

# The Window

*The Ontario United Methodist Church  
We Care as Christ Cares*

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SEPTEMBER 2014

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## *From Pastor Peg...*

Recently I was interviewed by the United Methodist News Service for an article they were doing which included our church. It occurred to me that I was telling the reporter things I hadn't told you. So, here's my written response to her questions.

Hi Heather,

It is exciting to hear from you. I will answer your questions to the best of my ability. I've been pastoring here for only a year, and think God has transported me to paradise.

I've been attempting to analyze what makes this such a vital congregation. My answers are quite foundational. It's twofold: the presence of the Holy Spirit inspiring people, and excellent discipling by previous pastors. These are the undergirding factors for this church's vitality.

Here's why: our success is largely measured by the warm ministry of dozens of people in this congregation. They could not do ministries like Grace and Eggs without the equipping and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and would not do it without solid pastoral leadership that sets them free to envision and own their ministry. As a newcomer, I stand on the shoulders of fine pastors who went before me. It's obvious there have been effective pastors here, because there is solid lay leadership.

The reason we have an extraordinary amount of mission activity is that each of the projects is driven and led by a lay person with passion. Just ask Jean Wagenman about dresses for Haiti or Cindy Ronk about PB & J and you'll hear their enthusiasm. Their fire ignites others. The same is true of Pat Bell's passion for Henderson Settlement, Al Kisling's involvement with Blue Rose Mission, and Karen Wagenhals' support of Love, INC. It seems every week there is a special collection for a project and

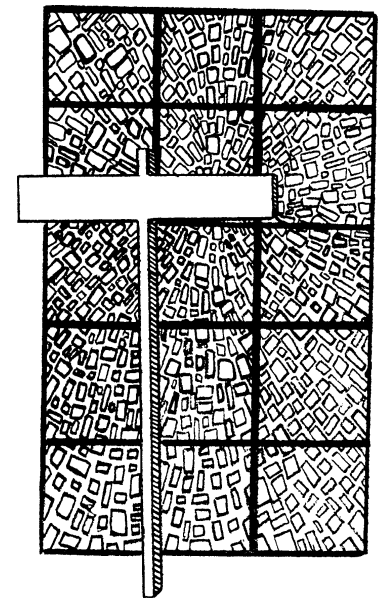
the church people never fail to provide what is needed. People see this as a church that is making a difference, and they want to participate. We support multiple local, regional, national and international missions.

Grace and Eggs has been providing an extravagant breakfast (talk about Radical Hospitality!) for eight years, and that breakfast encourages church attendance. It isn't the only meal of the week. Every Tuesday there is a fellowship meal between two Bible study classes, which certainly makes attendance at Bible study easier for folks who work. There are monthly meals for retired pastors, twice a month meals for Senior citizens, and the church feeds the swim team and football team once a week in season. Food is important to building relationships in this church. Folks sit down for coffee and cookies after church to visit with the ones they didn't catch at breakfast.

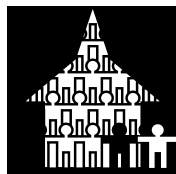
How do I define vitality? Folks here aren't in church because they are duty bound, they are here because they are spirit led. If there isn't joy in the heart when a person walks in the door, it soon will be after the hugs and greetings. My very first Sunday five different people brought a visitor up to meet me. The people of this church don't have to be trained to be hospitable because they think of this as their home, and themselves as hosts and hostesses.

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Those were my responses to Heather's questions. As you can see, I'm enthusiastic of our church and proud of it. God has big plans in store for us. Thanks be to God.



## Our OUMC Family



### Sympathy to~~~

Geretha and Bill Barndollar and family in the death of her brother, Damon Todd.

The family and friends of former OUMC member Harvey Wilson.

### Congratulations to~~~

Mick and Jackie Motley in the birth of their first grandchild, Jona Keenan Dunham, born August 5 in South Carolina to Melanie and Jeremy Dunham.

Crystal Salmons and Micah Mullins who were married on August 16.

### Celebration Days~~~ Blessings on your special day!

#### Birthdays:

2 John Boals	17 Leatha Franta
3 Mildred Blaney	17 Phillip LaSusa
6 Shirley Wright	24 Jan Zody
7 Sylvia Mueck	25 Pat Bell
8 Elaine Craven	29 Terri Rupe
9 Ashley Orewiler	29 Heidi Miller
14 Dale Perry	30 Bruce Boyce

#### Anniversaries:

- 5 Reta and Lee Kirsh
- 25 Dot and Tom Blaney

*Leave your birthday and anniversary dates at the Welcome Center to be included in the Celebration Days.*

### The Peanut Butter & Jelly Ministry

August 11 marked the end of this summer program. The families were very appreciative. A huge thank-you for all who donated time, money and grocery items. Others who helped in making this a success include

- Aldi's—discounted prices for milk and bread
- Mr. & Mrs. Tony Brenner—their weekly donation of eggs, and Libby Clark for bringing the eggs to the church.
- First Church of God—grocery donations
- Staples—discounted prices for the bins

Lastly, one more request—please keep the PB & J families in your prayers. They have many challenges to overcome. Thank you again!

—Cindy Ronk, PB & J Coordinator  
and the Missions Committee

### Thank You~~~

Dear Ontario Church, I want to thank all of you who helped to celebrate at my 90th birthday party, and for all the cards, gifts and phone calls. Thanks to all of my church people. I am blessed.

—Helen Kurbad

As it appears I am somewhere near normal in recovery from these long and tiresome medical problems, I want to extend my eternal gratitude for all the cards, visits, transportation, and well-wishes I have received these past few months. Once again this small church opens its heart with care and concern when someone needs help. I have spent more time in doctors offices, hospitals, rehab centers, etc., than I have ever in my life. It hasn't been all pleasant or enjoyable, but obviously necessary. Thanks to everyone for their love and support extended to me. God bless you all.

—Les Leedy

To All the Church Family, Thank you to all our church family and friends for the cards and prayers during my recent surgery. All went well and I am doing well. Thanks again.

—Bob Eyerly

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To Pat Bell, Darlene Taylor, Kathy Strunk, Jenny Motley and Karin Starbuck who helped sew pillowcases. We gave 30 pillowcases to Vacation Bible School and 40 pillowcases to Peanut Butter & Jelly. The remaining pillowcases will go to Harmony House.

—Jackie Motley

Our church owes a great vote of thanks to Cindy Ronk for the wonderful work she did in getting the names of families, making contact with the families, and getting everything organized for delivering the food, getting milk and bread, and making sure that the shelves were filled. Great job!

Sue Kisling organized the school supplies and handing them out to the PB & J children. Wonderful!

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* You are invited to a reception celebrating \*  
\* Lee & Reta Kirsh's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary \*  
\* Sunday, September 14, 2014 2:00-4:00 pm \*  
\* in Giffin Hall. Your presence is your gift. \*  
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### **Leadership Retreat**

*“Jesus Knows We Know What To Do;  
Let’s Get Together and Make It Come True.”*

OUMC leaders will meet for a think tank after worship on Sunday, September 7. All interested members of the congregation are invited to this open meeting that will last about two hours. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Pastor Peg or the church office by Wednesday, September 3, if you plan to attend so we have a count for lunch.

### **Living Water for Those Who Thirst**

On August 17, Greg Bixler, CEO of Design Outreach, a non-profit engineering organization, spoke to OUMC’s congregation about his team’s mission of providing 100 Life Pumps to five Sub-Saharan African countries by the end of 2014.

He shared just how important clean water is and how these countries can survive and prosper with clean drinking water.

Over the last 3 years, engineer volunteers have designed a pump that goes down in the ground 500 feet as opposed to the old 150 feet.

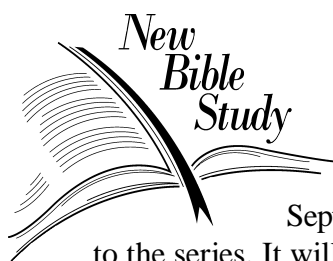
OUMC is helping Design Outreach in support of this project. Information is available at the Mission display in the west hall of the church. Please feel free to take a card or an envelope to make your donation to this project. Checks should be made payable to Design Outreach and indicate

“KENYA 0-4” on the memo line as this is the country that our church is helping to sponsor.

You can keep track of our progress by going to the website: [doutreach.org](http://doutreach.org). Read and listen to the videos to learn more about this project. Click on “About Campaigns” at the top bar and follow the leads to see a picture of Janet Bixler, the campaign fundraiser manager, dipping water out of barrels at the church garden.

Contact Janet at 419-529-4855 if you have any questions or concerns.

With your help, our church can make a difference. Thank you and God Bless.



### **Covenant Bible Study**

Covenant, a comprehensive study of the Bible in three 8-week sessions, begins on September 2 with an introduction to the series. It will continue on Tuesdays thru September 9, 16, 23, 30 and October 7, 14, 21 and 28 at both 3:30 and 6:45 pm. Choose the time that best fits your schedule. The second 8-week session will be held in January and February.

This in-depth study of the whole Bible emphasizes the theme of Covenant as a unifying pattern through all the books in the Old and New Testaments.

### **The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem**

by Adam Hamilton, will be our Advent study. John Ortberg writes: “This book may be the greatest Christmas present of the year. Adam thoughtfully, movingly walks us through what really happened when God touched this planet. The richness of the full story will touch your life as well.” The journey is on Tuesdays, November 4, 11, 18 and December 2, 9, and 16, also at 3:30 and 6:45.

You’re invited to come learn  
and share at each of these studies,  
and to join in the 5:30 Fellowship Meal  
before or after the session you choose.

### **Hearing and Following God’s Call**

One sign a church is full of vitality is when various church programs are “owned” by members who see their work as ministry inspired by God. We have many such people and ministries, such as: Grace & Eggs, Haitian dresses, PB & J, Community Garden, Tuesday Fellowship and Silvers Meals, and more.

Another sign of the presence of God is when a member hears a call to parish ministry. Recently, Karen Wagenhals, has been wrestling with God’s call on her life, and will soon begin a process of discernment called candidacy for ministry.

Karen has met with our church’s Staff-Parish Relations Committee and been approved for candidacy. For the next year, you’ll see Karen in many meetings and ministry settings as she interns at our church.

### **Help Us Stay Updated**

Many have chosen to do away with land lines, and are using only cell phones. Please help us keep our information current by letting us know if you have joined the “cell phone only” ranks.

Likewise, if you’re planning a move, contact the office with your new address as soon as you know what it will be. This way we can update our records so you don’t miss any church mailings, and can contact the offering envelope company so these Packets go to the correct address—a process that takes approximately 6 weeks. (Snowbirds, please let us know if you want your offering envelopes mailed to your winter address.)

Also, college students—please be sure the church office has your address so we can stay in touch while you’re away at school. Watch what’s happening here on our website at [ontarioumc.org](http://ontarioumc.org), or email us at [ontarioumc@neo](mailto:ontarioumc@neo).



### **Breaking Bread with the World**

Our church will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 5. To symbolize our sharing communion that day with Christians around the world, we’re looking for bread bakers to make or donate breads of all shapes and sizes, and (for the more adventurous!), breads typical from other countries and peoples. Bring the breads to the church Saturday, October 4, so we can use them to decorate our altar.

Breads may be reclaimed by their bakers after Sunday’s service, or donated to the bread bake sale table that day, which will be set up in the centrum following worship.

Donations from the bake sale will be part of our World Communion offering which helps gifted and qualified people, especially youth and young adults, who face financial obstacles that keep them from preparing for the vocation God has given them. Together, we enable national and international graduate students to change the world.

### **News on the Music Front**

#### **The OUMC Adult Choir**

begins rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3 with a “mini-retreat” from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Eat dinner before, but save room for dessert! The Adult Choir is an integral part of Sunday worship. Anyone high school age and up is welcome to attend—no audition required. Rehearsals are each Wednesday at 7:00. If you’ve ever considered singing with the choir, take that next step and show up at rehearsal. See if it’s right for you. Be assured you will be welcomed with open arms.

**The Faith Ringers** (handbell choir) rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:00, beginning September 17. The Faith Ringers perform several each season. New ringers are needed and welcome. If you have basic music-reading and counting skills, you qualify as a member of Faith Ringers.

**Godward** is for all male singers over the age of 14. You do not need to be a member of the choir to participate. Rehearsals are on Sundays at 9:30 am, and will begin September 7.

For information about any of these groups, or to inquire about other musical opportunities, contact Bonnie Fisher, Director of Music, at 419-462-0334 or [hopecabins@gmail.com](mailto:hopecabins@gmail.com)

### **September Is Hunger Awareness Month**

A Prayer and Action Calendar for the month of September will be included in the Sunday bulletin on August 31. This isn’t necessarily an effort to raise money for the hungry, but an opportunity to consider how blessed we are and what we can do for our neighbors.

If you use the calendar’s suggestions for saving money for the hungry, keep it in a jar at home and bring it to church on October 5. Money received will be given to the Salvation Army to help support their food pantry.

Watch for other hunger-related activities during the month.



The inheritors of the Promise are those unsung folks who lend others a hand when they’re falling.

That’s the only work that matters in the end. -Frederick Buechner



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***Dr. Calvin Taylor***  
***Sunday, September 21 at 10:15 a.m.***  
***at Ontario UMC***

Dr. Calvin Taylor, pianist and recording artist, will present the musical worship service, ***Holy Scripture—Alive with Sounds of Music***, on Sunday, September 21, at Ontario UMC.

Calvin Taylor has toured throughout the world, performing in North and South America, Europe, Ukraine, and the Far East. Holding degrees in music from Oberlin Conservatory, The University of Michigan, and the University of Kentucky, Calvin has authored several books, including *Spirituals for Piano*, *The Patriotic Piano*, *Spiritual Suite for Organ*, *Sacred Classics*, *Spirituals for Worship*, and *Five Spirituals for Organ*. With ten solo recordings to his credit, he records for Master Disc Records. Movements from his *Sunrise Symphony* have been performed by several orchestras including the Nashville, Shreveport, South Arkansas, Salt Lake City, and Detroit Symphony Orchestras.

Playing piano by ear at the age of five, he began formal lessons on his seventh birthday. He also studied other instruments, and was serving as a church organist at the age of fourteen. While in high school, Calvin was a member of both the Los Angeles Junior Philharmonic and the Southwest Youth Symphony.

Awarded a full scholarship to Oberlin College of Conservatory of Music, Dr. Taylor's ability to improvise led him to become the first student in the school's over 175 year history to improvise a graduate concert encore.

With an unusually-large hand span of over one and a half octaves, Dr. Taylor presents sounds and colors at the keyboard which would normally require four hands.

***You won't want to miss this remarkable music ministry!***