

# The Parish Portrait

Volume 1, Issue 35

February 2014

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we continue our journey of Epiphany, I have been reflecting on the awesome wonder of the transformation power of the light of the world, Jesus Christ. While studying at Methesco, the Rev. Dr. John Giltner once shared these words in our church history class: "there is nothing more wondrous than the transformation of a soul in Jesus Christ!" 1835-1917: Wesleyan Methodist Church wrote about one of these miraculous transformations in Christ.

On the Fiji Island of Bau where Ratu Cakobau lived, there used to be a cannibal killing stone. The captives in war, who were still alive when they were brought to the island, were killed on that stone in a savage manner of which we have a surviving description. When Cakobau became a Christian through the ministry of Methodist missionary Reverend Joseph Waterhouse, he told his people that the killing stone must never again be used for that purpose. He declared he would build a church house, and pulled down all 17 of the heathen temples that were in Bau. From the foundation stones of these temples he build a church, the walls of which are three feet thick! Then he took the killing stone on which war victims had been killed before being cooked in the cannibal ovens, and he said, "This stone will henceforth be used to the Glory of God."

King Cakobau thus turned that huge killing



stone into a baptismal font, and sat it in front of the congregation, "of old," he said, "it sent people into the cannibal oven, henceforth it is going to bring them into the Kingdom of God."

This cannibal king became a great leader and a great Christian. When Cakobau died those who were there besides him reported his last words, "**Hold me Jesus, my faith in Thee is firm!**"

How great a salvation that was—from a cannibal who had devoured a thousand bodies to a Christian leader with a firm faith in the Lord! To repeat the witness of the Rev. Dr. John Giltner: "**There is nothing more wondrous than the transformation of a soul in Jesus Christ!**"

Yours in Christ,  
Greg Leigh

## "Souper" Bowl Sunday

"Souper" Bowl Sunday will be February 2, 2014. Please bring a donation of soup cans to church to help the food pantry. A collection table will be in the gathering area.

## Calendar of Events

Adult Choir Practice	Wednesdays 6:30pm
Lions Club Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday monthly
Convoy Fire & EMS Pancake Day	Saturday February 1 <sup>st</sup> 7am
"Souper" Bowl Sunday	Sunday February 2 <sup>nd</sup>
UMW Meeting	Wednesday February 5 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm in social room
Valentine Dinner	Sunday February 16 <sup>th</sup> 11:15am-12:45pm
Trustees Meeting	Wednesday February 19 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm
Administrative Board	Thursday February 27 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm
Stitched Together	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month @ the VMC

## Valentine Dinner

Mark your calendar for February 16<sup>th</sup> to attend our Annual Valentine's Dinner 11:15-12:45 featuring either roast beef or chicken breast, choice of potato, vegetable, salad, dessert and drink for a FREE WILL OFFERING.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for donations of ANY kind of dessert or salad. Proceeds will go towards the mission trip to help purchase supplies

## Wireless Internet Available

Log into the Convoy UMC Guest wireless Internet. Password available at the church. If you have questions or problems, please contact Dan Baska or Tim Dingus.

## Missions

The mission's team are in the final stages of their preparation for their trip to Panama City, Florida. They are scheduled to leave on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and return on Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be staying in a cottage at the Luguna Beach Christian Retreat Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> through Thursday night the 27<sup>th</sup> at no cost. We will be working on homes that were damaged by floods in August and September. There is still time to join our happy group for a week of fun and satisfying hard work. The satisfied feeling you will receive is great. For more information contact Dick Miller at 419-438-3308. The proceeds from the upcoming Valentine dinner on Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>, will go with the team to help purchase supplies and cover expenses.

We also had a good year with our mission giving. The total giving for the year of 2013 was \$18,813.61 with \$861.32 going for the special requests for disaster relief.

## 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

- Stitched Together will be held Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month.

## Prayer Concerns

Chelsi Siefker, Heather (Feasby)  
Cramer, Larry Holden, Aubrey (Pollock)  
Turner, Jasmine Coleman, Dean McOmber,  
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, Carolyn Schumm, Ron  
Clemons, Destinee Hoblet, Pam Kulwicki,  
The family of Rodney Orsbon, Unspoken  
Requests

**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

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do  
not lean on your own understanding. In all  
your ways acknowledge him, and he will  
make straight your paths.”*

**Proverbs 3: 5-6 ESV**

## 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



## Loaves of Love

February collection items will be pop tarts.  
You may continue to give monetary gifts through  
the offering labeled Loaves of Love. Thanks for  
all your continued support.

## Who's in your Social Network



It can be that simple if you want it to be.  
Thanks Susie Baska for the contribution.

## Valentine Boxes for College Students

We will be mailing valentines to our college  
students February 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to  
participate, please have your Valentines  
(*individually addressed to the students*) in the  
social room by 11:30am.

Our college students this year are: Derrick  
Baksa, Marcy Saylor, RJ Rice, Jordan Leigh,  
Matt Holden, Rachel Hall, Mackenzie Elder, Alec  
Elder, Brooks Elder, Jonathon Leigh, Grace  
Klinger, Courtney Gehres, Garret Gleckler, Cora  
Finrock, LaNae Beougher, and Anne Marie  
Young

## 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.



*Convoy United Methodist Church  
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

## Comic Relief



Don't forget to check us out on the web at [www.convoyumc.org](http://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  
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