

# Olive Branch United Methodist Church

## February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Choir 7:30pm	2 United Methodist Women 1pm Financial Peace University Preview 7pm at Clarksville	3	4
5 9am Breakfast 10am Sunday School 11am Worship	6	7 Council 7pm	8 Choir 7:30pm	9 Clarksville UMC Food Pantry 6-7:30 Sing at Cedar View Health Care 6:45pm	10	11 Men's Annual Pancake Breakfast 8am-Noon
12 Financial Peace University begins at Clarksville UMC	13	14 	15 Choir 7:30pm	16 Serving at Your Father's Kitchen 5:30pm	17 Office closed	18
19 Financial Peace University at Clarksville UMC	20	21 Church in use all day by Clinton-Massie Board of Education	22 Ash Wednesday Worship at Clarksville UMC 7pm No Choir practice	23	24	25
26 Commissioning of Mission Team FPU at Clarksville	27	28	29 No Choir practice		Church office open Monday and Friday 9am-1pm	Church office phone: (513) 932-3943

Pastor Steve Cann  
7315 Wilmington Rd., Oregonia OH 45054  
(513) 932-3943  
[www.olivebranchumc.com](http://www.olivebranchumc.com)

## Offerings

(Approx. \$6600 per month covers our 2012 budget needs)

Date	Offerings
Dec. 4	\$1391
Dec. 11	\$1796
Dec. 18	\$2323
Dec. 25	\$894
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6404</b>



<b>February</b>	1	Mandi Hudson
	2	Justin Raleigh Sydney Hudson
	3	Joshua Hultgren Kim Branan
	9	Becky Synan
	11	Phyllis Nischwitz
	16	Roger Houck
	18	Judy Schneckner
	19	Chloe Phelps
	20	Jon Phelps
	22	Scott Hagemeyer
	25	Eric Duffy



Clarksville United Methodist Church holds their Food Pantry on the second **Thursday** of the month from 6-7:30pm. Please feel welcome to join them in bagging groceries, talking to the clients, or in praying for them. **They pass out about 45 boxes of cereal each month, and we are their cereal church. So when shopping for groceries please pick up an extra box of cereal (any kind) for the food pantry and put it in the bin in the Entry. Thank you!**

**Be sure to read the latest meeting minutes from the Trustees and United Methodist Men and Women on the bulletin board.**

# Thank You

Dear friends of Olive Branch Church,  
A million thanks for your prayers, cards, visits and special thanks for the comfort basket with many useful items. We thank God for your friendship!  
Lots of love,

Stella

**Gwen Broderick** would like to thank everyone who has donated items or money towards her Ambassador trip to Europe. She is continuing to fundraise and has the following activities going on...

1. Cell phones and inkjet cartridge recycling.
2. Aluminum can recycling. You can bring them to Church on Sundays or we can come to your house to pick them up.
3. Cake balls for all upcoming holidays. \$25 for a batch of 45
4. Silpada Jewelry Sale. Orders due Feb. 3rd
5. Restaurant gift cards 1/2 price. Contact Sandy Broderick for more information or see her Facebook page. Thank you again for your support!

before you speak:

# THINK

**T** ~ Is it true?

**H** ~ Is it helpful?

**I** ~ Is it inspiring?

**N** ~ Is it necessary?

**K** ~ Is it kind?

### *Say Yes by Saying No*

Have you ever realized that the best way to say *yes* to something is to say *no* to its counterpart?

There is an interesting expression of it in the New Testament. The apostle Paul said, "Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you; instead, be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18 TEV)

It works! You can eliminate the *negative* by *accentuating the positive*. The best way to get rid of a *bad* habit is to replace it with a *good* one.

William Glasser has written a book on this dynamic which he calls "positive addiction."

What are some things to which you might become positively addicted?

- daily prayer
- daily Bible study
- physical exercise
- good eating habits
- deliberate unselfishness
- refusing to repay evil with evil
- holding back rather than jumping to conclusions
- refusing to believe the worst by holding to the best

It's a good discipline...learning to say *yes* by saying *no*.

*"...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."*

Philippians 4:8

Adapted by Pastor Steve from  
*Perceptions* by Maxie Dunnam

### **Remember The Red Ink...**

**"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your moral excellence and your praiseworthy, noble, and good deeds and recognize and honor and praise and glorify your Father Who is in heaven."**  
(Matt 5:16 AMP)

Let's do our best, not for the applause of men,  
but rather that men applaud our GOD!

### *Health Ministry Article*

Our Health Ministry representative Karin Dishon submitted this article for us. Please read!

### *Burn Calories with Video Games*

The American Heart Association has teamed with Nintendo to promote active versions of video games like Wii Fit Plus and Wii Sports Resort for people of any age who don't get 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week.

And two small studies suggest that the devices – which use wireless, motion-sensitive handheld controllers to interact with your TV – can help burn calories and improve balance, which might help prevent falls.

...A study at the University of Delaware studied 24 people ages 66 to 74 and found that they burned an average of 103 calories during 30 minutes of Wii bowling and 70 calories playing Wii baseball. A second study of 31 adults 60 to 89, found an improvement in balance after four weeks of playing games that emphasize balance, such as skiing.

Our 2008 tests of the Wii Fit concluded that while the devices don't offer much of a workout to people who are already fit, they might motivate people to become more active. But caution is necessary. The devices might interfere with pacemakers and, like real sports, can cause injuries. And it's a good idea to talk with your doctor if you're middle-aged or older and just starting to exercise.

Consumer Reports on Health – December 2010



**Psalms 91:4:** "He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection."

**There is absolutely nothing to fear about tomorrow; for God is already there!**

MEMORIES OF OLIVE BRANCH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
Minutes from 1908 to 1997

*Our historian, Stella Hagemeyer, has reviewed the UMW records from our inception in 1908 and highlights here for us some of the most interesting happenings. We will share an bit of our heritage each month – thanks to Stella – enjoy!*

*Continued...* 1939 Rev Baker reported most of the rooms in the parsonage need papering. Bessie Hagemeyer reported on attending the General Conference at Delaware. There was a special prayer in memory of William Villars who died Aug. 20, 1938. It was announced that Rev, Baker will be leaving to continue his studies in Boston. Congratulations to Thelma Settlemyre on the Birth of a son August 27. A bill was presented for \$77.08 for repairs on the parsonage.

November 2, 1939 it was reported that we need a new stove for the Church. The Lowe Brothers (Ollie & George) will donate their monthly salary as janitor of \$2.50 to the new stove fund.

December 7, 1939 it was reported we had purchased a new stove for the parsonage for \$55.25. Butlerville paid \$20, Clarksville \$21.50, Pansy \$10.75 and Olive Branch \$3.00

It was approved to give \$15 on the minister's salary.

February 1, 1940 voted to pay for the new stove for the Church \$132.92.

March 7, 1940 approved to pay \$11.30 on the apportionment; the total apportionment was \$33.80.

April 1940 approved to pay Jeff Thompson \$3 to tune the piano. The Pastor's wife, Rose Bradd, attended most of our meetings and was always willing to give the devotions.

June 1940 the program was Hat Parade.

July 4, 1940 the Society presented Lois Ross a pair of candlesticks in appreciation for her many years as secretary and wishing her a happy birthday (July 5<sup>th</sup>). It was announced that our annual picnic at Ft. Ancient will be July 21 with Sunday School and Preaching Service at the park followed by a carry-in dinner.

September 5, 1940 Oliver Lowe resigned as Janitor; he will be leaving for the military service the first of October. Sheldon Campbell was hired as janitor.

October 3, 1940 it was reported we have sold 156 boxes of Jell-O for 10 cents each. Plans were made for the homecoming Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> One of the mission projects for the society was the White Cross Hospital.

November 7, 1940 thanks to Francis and Lucille Plymire for donating the stove for the Church. It was approved to pay the expenses of the Homecoming: Coffee 38 cents, sugar (5 lbs) 30 cents, napkins 10 cents, gas 25 cents, Total \$1.03.

After 32 years as Ladies Aid we will now be known as Women's Society of Christian Service. The new organization was announced at the Oct. meeting by Mrs. Daisy Steele (Pastor's wife). The District President, Evelyn Reynolds of Wilmington District explained the new organization and read the by-laws.

December 7, 1940 Rev. Steele told the ladies they did not have to change anything but the name of the society.

August 9, 1941 the ladies requested some help from the Trustees on the roof repair bill of \$148.95.

December 1941 Rev. Nicholson's new wife Margaret was welcomed. She plays the accordion and was most willing to play at most of the meetings.

December 1942 the group was saddened by the death of Cora Ross, as she had been such a faithful member.

The society was happy to present a high chair to the Nicholsons for their baby son, Carl.

April 1, 1943 greetings to the new member Margie Beckett.

June 1943 purchased an American Flag & a Christian Flag for the Church \$14.89

September 2, 1943 sent best wishes to Vivian Hagemeyer as she leaves Sat. for Arizona where she will be teaching.

Approved to pay for storm doors for the parsonage, wallpaper and a sink cupboard.

November 1943 celebrated 35 years as a society: 28 adults and seven children honored the nine living charter members, corsages were given to those present. The minutes of the first meeting of 1908 were read.



Several of us attended a Leadership Training Day on January 21<sup>st</sup>. There were many great classes designed to give us tools to GROW in Christ, share Him with others, and help make our worship more meaningful. Here are some of the highlights:

Nurturing Growth in a Smaller Church – Karen Members and pastor of Jacksonburg UMC shared with us how they have grown from an average attendance of 30 a few years ago to over 120 now. They are a rural community just as we are. Here is what they focused on:

- PRAYER - before, during and after every gathering, meeting, event.
- Five Fruitful Practices – they put HUGE emphasis on these and have a member in charge of each one. Do you remember what they are? If not, see videos and examples of them here: <http://www.orvumc.org/> This focus led to a second, contemporary service.
- Emmaus share groups – they have three women’s and two men’s active share groups that keep their members energized and accountable.
- Focus on the children and youth of the church – after all, they will be the next generation of members.
- They challenged their MEN to be spiritual leaders! What message does it send to young people if 80% of the leaders in the church are women?
- Much of their growth has come from participation in small Bible study groups – faith and relationships deepen, people are nurtured, and they bring in their friends.
- They have food all the time! :) )

Small Groups Can Transform Lives and Change Your Church – Karen Doney

Small Bible study groups can serve as the “primary tool to strengthen all programs, people, outreach and service” in a church. They are great avenues for communication, outreach, caring, connecting and growing in faith! Deeper relationships form, and there is more consistent involvement. A small group has a Facilitator or Host who keeps discussion rolling during the

study. They do not teach, merely guide the group along. Here is an article about one church in Atlanta that went from zero to over 16,000 members in nine years – and they attribute that increase to God (of course) and to small groups! <http://www.navigators.ca/SGN/pdf/CreatingCommunity.pdf>

*Olive Branch is in need of a Leader  
of Christian Education  
(Sunday School, Small Groups).  
Is God speaking to your heart in this way?  
See Pastor Steve.*

I attended four workshops on Saturday and will share some highlights of three....Karen already reported on the fourth.

In ***Sing Hosanna! Storytelling in Worship*** we learned ways to use some theatrical moves to make scripture reading come alive. This enables the listeners to not only hear the message but to see it acted out and engage them in the content of the story.

The second session was called ***Would You Rather Get a Root Canal or Prepare Your Church Budget?*** The instructor offered lots of ideas for budget preparation and strongly encouraged the local church to conduct a pledge campaign so those involved in financial planning would have a sense of anticipated funding for the year.

My final workshop, ***Help, We've Outgrown our Ministry Space*** gave ideas and tips for pursuing a building campaign and the financial help available through the West Ohio Conference Credit Union.

Paul arrived at mid-day in time to attend the two afternoon sessions. Lots of helpful information was gleaned and he strongly encourages all of the Olive Branch leadership to take advantage of these training opportunities in the future.

--Judy Schaefer

## *United Methodist Men*

On December 24, 2011, the Men's group delivered 46 Christmas dinners to our surrounding neighbors who have fallen on rough times. The names were supplied by Clinton-Massie Schools, Clarksville UMC Food Pantry and by special request. Our goal is to continue to meet these needs, which we could not do without your support. All proceeds from the Men's Pancake Breakfast and the Pig Roast are used to support this mission and many others.

Also, Sunday School donated \$300 to buy Christmas gifts for a family that had suffered a personal tragedy just prior to Christmas.

Special thanks to the following people and organizations for supporting this mission: Karen Doney, Harry and Kathy Rager, Donna Potts, Kroger's, Judy Schaefer, Phyllis Nischwitz and all of you who support our missions!



The Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 11 from 8am-Noon, so please mark this date on your calendar and plan to come out for a great breakfast. Part of the proceeds from this event will support

Gwen Broderick in her Ambassador trip to Europe.

## *Outreach*

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Ronnie and Linda Fox, Terri Hackman and Scarlett Rowland visited Green Meadows Campground to spread some Christmas cheer. They distributed 22 bags filled with socks, hats, scarves, gloves, candy, literature and books on Prayer. One lady was in particular need of shoes, and through donations, we were able to help her. Many thanks to all for your donations for the "Wrap Up" program this fall!

**Comfort Baskets** – if you know of someone who could use one, please see Scarlett, Terri, Karen or Linda. In a pinch, you could make one yourself from the materials in the Office, but please sign on the clipboard so that we know you have made one. We do not ship them however.

We continue to need items for the baskets – when shopping, please think about picking up some items – **a list is in the Entry**. Thank you!

**Medicine Bottles** – due to overwhelming response, we will no longer be collecting empty prescription bottles. Thank you for your past donations.

## *Trustees*

The full Trustee minutes from our meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> are on the bulletin board, but here is a synopsis. Our officers for 2012 are: Chair- Paul Schaefer, Vice Chair- Roger Houck, Secretary- Cindy Hagemeyer, Treasurer-Gary Nischwitz and Ray Butler.

- Our church insurance policy is being reviewed, and we are seeking quotes from other companies to ensure that we have the best coverage at the best rate.
- A Building Committee is being formed to study possible growth and needs of the church.
- Kitchen sinks and countertops will be replaced as the countertop was rotted out under the right sink.
- Special thanks to Bill Phelps who did the repairs to our heating system the last time. It was much appreciated.
- Washing machine at parsonage is failing; Pastor Steve will research cost of new one.

## *Mission Team Leaving Soon*

The Mission Team is making plans for a return trip to Picayune, MS March 3-10, 2012. This will be the seventh year our church has supported a team to southern Mississippi for repairs and rebuilding since Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Thanks to all who have supported our work to date with purchases of candy, shirts, and canned goods. With so many worthy projects and non-charitable organizations seeking funds, I am humbled by your continued generosity to the works in our church.

--Judy Schaefer

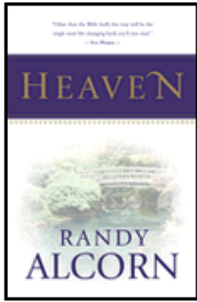
## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ....

What is Heaven really going to be like?

What will we look like?

What will we do?

Won't Heaven get boring after a while?



Our Sunday School Class will soon begin a study by Randy Alcorn on "Heaven". This study invites you to picture Heaven the way Scripture describes it – a bright, vibrant, and physical New Earth, free from sin, suffering, and death, and brimming with Christ's presence, wondrous natural beauty, and the richness of human culture as God intended it.

God has put eternity in our hearts. This study brings eternity to light in a way that will surprise you, spark your imagination, and change how you live today.

If you've always thought of Heaven as a realm of disembodied spirits, clouds, and eternal harp strumming, you're in for a wonderful surprise.

This is about real people with real bodies enjoying close relationships with God and each other, eating drinking, working, playing, traveling, worshipping, and discovering a New Earth as God created it. Earth as he intended it to be.

After the study, when someone says "I can't begin to imagine what Heaven will be like", you will be able to tell them!

Please join us on Sunday mornings from 10 to 10:45am.

Julie Malcolm

Before we begin our "Heaven" study on Sunday morning, we are viewing the film "*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*". Jon Voight and Ellen Burstyn star in this Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation bestseller! Meet "Eddie Maintenance", an aging amusement park worker who sees himself as a failure and his time as wasted. When he dies and wakes in heaven, five people from his past review his life. This film explores the unexpected mysteries of the afterlife by reminding us of what really matters here on Earth.

## Primary Sunday School

Linda Fox and Penny Miller have been talking about starting up the Beginners Sunday School again (for those in pre-school through first grade). They will have a lesson and a craft ready one Sunday each month, and invite others to take a turn on the other Sundays. Please see Linda if you could help in this worthy endeavor – curriculum will be provided!

## Financial Peace University

More than 1.5 million families have attended Financial Peace University with amazing results. On average, these families paid off \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 in just the first 90 days! Stop worrying about money, and start your journey to Financial Peace today.



**Myth:** Debt is a tool and should be used to help create prosperity.

**Truth:** Debt isn't used by wealthy people nearly as much as we are led to believe.

Debt is dumb. Most normal people are just plain broke because they are in debt up to their eyeballs with no hope of help. If you're in debt, then you're a slave because you do not have the freedom to use your money to help change your family tree.

According to a USA Today article about debt, 78% of Baby Boomers have mortgage debt, 59% have credit card debt, and 56% have car payments. It takes a lot of will, discipline, courage and help to slay the debt monster. But it can be done. Imagine how much you could put toward retirement if you just didn't have a stinking car payment? This is how the wealthy really build their wealth. Debt is dumb. Welcome to the real world!

-from daveramsey.com

Pastor Steve will be leading another Financial Peace University class, beginning on February 12, at Clarksville United Methodist Church. See him right away if you wish to participate so that he can order materials. To learn more, visit the free preview class on Feb. 2 at 7pm at Clarksville UMC.

Written by Sheila Schuller Coleman

**"Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles..."**

**-I Chronicles 16:12a/ESV**

I have learned how important it is to remember the miracles - especially when I am waiting for my miracle. So, I keep a *miracle journal* where I use my pen and paper to build a memorial of the miracles that God has done - in the Bible and to this day. I read them and re-read them on those days when my faith is more like gelatin, to remind myself that God is the same today as He has always been and will forever be. In the process, I feel the rock of faith that He is building in me.

One miracle I love to remember is that of Gina Inhelder, one of our beloved youth workers. One morning, we received the call that Gina had been in a serious car accident. I was stunned to hear that she was on life support and was not expected to live.

I ran to the hospital and prayed with her mother, father, and sister. Then I was invited to pray over Gina. I remember her hands were curled in and she was in the fetal position. The doctors had said there was no hope because her brain had been damaged beyond repair. And when I saw her and laid my hands on her, I felt as though her soul was gone. Nonetheless, I prayed for Gina and so did many others! She went through surgery and the doctors gave little hope for survival and said, "If she survived, she would likely be paralyzed."

A miracle! Gina survived the surgery! In her wheelchair, she returned to work with the youth at our church. She also went back to school and received her graduate degree! She was left paralyzed, but her smile, her joy, and her life is contagious. All who know her are blessed by her life. And imagine my surprise when seeing Gina's profile picture pop up on Facebook - Gina, a bride, propped on crutches, walking down the aisle of her wedding!

*Remember this miracle and others whenever you are tempted to doubt the awesome power of God!*

## PRAYER:

*Lord, how can I thank You for all You have done in my life? You have performed miracle after miracle in my life. I not only want to remember them for myself, I want to memorialize them so others will also know You are a God of miracles, yesterday, today, and forever! Amen.*

\* \* \*

*How have you memorialized the miracles that God has done in your life so the generations to come will remember them and know that God is a God of providence and power?*

*Please share your own miracles in this space monthly!*



Worship for Ash Wednesday will be held on Wednesday, February 22 at 7pm at Clarksville UMC.