

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we begin the season of Advent I found a story which I found both humorous and thought provoking:

After being away on business for a week before Christmas, Tom thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift.

"How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics clerk. She showed him a bottle costing \$50.

"That's a bit much," said Tom, so she returned with a smaller bottle for \$30.

"That's still quite a bit," Tom grouched.

Growing disgusted, the clerk brought out a tiny \$15 bottle.

Tom grew agitated, "What I mean," he said, "is I'd like to see something real cheap."

So the clerk handed him a mirror. --

<http://www.christian-jokes.net/Jokes/Christmas-Jokes/244-Cheap-Christmas-present.aspx>.

There is nothing "cheap" about the gift which God brings to us in Christ! The influential theologian Dr. J. A. T. Robinson called Jesus the "human face of God". Jesus Himself said: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father". John 14:9. Also the witness of John 1:14 proclaims of Christ: "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of **grace** and truth.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer bore witness that there is no such thing as **cheap grace**:

"It is costly because it cost God the life of



his Son: 'we were bought at a price,' and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us.

Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."

This Advent and Christmas, Christ the Lord invites us to receive the richest gift of all, i.e. the gift of life, life abundant; life eternal. **He** has paid the price! **Rejoice!**

Yours in Christ,
Greg Leigh

Missions

The missions committee is in the process of finding an area of need for our winter mission trip. Dates will be sometime between the middle of February and the middle of March for one week. We are currently talking with a group that is working in northern Florida where they had severe flooding after a lot of rain in August & September. If you are interested in information or possibly going with us, contact Dick Miller at 419-749-2513 or 419-438-3308. Thank you.

Calendar of Events

Adult Choir Practice	Wednesdays 6:30pm
Lions Club Meeting	2 nd Monday monthly
UMW Meet	Wednesday December 4th at 7pm
Trustees Meeting	Wednesday December 18 th at 7:00pm
Administrative Board	Thursday December 19th at 7:00pm
Hanging of the Greens	December 1 st during 9:30am worship service
Communion Sunday	December 8th
UMYF Dinner Theater	December 8th
VMC Christmas Caroling, meet at VMC	Tuesday December 10 th 6:30pm
Preschool Program	Wednesday December 11 th 7pm
Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday December 24 th 7pm.
UMW/ UMM Joint meeting	January 5, 2014

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook



Convoy United Methodist Church

You can follow the news of the church at www.convoyumc.org or follow us on Facebook.

Sunday School Teachers

To help give Sunday school teachers a break once in a while, we would like to have guest teachers. If you are available to help, please place your name and number in the basket in the vestibule marked "Sunday School," on the coat rack. Thank you! Any questions please contact Tina Pawlick at 749-4278.

Village Ministry Center

The VMC is now open Monday through Thursday from 3:15pm-5pm for homework assistance. Free Wifi is also available. If you are interested in helping or looking around, please drop by. The VMC is located on the corner of highway 49 and Tully Street in the old Buds Variety Store building.

VMC Dates to remember

- Christmas Caroling December 10th 6:30pm
- Christmas Caroling, if you know the name of a "shut in" who would appreciate hearing carols, please contact Steve Drake at Hall Lumber 419-749-2119

Loaves of Love

December collection items will be mac & cheese with pull tabs in microwavable containers. You may continue to give monetary gifts through the offering labeled Loaves of Love. Thanks for all your continued support.

Aluminum Tab Collection

Stop and drop your aluminum pop tabs in the collection jars in the vestibules. The tabs will be given to Cyler Miller for his donation to the Ronald McDonald House. Another way we can support local missions. We have one full jar and will be starting another.

UMYF

Our fantastic youth are preparing yet another dinner theater for all our enjoyment. The dinner and performance will be held Sunday December 8th at 6:30pm, where two plays will be performed.

There will also be homemade cookie jar mixes for sale to support their mission efforts.

If your passion is set design please contact Jean Leary, or Megan Hall, your efforts are appreciated.

If you have never seen the youth perform, you don't know what you're missing. Make plans to attend.

Crestview Heritage Board

(excerpt from letter dated 10/30/2013)

Dear Faithful Supporter,

The children at the "Wings of Joy Bible Center" Crestview Heritage Board are excited in learning about the life of Joseph and memorizing the books of the Bible.

"What a joy as an escort do I experience in seeing the progress of these young people? I repeat myself in saying; we are so blessed to have such a privilege."

The Board appreciates your interest, prayers and financial support.

If you have questions about the teaching, finances, helping in escorts or wanting to set up a visit to see and hear what we teach to the children, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Diane Perry, Treasurer

Crestview Heritage Board

The Giving Tree

Once again, our community giving tree will be located in the vestibule of the church. The tree will be made up of families with a need in our local community. Please make it a point to stop by and see how you can make a difference.

The gifts should be wrapped and the label that belongs to that package should be on the front.

Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for 2013 is up on the bulletin board at the edge of the sanctuary. There are still a few dates available, but they are going fast. The cost is \$27 per Sunday.

Prayer Concerns

Margaret Miller, Brad Hughes, Mary Jo Hammonds, Dean McOmer, Dick Burden, Greg & Madalyn Emerick, Helen Anderson, Annabelle Clevenger, June Burns, Rosalee Burns, Dale & Dorothy Gleckler, Annabelle Clevenger, Madge Wilson, Gina Griffiths, Dave & Stella Stevens, Shelly Klinker, Ray Tinnel, Reese Sunderland, Anna Dyer (Delta Dingus' mother), Pam Kulwicki, Luke Hoffman (Delta's friend).

Vancrest/Convoy: Romaine Feasby

Hearth & Home: Jim Ryan

Georgetown Place: (Fort Wayne) Dean Branstrator

Elmcrest of Lima: Nell Rice

Laurels of Rockford: Jim and Jean Thomas

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Revelations 2:10 KJV

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 Jordan Leigh. 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. You're always welcome to come join us.



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Sycamore and Main
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Comic Relief



Church Mice.

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

Enter to Worship...Depart to Serve



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