

The Parish Portrait

Volume 1, Issue 12

February 2011

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Following the worship service on Sunday February 13th, we will gather in the fellowship hall of the church to enjoy a wonderful Valentine's Day dinner. Therefore I thought it might be helpful to offer a brief history of the church saint: "Valentine" and some facets of the church traditions that continue to this day.

According to many sources, "the history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honor remains a mystery: according to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and the third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on February 14th.

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death.

Another facet of this legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before



Mission Committee 2010 Giving Report

Chad & Angi Irwin	\$300.00
Channel 44	\$100.00
Convoy Preschool	\$140.00
Convoy Fire & EMS	\$145.00
Contemperay Service	\$0.00
Crestview Enrichment (Grade 7-12)	\$516.00
Crestview Bible Center (Grades K-6)	\$924.00
Ft. Wayne Rescue Mission	\$631.00
Food Pantry	\$728.00
Gideons	\$563.00
Hati	\$1,696.27
Rick & Monica Haberkamp	\$300.00
Habitat for Humanity VW	\$100.00
Heifer Project	\$0.00
Local Needs	\$5,489.26
McCurdy School	\$0.00
Mission Trip	\$1,680.20
Nothing but Nets	\$0.00
OMS International	\$100.00
Pregnancy Life Center	\$620.00
Projector Screen	\$0.00
Red Bird Mission	\$0.00
Red Cross	\$10.00
Relay for Life	\$0.00
Salvation Army	\$222.00
Tom & Sharon Crowe's Project	\$0.00
Umcor	\$25.00
Unicef	\$7.95
United Methodist Children's Home	\$0.00
Wings of the Morning	\$5.00
Youth for Christ	\$200.00
Youth Group	\$500.00
VW County Special Olympics	\$0.00
Undesignated	\$1,100.75
Totals	16,103.07

Pastors Desk (continued)

he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed 'from your Valentine.'

Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love but on agape Christian love); he was martyred for refusing to renounce his commitment to Christ."

In summary, Valentine's Day challenges us to nurture the love of Christ that is both sacrificial and eternal!

"From Your Valentine!"

In Christ, Greg Leigh, pastor

Administrative Board

The Administrative Board will meet on the 4th Thursday in February the 24th at 7:00pm. The administrative board would like to invite all administrative board members to attend. We are deciding on the direction of many important issues that face our church family. We would love to have input from everyone.

LOAVES OF LOVE

Shaun & Shawna Putman have a dream, "No little Knight should go to bed hungry." "Loaves of Love" is an outreach program designed to feed Crestview Elementary Students whose families may not have enough food for the weekends. Every Friday, participating students will receive free food items that are both nutritious and easy to prepare/eat. The food will be placed in plastic bags and given to the student in a discreet manner. The Putmans are asking support of the local churches for monetary and food donations for this outreach. Sixteen families have signed up for the program, which will receive food on Friday at school, providing them with food and snack items until returning to school on Monday. The church is accepting donations of food

Mission Report (continued)

Above is the mission mommittee report on what was given in 2010 to our community. Wow, What an awesome church family! I would like to share with you what was told to a church member by a mission recipient recently. They stated that they were overwhelmed with the generosity of the Convoy United Methodist Church. I want everyone to know that it makes me feel so proud to be a part of this amazing family.

Valentines Dinner

The Valentine's Day Dinner will be February 13, 2011 beginning at 11:15am in the Convoy UMC social room. The menu is pork loin, chicken breast, potato, vegetable, dessert & drink. Meat being furnished and prepared by Bright Eyes Catering. A free will offering will be accepted. please come and eat with us; no offering is too small or too large. Proceeds to be used by the mission team as they return to Biloxi Mississippi, February 19th-27th, to continue work on needed repairs to homes since Hurricane Katrina.

"Souper" Bowl Sunday

Bring a can of soup or two to church on Sunday February 6, 2011 for the Helping Hands Food Pantry. Boxes will be in the vestibules. The pantry has been helping Crestview School District families, since 1997, when Pat Marsee had a dream to feed God's sheep. In 2010 over 200 adults and 160 children received benefit from the pantry, with October, November and December being the largest numbers served. The Pantry has received generous donations from area organizations & businesses, Crestview Schools, individuals and local churches, filling the shelves and freezer with items to feed those who are hungry. Your continued support is much appreciated in times when families are struggling due to the economic times.

Convoy Fire & EMS Pancake Day

The annual pancake day will be held on February 5th from 6am to 2pm. Cost is: Adults \$6, Children \$3 (ages 4-11) and under 3 free. Carry outs available. They are asking for donations of items for a bake sale. Please have items to the fire station by 8am. Thanks.

Loaves of Love (continued)

items each month, we will be assigned an item, and if you wish to make a donation, drop it in the offering plate and label "Loaves of Love". Thank you for your outpouring donations for January. Over 100 cans of ravioli and 100 chicken noodle soup have been donated. Over \$400. has been collected. February collection items are pop tarts and individual fruit cups, you may put in collection boxes in the vestibules or take to the food pantry and put on the table labeled "Loaves of Love".

Preschool Fundraiser

Convoy Preschool needs your help! A pizza fundraiser is set for February 24th at Pizza Hut in Van Wert. Ten percent of sales that day, carry out or dine in will be donated to the preschool. You must present a fundraiser ticket when you pay your bill. You can get a fundraiser ticket from Tona King or any Convoy Preschool student.

CHURCH NOTES 2 KNOW

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

If you would like to have an article published in any of the local newspapers. Please let Vickie Saylor know at: 419-749-2055.

****Above is a change from 2010**

Church Directories

The Church directories are in. You can pick your directory up in the church social room or contact Jean Leary.

Church Nursery

It will be available during the worship service. If you would be able to help out a Sunday, please contact Tina Pawlick, nursery coordinator or there is a sign up

Calendar of Events

If you have any upcoming events you would like to have included in the next Parish Portrait please e-mail kipp1985@gmail.com or write it down and put it in the box marked Parish Portrait in the vestibule.

UMM Breakfast	1 st Sunday monthly 7:30am
Administrative Board	4 th Thursday monthly 7:00pm
Trustees	3rd Wednesday monthly 7:00pm
Lions Club Meetings	1 st & 3 rd Monday monthly
Convoy Fire & EMS Pancake Day,	Feb 5 th 6am-2pm
Valentines Dinner	Feb 13 th 11:30am- 12:45pm

Prayer Concerns

Troy Hammond, Jim Hammond, Madison Ringwald, Sondra Shepherd, Janice Taylor, Mark Dingus, Maggie Bixler, Robin Agler, Vickie (Gleckler) Troyer, Genia McOmber, Shelly (Dealey) Klinker, Jean McClure, Bryan Stewart, Fritzi Stewart, Jim Ryan. Arlene Mollenkopf, Diane Mezuk Clemons, Betty Fortney, Joan Gauvey, Kaylee Hobbs, Ezella McIntosh, Gary Williams, Breanna and Brooklyn Sinn, Dave Springer, Suzanne Hale, Harold Etgen, Bob Wertenberger, Betty Springer. Unspoken Requests.

Please place additions or corrections in the green basket in the vestibule or downstairs on the typewriter.

*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect
in weakness.*

II Corinthians 12:9 RSV

sheet on the bulletin board

Hospitality Table Sign Up Sheet

There is a sign up sheet to help fill the Sunday morning hospitality table with sweet treats. If you would like to help, the sheet is located in **the vestibule**. **The treats are a welcome blessing** on Sunday mornings.

Mission Trip Slated for February

Our Mission team is scheduling for February 19th-27th. The mission group will return to Biloxi, Mississippi to continue work on repairs needed after Hurricane Katrina and would love to have anyone who is willing to help join them. If interested, contact Dick Miller or Jon Hall.

Upper Room Devotionals

The Upper Room devotionals are now available by the calendar. Feel free to take one for the new year.

Flower Calendar

The Flower Calendar for 2011 is hanging in the vestibule. Weekly flower cost is \$27.00.

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 or Jon Leigh, Female Vocalist Rita Miller

Church Sign Then...



And Now!



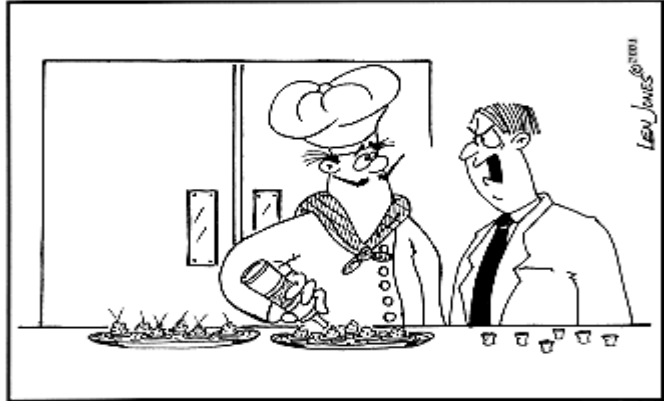
Casual dress such as jeans, T-Shirts, and ball caps are acceptable at this service. Refreshments are offered to be enjoyed throughout the service. Not on time for the beginning, not a problem. You're welcome to come in and join us whenever you get there. It's very informal. You're always welcome to come join us.



Convoy United Methodist Church
Sycamore and Main
Convoy, Ohio 45832
419-749-2383
Enter to Worship..., Depart to Serve

Comic Relief

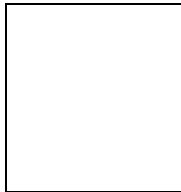
ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"Chef school or no chef school.... I've told you a hundred times. We are serving Communion not brunch!"

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.

Convoy United Methodist Church
 Sycamore and Main
 P.O. Box 128
 Convoy, Ohio 45832



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

