

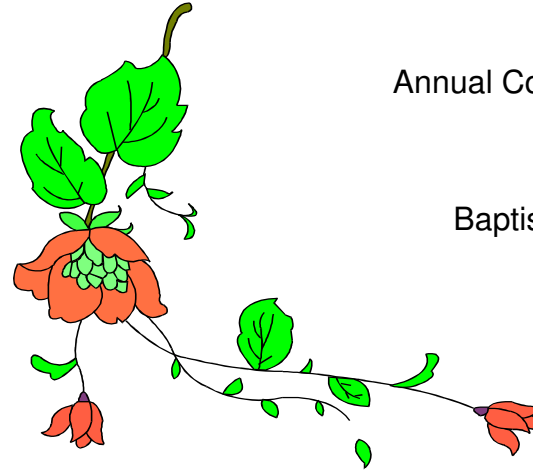
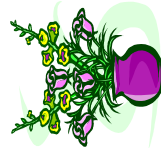
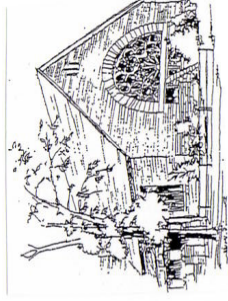
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
55 West Lincoln Avenue
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Delaware, Ohio
Permit No. 43

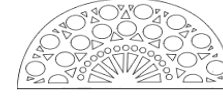
Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tues—Fri.
Phone: (740) 363-3611/Fax: (740) 368-8405
Website: www.asburyohio.org
E-mail : church@asburyohio.org

June 2011 Church Newsletter



Asbury Messenger

June 2011



June Highlights

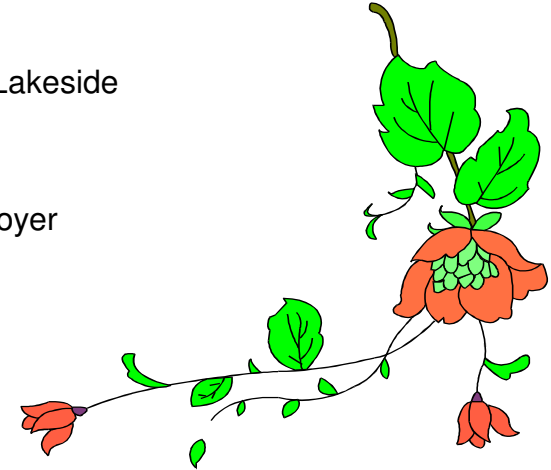
June 5
Recognition of Graduates
Communion will be celebrated.

June 10 – 12
Youth Annual Conference at Lakeside

June 12
Guest preacher: Reverend Jon Powers

June 12-16
Annual Conference at Lakeside

June 26
Baptism of Colin Boyer



It Takes a Church ***By Pastor Phil***



Our oldest child is graduating from high school. My mother says it seems like she should still be ten years old, and that sums up how I feel about it.

Rites of passage put one in a reflective mood, and I've been thinking about the ways Rebecca has been nurtured in the churches we have served throughout her childhood.

When Rebecca was born, Tammey was the pastor at the Rock Creek Community United Methodist Church in Ashtabula County. One of the members, Dorothy Norton, offered to hold Rebecca during the service while Tammey led worship. Well, she didn't exactly *offer*. She practically *took* Rebecca out of Tammey's arms each week.

I was the pastor at the Orwell and Windsor United Methodist Churches. Between us, we had three churches, and we had to decide where to celebrate Rebecca's baptism. It didn't seem right to pick one church over the others, so we decided to have an afternoon service and invite all three congregations to attend. The service was held at Orwell, which was centrally located, and my uncle, the Reverend Don Dolick, baptized her.

Tammey went on Family Leave in July of 1993, which meant that she was able to participate in the Orwell and Windsor churches. Of course, since I had to hurry from one service to the other, she was on her own to get Rebecca to church. I recall that George Law at Orwell often helped Tammey carry the diaper bag and whatever else she had to bring to and from the car.

Rebecca's first Sunday school teacher was Joy Wilson at Windsor. We used to laugh that Rebecca was so little that she couldn't say "Mrs" so she simply called her "Wilson." Since neither of us had family nearby, Joy, George, and Dorothy became grandparent-like figures at church.

We moved to Seville when Rebecca was four, so she has very hazy memories of these early people in her church experience. That always made me a little sad, but that's why we enjoy telling her about them.

During our ten years at Seville, Rebecca grew from a little girl to a fourteen-year-old preparing to enter high school. One of her many memories of those years was Jo Kelly playing the piano for the opening time of Sunday school. Those songs, and more importantly Jo and her husband Dee's Christian witness, will remain with Rebecca throughout her life.

Seville was where Rebecca was confirmed. Although I led the class, I'm sure her most lasting memories were with her mentor, Sandy Bridenthal. Sandy was also our neighbor, so we got to know her not only in her "church clothes," but also in her "garden clothes," as Sandy spent a lot of time outdoors.

Gimme 5 Update **By Martha Fikes**



The Gimme 5 program is off to a great start and more and more plastic is being recycled. Did you know that many pharmacy bottle, hangers, plant containers, mega drink glasses, and microwavable containers are #5?

However there are a few ways that we can improve it. Be sure to check that an object is a #5 plastic. While most dairy containers are #5, many of their lids are not. If a piece of plastic does not have the #5 recycling triangle, discard it. Also, in order to be environmentally friendly, trips to the recycler, located in Dublin, are made monthly. So

Please clean the plastic before bringing it to the church so it does not mold or mildew

During storage. We've been doing a great job, Asbury. Let's do even better!

Financial Summary January 1 thru April 30, 2011

Income

Pledge Payments	93,782.29
Building Payments	21,994.70
Loose Plate	1,495.50
Preschool Rent	2,520.00
Total Revenue	\$119,792.49

Expenses

Staff Compensation	50,191.72
Facility Expenses	23,389.71 (utilities, repairs, elevator, fire, security, snow removal, insurance, copier, taxes)
Apportionments	13,601.60
Mortgage Payments	32,984.72 (\$8,246.18 per month)
Member Loan	5,280.00 (to repay members for loans from 2005)
Total Expenses	\$125,447.75

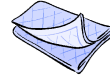
Deficit - \$5,655.26

Mortgage balance \$1,375,753.29

(building addition, elevator, organ)

Blanket Sunday

Asbury's offering for Church World Service blankets totaled \$1226.00. Thank you for supporting this program which makes a difference in lives near and far. Gifts may still be offered. Note "Blanket Sunday" on your check or envelope.



Congratulations to Rich Edwards and Tammie Gortner, who were united in marriage on May 14.



Thank you Asbury Family for the college care package for finals! It made studying much better!
-Erin Litchfield



Thank you Asbury Congregation for the Easter basket of snacks (college care package.) I really appreciated it and it was very thoughtful of the church to make these treat bags for the OWU students who attend Asbury.
-Jane Lehman



People In Need would like to thank the Asbury Mission & Outreach committee for their donation of \$500.00. This gift will help them to continue providing emergency assistance to families and individuals throughout Delaware County. -Dorothy Spain, Development Direct P.I.N.



Andrews House was also a recipient of \$500.00. Hand delivered by the Mission & Outreach chair, Vicki Lefevre in May. "I am running out of ways to say thank you to the Asbury congregation," says Don Chenoweth. Thank you to all.



Shop & Donate!

The Delaware County Community Market invites you to shop at their store. When you shop, 20% of the purchase goes towards the organization of your choice. Simply stop by 222 E. William Street, and choose Asbury when paying for your purchase.



The market carries: produce, baked goods, soups, sandwiches, breads, ribs, pies, jams, jellies, sauces, honey, eggs, soaps, lotions, candles, artwork, cards, jewelry, bird food, socks, and much more. Many of the vendors are local. Please visit their web-site at www.dccmc.com or call them at 740-610-0091 with questions.

Sandy was the person we called in emergencies, such as the evening when Tammy cut her hand on a glass and needed to go to the emergency room. Sandy came over to the house, got the kids to bed, and stayed with the kids until we got home, folding the laundry while she waited.

The call from the District Superintendent to come to Asbury in 2007 caught all of us by surprise. Rebecca was set to attend Cloverleaf High School, and this changed everything. There were some tears, and she had to say goodbye to some friends, but she was a good sport about it, and we are grateful for that.

It's not easy to break into a new school, and it's no surprise that one of her first friendships was with a girl who had attended St. Mary's and did not know anyone at Hayes High School.

Two settings helped her begin to feel at home. One was marching band. The other was church. At Asbury Rebecca has been nurtured through Sunday school and youth group and through opportunities to participate in music for worship.

Even if you are not directly involved in those activities, many of you have had an impact on her growth as a Christian, just as you have for many other kids, though you may not have ever thought about it. Often our most important witness is when we think we aren't doing much at all.

You've probably heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." I'd like to alter that by saying, "It takes a church." In appreciation for your presence in Rebecca's life, and in the life of our family, we want to extend an invitation to attend an open house in celebration of her graduation from high school. This will be held at the church on Saturday, June 4, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Rebecca looks forward to continuing her involvement in music at Ohio Northern University in Ada. I trust that God will continue to send people into her life to help her grow in her Christian walk, just as God has in each of the communities we have lived.

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 31 - Thursday, August 4

Please let Jenny Edler know if you are interested in helping in any way.

You can phone her at 363-5408



Anna Travis & Casey Clark
By Bill McCartney



As a longtime pastor, I have special appreciation for those who work with youth - a task that's always demanding and critical to the vitality of a church. Thus I'm happy to shine our spotlight on Anna Travis and Casey Clark who direct Delaware's Ecumenical Youth Group (EYG).

Talking to them about this ministry, two realities emerge quickly. First, their earlier involvement in EYG - as youth and later as counselors - made it easy to say YES when the director position opened up in January. Both speak of the transformative influence EYG had on them as youth. Both happily recount their adult opportunities to work under earlier directors in EYG retreats, mission trips, and regular meetings.

EYG was created 40 years ago by four Delaware churches: Asbury, First Presbyterian, St. Peter's, and William Street, plus the priest at St. Mary's. Long housed at Asbury, its first and long time director, Syd Schnaars, came from Asbury.

At its height, there were 100 youth meeting each Sunday evening. Now Anna and Casey come to EYG to rebuild. Already they see strong signs of growth.

Such positive indications come from the second reality about Casey and Anna, their enthusiasm and intentionality for the work. They have such a great vision for the group, like creating a strong community sense for the youth, inspiring them to have compassion for others, and helping them to re-connect with a church. As has always been true, the majority of EYG youth are without a church home. Thus EYG is a great mission for the sponsoring churches.

In fact, mission has long been central to EYG. Their annual mission trips have taken youth to a multitude of places in need. (Often key counselors on those trips have been Asbury members.)

Anna and Casey were married at Asbury 20 years ago. Casey had some early ties with Asbury. Anna was raised in St. Mary's. Their children are Griffin (11) and Alena (8), both involved at Asbury.

A graduate of the University of Cincinnati and Ohio State Law School, Casey is an attorney doing general law in Delaware. Anna is a graduate of OWU with a Masters and PhD from Ohio State. Her field is history, and she's done teaching at OSU and Josephinum. Among current activities, she serves as a court interpreter in Delaware.

Given the enthusiasm of this couple for its ministry, I encourage others to talk with them about EYG. Nevertheless, I "warn" you. You may be drawn into that group of other "saints" who have helped shape the marvelous legacy of EYG - and find your life rewarded and transformed.

Thank you, Anna and Casey, for what you offer of yourselves to the youth of Asbury and Delaware.

Summer Sunday School
By Jean Woods



Jesus was concerned about hunger. He fed thousands of people and challenged his followers to do likewise. Jesus told Peter, "If you love me, feed my sheep." Jesus told people, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food," making it clear that how we treat hungry people matters.

Although we live in the world's richest nation, we need to be concerned about hunger. The United States is the only rich country in the world to put up with widespread hunger within its borders.

The percentage of children in poverty in the United States is triple the average for other rich nations.

In the United States, 17 percent of children live in poverty, 21 percent of children five years old or younger live in poverty, and 6 percent of all people go hungry. And more than one-fourth of all the food produced in the United States is wasted, sometimes in stores and restaurants, and often in our own homes.

Every day, in the world, 16,000 children die from hunger-related problems. That's one child every five seconds. As Christians, we are called to do something about hunger at home and around the world. Many of us care, but say, "I'm only one person. How could I possibly make a difference in such a huge problem?" We may feel ill-equipped and alone, like Amos who, when called by God, claimed he was only a herdsman and dresser of sycamore trees.

If you are willing to learn, grow, and work to end hunger in the world, please join us this summer in Sunday School. Together we will tackle the problem, find ways to help hungry people, and take actions to reduce hunger in our community, country, and world. **The following classes will address the problem of hunger this summer....**

Sunday School class for **age 3 through 4th grade** will meet in the big classroom downstairs.

Sunday School class for **teens and tweens** will meet in the tweens classroom upstairs in the balcony.

Sunday School class for **adults** will meet with Lew Fikes in the parlor.

UMW News By Mona Ray

The United Methodist Women will be having a BOOK SALE on September 12. Check out your bookshelves and see if you have something to donate. This is one of our major fundraisers for the year. We can use videos and DVD's as well as books. We can't use text books or magazines. Our mission money helps women and children in the United States and on the international scene. Our mission is to help not only by a quick fix, but by helping women to become self-supporting. Thank you all for helping in the UMW work. You make it a success. Through your efforts and the efforts of the UMW, many women and children are having a better life.



New Church Directory

Summer is fast approaching! Before you know it, plans for sending students off to college will be here. We want to make sure we get your entire family included in the new church directory. **July 29 & 30** are the summer photo sessions and the week of **October 2** for the fall photos. If you have a college bound family member or would just like to avoid the back-in-school fall commitments, we encourage you to sign up for one of the July sessions. A sign up sheet is located on the foyer table. Each family will receive a free 8 x 10 family photo and a free directory. Cherie Kowalski is organizing this effort and would welcome volunteers. Please contact her if you wish to lend a helping hand at 363-7939.



Trust Committee News By James Bartha

"It's too cold in here."
"It's too warm in here."

Margaret Forsythe loved coming to Asbury for worship, but the comfort level in the sanctuary did not always please her.

"Awww, it just needs a tweak."

"I'll be right over to take care of it."

Ralph Howald knew Delaware inside & out from his heating and cooling business. From the decades he served as an Asbury Trustee, he knew ever filter, light bulb & quick fix for our church building.

For both Margaret and Ralph, our church was a precious part of their lives. When they passed away, each of them remembered Asbury in their wills. What better way to honor their wishes, generosity and lives, than with a new heating and cooling system for the sanctuary.

Think of Margaret and Ralph as you enjoy the comfort of coolness in worship this summer.



News from the Pews By David Hejmanowski, Lay Leader



The End of the Beginning of the End
*"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven,
but my Father only." Matthew 24:36*

The predicted rapture came and went last month without so much as a whimper or a whine. Civil engineer turned preacher Harold Egbert Camping had predicted the beginning of the end on May 21st. He claimed to have calculated dates in the Bible to determine that on the third Sunday in May 2011 natural disasters would roll across the Earth, 200 million people would be called to heaven and five months later the world would be destroyed. Camping had previously predicted this would happen in 1994, and when that date passed without incident he claimed that he had simply misinterpreted some of the dates.

Camping is certainly not the first person to predict that the end of the world was coming. William Miller famously predicted the end would come in 1844, a date that came to be referred to as "The Great Disappointment." His predictions led to the founding of the Seventh Day Adventist church. Other predictions fell in 1914, 1918, 1925, 1942, 1981, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1993 and of course, the millennial predictions of 2000. Even Sir Isaac Newton proposed that the end would come by 2060.











Listening to people who claim that they can predict the end of the world is always an interesting experience. This is particularly true since Jesus himself says in the Gospels that he does not know the date- in fact that no one can know the date. Only God knows that, he says. Still, those statements by Christ don't seem to stop various Christian groups from claiming to know the exact date.

In the midst of the Rapture talk, the *Guardian* of London published an interview with Stephen Hawking. In the interview, the newspaper's science correspondent, Ian Sample, asked the physicist if there was anything he feared about death. He replied that he was not afraid of death and that he regarded the mind as a computer. Drawing on that analogy he said that there was no afterlife for broken down computers and that the thought of the existence of heaven was just a fairy tale for people who were afraid of dying.

The juxtaposition of those two stories appearing within days of one another- the world's most famous physicist stating that he does not believe in the existence of an after-life while thousands of people waited anxiously to be taken to it, was striking.

Reading news of those two events, I was driven to thought. I've always viewed life as a continuous search for truth, knowledge and joy. Truth and knowledge are related, but not the same. You can't find truth without knowledge, but the latter is merely fact and information, while the former is inherently a deeper understanding of external reality. Joy encompasses happiness, love, laughter- the things that let you search for the first two with a smile on your face.

As Jesus taught us, we have no idea when the end is coming. That may be our end- by way of accident, disease or old age- as opposed to Armageddon. Either way, living our lives wondering when it's going to happen isn't much of a way to live at all. But living our lives in a search for truth, knowledge and joy and living them by the Golden Rule means that we shouldn't have to "prepare" as Harold Camping's followers did. We should be ready whether the end- our personal end- comes next week, next year or decades from now at a ripe old age.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.	Trustee of the month: Jerrie Metz		1 Day Out Club 10a Adult Choir 7p Trustees 8p	2 Mission & Outreach 7p	3 Prayer Group 8a 	4 Rebecca Wilden's Graduation Party 4-6p
5 Willow Brook  Worship Service 2p	6 Boy Scouts 7p 	7 Care Network 10a Finance Committee 7p	8 Day Out Club 10a Staff Parish 6:30p	9 Northwest Neighborhood Assoc. 7:30p	10 Prayer Group 8a 	11
12 Blood Pressure Screening 12p  Noisy Coin Collection 	13	14 Alzheimers Support Group 1p	15 Day Out Club 10a	16	17 Prayer Group 8a Agency Conference Group 12p 	18
19 Messenger Deadline Family Promise Arrival 3p	20 Compassionate Friends 7p Family Promise	21 Family Promise	22 Day Out Club 10a Family Promise	23 Messenger Mailing 9a Family Promise	24 Prayer Group 8a Family Promise 	25 Family Promise
26 Family Promise	27 Boy Scouts 7p 	28	29 Day Out Club 10a	30 