

news

Salkehatchie Fundraiser

It will soon be time again for our men and boys vs. women and girls coin drive to raise money for Salkehatchie. From May 1-31, there will be collection jars in the Welcome Area. Start saving your coins to be ready to support your team! •

Graduate Recognition

On Sunday, May 20, we will be recognizing graduates (at any level) at both services. We would like to recognize anyone who has graduated since last June or will graduate this year. If you know someone that fits this category, please turn in the name of the graduate, school, degree if relevant and a digital photo to Anne Horvath at whumcyouth612@gmail.com. Thanks! •

Holy Week and April Worship

Palm Sunday, March 25 will include the Children's Parade of the Palms at the beginning of both services. Then the Kidz Choir will sing "Jesus Is My Hero" at both services. And, we'll be celebrating a baptism at 9:30, and April Birthdays after the 9:30 service. This will be the last Sunday for our "Pushing the Envelope" fundraiser for Royal Family.

Maunder Thursday, March 29, we'll have the last of our Lent Events for the season at 5:30. Dinner is included, along with intergenerational activities.

Good Friday, March 30, we will observe once again the Tenebrae Service. Through readings and songs, this meaningful service follows the events from the Last Sup-

per through the Crucifixion. It provides the passionate backdrop for the joy to come.

Easter Sunday, April 1, we'll finish up our 8 part series: "Where It All Starts" with the message, "An Invitation to Believe the Strangest Idea". We'll share communion at both services. The Children are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt between services.

Don't forget to bring your Spring Blossoms in for the Flowering Cross!

And at 11, as is our tradition, we'll all join our voices in the Hallelujah Chorus

On April 8, Pastor Bev Wrobel of Mentor United Methodist Church will bring the message.

On April 15, Rev. Larry Marshall will share the message "Live by Faith not by Sight" based on the Bible verses in 1 Peter 1:3-9 & Luke 24:36- 49

The new series begins on the 22nd. It's called The Blessing of Brokenness, and it's based on the vision statement of WHUMC. The first installment is called, "That's Where We See God." We'll celebrate May Birthdays after the 9:30 service

We'll finish up the month on April 29th with a message "Jesus Shines the Light". Since this will be a 5th Sunday of the month, Anointing with Oil will be offered following both services.

As they say, "See you in Church!" •

Kids4Christ



Upcoming Special Dates:

June 10 Donuts with Dana at 10:30am. The kids will have a special time to talk with Pastor Dana before he leaves.

June 17 No Programming today so we can all see Pastor Dana before he retires. There will be a celebration of his service to our church family on the 17th.

July 9-13 VBS & SPORTSCAMP registration is open!

KID'S QUEST @9:30am and 11:00am

Each Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month is Family Worship; Easter, Christmas Eve & Music Sunday

Classes: Preschool-1st and 2-5th grade

What we will learn about:

April 8, 15, 22: Jonah; April 29: 10 Com-

Celebrating Our Membership!

Congratulations to the following members of our congregation who will reach milestone years of membership this month!

Celebrating 58 years

Rita Dolence

Celebrating 56 years

Karen Bellumori

Celebrating 53 years

Roberta Dennis

Celebrating 52 years

Ken Malecek

Celebrating 32 years

Elise Allen-Frankenfield

Celebrating 28 years

Lara Waldenmaier

Celebrating 20 years

Carol Formica

Betty Jean Greig

Congratulations, and thanks for your continuing service to the Lord through WHUMC! •

mandments; May 13, 20, 27: Noah

Kid's Choir

Choir runs the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 10:30am in the fellowship hall. We are learning new songs! We hope your child can join us as we have fun with Mrs. LeAnn!

- MARCH 25th: Kid's Choir is singing Palm Sunday at the BEGINNING of each service this day after we parade with palms! PLEASE arrive by 9:15 am to participate.
- Kid's Choir will also be singing May 13th.

Eat This Book Challenge

This is a family challenge set up to help your family read the Bible together.

There is a grand prize that will be chosen from the families that participate and hand in their form at the end. We are giving away one SPORTSCAMP scholarship! It's getting close to the end, hope you are enjoying this adventure!

Don't forget to say a prayer of blessing over your child today!

"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

We will have another challenge coming soon! Check out our Facebook page: WHUMC KIDS4Christ •

Notes on the Pastoral Transition

One of the questions that has been asked about the upcoming transition is whether it's ok to ask Pastor Dana to come back to do weddings, funerals, or other events. The short answer is no, but it deserves some explaining. As United Methodists, pastors are part of a close covenant community. That means they are committed to supporting one another in their ministries. Ultimately, that also supports the church.

When a pastoral change is made, the outgoing pastor, as an expression of their commitment to that covenant community,

Pastor's Pen

As Lent comes to a close, we find ourselves on the threshold of the Day that Changed Everything – Resurrection Sunday. All that we believe depends on it. Before it arrives, we'll have made our way through the events of Holy Week. The excitement of Palm Sunday. The intensely personal sharing between Jesus and his disciples on Maundy Thursday. The human and divine tragedy of Good Friday. The puzzlement brought by the empty tomb. But then, the unparalleled joy of his reappearance.

There's an image that can help us to appreciate that joy. Surprisingly, it's the tomb – usually a place of human sadness and fear. But this tomb is open – the huge stone that usually is set in a track and blocking the entrance is off to the side. Matthew 28:2-4 tells us what happened when the two Marys came to the tomb: "There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men."

Now we could poke some fun at the guards, but they were in a dire situation. What could they do? What would they say to their superiors? Either they'd have to create a convincing lie between them, or risk being branded fools and traitors if they told the truth. With the stone in mind, they found themselves between The Rock and a hard place.

But what about the rock – the stone? That it was moved has always been an important part of the account of Jesus' resurrection. But why was it rolled away? Jesus was resurrected in the body – did he need to move the stone that so he could exit the tomb? Friends, that's not it at all. Consider this from John 20; "Now Thomas... was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (emphasis mine).

Apparently, doors weren't a necessity for Jesus to move about. So he didn't need the stone to be rolled away so he could leave the tomb. But the angel still did it. There must have been a reason – and there was. It was the same reason for his appearance to Thomas. It wasn't so Jesus could get out. It was so those who arrived at the tomb that morning could see that he wasn't there any more. And then, they could tell us so we could believe.

This is not a quaint story. This is fact. It happened just that way. I have no doubt in my mind. That massive stone wasn't moved so Jesus could get out. It was moved so that you and I could stop doubting the love of God, the plan of God, and the power of God. It was moved so that I could believe that Jesus was raised to life, and we can be, too.

That stone was moved so the whole world could know – Jesus is risen.

He is risen indeed.

A joyous Resurrection Day to you all!



tries to make the transition as seamless as possible. One way to do that is to make sure the congregation knows that the incoming pastor is just that – their pastor. That way, the congregation can look forward instead of back, and see what it is that God is planning for them together.

Sometimes you'll hear someone say that the previous pastor can be called if the current pastor gives permission. This is, unfortunately, a mistaken interpretation of the rule. It still places the new pastor in an awkward position, because it could create some ill-will if they say no. In fact, that is precisely the reason the "rule" was created – to avoid putting incoming pastors in that situation.

So, the mission of WHUMC will be best served if everyone will thank God for what has been, but then looks to the future with hope and anticipation. •

Martha Circle

Please be advised that the April UMW meeting has been CANCELLED. The May UMW meeting will be May 7th and the program will be "Weaving - from animal to apparel". The presenter will be Bobbie Shafer. •

Sportscamp Scholarships

Each year we provide scholarships to Sportscamp for kids who can't afford to attend. If you would like to contribute, we would be grateful! Please make your check payable to WHUMC with Sportscamp scholarships in the memo. Thank you! •

ZOE

At Willoughby Hills UMC, we have touched the lives of hundreds of orphans and vulnerable children served by ZOE by our prayers, support and involvement. The effective Empowerment Methodology utilized by ZOE has led to ZOE being considered a "best practices" mission. From ZOE's website, below are ZOE's Vision, Motivation and Promise.

Our Vision: is to see a world where all orphans and vulnerable children become secure, healthy, connected, and able to care for themselves and their siblings.

Our Motivation: We are motivated by the Biblical call for Christians to help one another. ZOE reaches out in love to all vulnerable children and those wishing to partner with them, regardless of their beliefs, so they may experience the love of God with physical, social, psychological, and spiritual healing.

Our Promise: ZOE is driven by our love for children, and our passion to see them live lives of depth, health, and security. Here are some of our Guiding Principles:

- Transparency to the donor with financials
 - Proof the model works through reports about the children with real life stories
 - Dignity and honor back to the orphan with a child-led process
 - Indigenous staff are free to lead without American input
- "We know we have succeeded when children begin to stand up and find their voice."

– Reegan Kaberia, Chief Program Officer, ZOE Kenya •

Spring Conference & Union Meeting

Will be held at Mayfield UMC April 28th from 9am–1:30pm
Registration/Sign In Begins at 8:30am

Young People's Ministry Director Kaye Wolfinger will lead us in discussion of the impact of generational differences on how we do ministry. We know we love people of all ages, and that each generation has unique contributions to make. Understanding our differences can help us appreciate and acknowledge each other so we can work together for the sake of the gospel. •

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“A March to the Future From the Past”:
The 1977 WHUMC Mortgage Burning and Building Dedication

The Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church celebrated a momentous event forty-one years ago -- the mortgage burning and dedication of the church building on Sunday, 24 April 1977. The previous day, a News-Herald article described the event: “It will be parade time tomorrow morning when 480 members of Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church celebrate the end of mortgage payments on the church building. The \$140,000 mortgage will be burned tomorrow. ‘March to the Future From the Past’ is the name of the parade that begins at 9 A.M. at James A. Garfield School. The school on the corner of River and Chardon Roads, is where the 150-member congregation began having services back in 1953.” [The school building was closed in 2008 and later demolished.]

“Just after the mortgage is burned, the Bishop of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. James S. Thomas will lead a service of dedication. The Painesville District Superintendent, Rev. Walter Chisholm, and church pastor, Rev. William J. Bullock will also have prominent roles in tomorrow’s service.” Rev. Bullock served as pastor at WHUMC from 1 July 1976 to 25 July 1977 when he left for personal reasons.

A 23 April 1977 Telegraph article also described the upcoming celebration: “Church members, charter members, old and new friends, former members and public officials will join in the celebration... A Sunday morning parade is scheduled which will include the youth carrying banners and signs depicting milestones in the history of the young church (1953-1977), a Scottish Bagpipe band, a sound track playing hymns, a motorcade, and VFW and American Legion color guard, helium-filled balloons will add a festive air to the occasion.”

Before the parade began traveling west on Chardon Road, there was a Service of Commemoration of Founding Members (Charter Members) of Willoughby Hills Methodist Church at James A. Garfield School. Rev. William J. Bullock (WHUMC pastor at the time), Rev. James Simmons (pastor at the time of the granting of the charter), and Rev. Walter Chisholm (Painesville District Superintendent) participated in

the service. Hymns included “Love Divine” by Charles Wesley and “Amazing Grace” by John Newton. Rev. James Simmons reminisced about the start of the church. Rev. Walter Chisholm led a Prayer of Thanksgiving. After the service, the parade began from the school.



The following are some of the milestones depicted on the banners and signs that were in the parade:



15 November 1953- First church service in Heimerdinger's Hall at Chardon/SOM Center (where Produce Place Market is located today). The Hall was located on the second floor above a Sunoco gas station.

22 November 1953- First church service at Garfield School (located at the corner of Chardon and River

Roads). Rev. James Simmons conducted the service.

December 1953- First WSCS meeting

September 1954- Eddy Road property acquired

June 1955- Rev. William Ury and family come to serve at WHMC

20 April 1958- Groundbreaking and cornerstone ceremony at WHMC

July 1959- Rev. William Griffith and family come to serve at WHMC

When the parade reached the church, a Service of Dedication and Mortgage Burning began. Bishop James Thomas, Rev. Walter Chisholm, and Rev. Bullock participated in this service. The choir sang "Here in This House" by Ludwig van Beethoven. Bishop Thomas preached a dedicatory sermon, and then the burning of the mortgage was done. Rev. Bullock and the congregation dedicated the church building, saying, "We rejoice that God has put in the hearts of his people to build and pay for this building. Let us now dedicate it and set it apart for the worship of almighty God and the service of all persons..." Then Rev. Chisholm ended the service with a prayer of dedication.

The following is correspondence regarding invitation letters sent by Rev. William J. Bullock, pastor of WHUMC to the Bishop, District Superintendent, charter members, former members and pastors, and public officials inviting them to the mortgage burning and building dedication on Sunday 24 April 1977. These are the only documents in the archives related to the mortgage burning and dedication of the church building.

Bishop James Thomas, Bishop of the United Methodist East Ohio Conference



When Rev. Bullock sent an invitation to Bishop Thomas, he also included the plans for the mortgage burning and building dedication.

The plans are as follows:

- A. *To track down as many former members as possible, and invite them to come.*
- B. *We hope to meet at Garfield Elementary school (on the corner of Rt. 174 and Rt. 6) at 9:15 A.M. where the congregation first worshipped, and there have a brief service of worship. It is our hope that you may be able to be present for that.*
- C. *A parade from the school to the church building (about one mile) will ensue. If you can, we'd like you to be Parade Marshall and either walk or ride from the school to the church.*
- D. *When we arrive at the church there will be refreshments and a movie of the construction of the building. Much of the work was done by the members.*
- E. *The morning worship will be at 10:30 A.M., as is our custom. We would like to invite you to preach, dedicate the building, and participate in the mortgage-burning ceremony.*
- F. *Following the service, there will be an informal fellowship time as well as modest refreshments.*

Bishop Thomas responded to the invitation stating, "I have been in conversation with the district superintendent, the Rev. Walter Chisholm, and he has conveyed to you our joint agreement that I will be with you for all except the very early morning hour... Mrs. Thomas also will attend."

Bishop Thomas shared his thoughts in a letter to Rev. Bullock about his visit to the celebration of the mortgage burning and building dedication on Sunday 24 April 1977. He shared "When we returned from Willoughby Hills last Sunday, we talked about the joyous celebration which we shared with you and the congregation in the service of dedication. I was especially grateful for the careful thought and planning which you gave to the pilgrimage from the school, the historical record, and the preparation of your prayers for the worship service."

Rev. Walter S. Chisholm, Painesville District Superintendent

An invitation was sent to Rev. Walter S. Chisholm, in which Rev. Bullock said, "It appears just now as if the role we would like to have you play in this joyous occasion is to offer the morning prayer in the worship service and introduce the Bishop."

Rev. Kenneth Cocker, former church member and pastor at Manhattan Avenue United Methodist Church, Tampa, Florida in 1977

Rev. Kenneth Cocker responded to the invitation stating that he and his family could not attend the mortgage burning and building dedication. His son, Joel had just been born, so Rev. Cocker and his family (wife Rosie, daughter Katie, and son Joel) could not attend the mortgage burning ceremony and building dedication. He added, "We will be with all of you in spirit Sunday as you celebrate and praise the Lord for such a symbolic and happy occasion. Some of the most beautiful people we have known have been members of Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church, and still are. How often I think back to those early years spent in the church as a child, and further back when we all met in James A. Garfield Elementary. How far you have come since those

days! I am especially happy for this occasion Sunday, for you have been my home church for so long, in membership and in my heart. It was all of you who recommended me for my Preacher's License... We send our prayers and wishes for many more spirit-filled years of service in Christian ministry in the church we love..." Rev. Cocker was a member of WHUMC and married Rosie Griffith (Rev. Edward H. Griffith's daughter). He retired in 2016. After his retirement, he served as a chaplain at Wuesthoff Hospice and Palliative Care Center in Florida.

Rev. Edward Griffith, former pastor at WHUMC

Rev. Griffith sent his regrets. "I am deeply sorry that my family and I will not be able to attend this great occasion..." He continued, "Bill, you are very fortunate to have a loving, Christ-filled, Christ-centered, Christ-serving congregation! I've often used as a model the various forms of outreach we experimented with in Willoughby Hills. Our family joins in celebrating with you the accomplishments of the first phase mortgage burning. Our blessings and prayers for continued service for our Master and Lord." Rev. Griffith served as pastor at WHUMC from 1967-1974. He retired in 1992. Since his retirement, he served short terms at a number of churches in Florida. He passed away in 2011.

Rev. William D. Griffith, former pastor at WHMC and pastor at The United Methodist Church of Macedonia, Ohio in 1977

Rev. Griffith responded: "Tanya and I find it impossible to be present on April 24, 1977, when you celebrate the completion of payment of debt on the church building. However, we rejoice with you in the removal of the burdens of debt. May your witness expand and grow in the future as God calls you to new service in his name. Congratulations on your freedom from debt!" Rev. William D. Griffith served as pastor at WHUMC from 1959-1966. As of July 2017, Rev. William D. Griffith was Pastor Emeritus, at Willowbrook UMC in Sun City, Arizona.

Ray LeGrand, served as Education Chairman in 1969, Lay Leader in 1974, and Chairman of the Administrative Board of WHUMC in 1977

Ray LeGrand sent an invitation to charter members Mr. and Mrs. Albert Raitzer of Coon Valley, Wisconsin. The Raitzers' responded: "We are sorry we cannot attend, but our thoughts will especially be with the members on that momentous occasion. This event is truly a milestone in the history of the church and one which we are sure all the congregation has labored hard to reach. May the work of the church continue to grow and prosper in spreading his gospel throughout the Willoughby Hills area." Mr. Raitzer passed away in May 1977.

Rev. William J. Ury, former WHMC pastor



Rev. William J. Ury replied, “ Beth and I regret that we will not be able to be present for this very happy occasion... We look forward to being with you on May 22 and bringing our congratulations to all of you at that time. Our minds and hearts will be with you as your celebration begins at

9 o'clock at Garfield School. A flood of warm memories will cause our cup to be full for all God has done for your congregation these past twenty-three years and for all that all of you have done in obedience to him. We thank God for you! Please give our warm regards to Bishop and Mrs. Thomas and to everyone who is in attendance.” Rev. Ury served as pastor at WHMC from 1955-1959. A June 2015 church newsletter article explained, “Bill and Beth served thirty years in the Asian mission field, working with the Methodist Church, Trans World Radio, The Mission Society and OMS (One Mission Society)... Even when they returned permanently to the U.S...they both continued to speak around the country and to be involved in overseas work until Bill's death in 2010.”

The following quotes are from the appreciation letters sent by Rev. Bullock to various people thanking them for attending and helping with the mortgage burning and building dedication.

Bishop James Thomas, East Ohio Conference Bishop

“Yesterday's celebration of the burning of the mortgage and dedication of the building was indeed a high experience in the life of this congregation. The two young women who were confirmed in their faith spoke regarding how delighted they were to have had the hand of a Bishop laid upon their heads.” Bishop James Thomas was the East Ohio Conference bishop from 1976-1988. Rev. Thomas met Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1955. Rev. Thomas became a civil rights leader, and “...was a pioneer in radically charged times.” In 1964, Rev. Thomas became “the youngest bishop elected in the Methodist Church's top clergy leaders at age 45.” At the same time, he “broke racial barriers when he was assigned to an all-white annual (regional) conference in Iowa.” (UMC.org) Bishop Rev. James Samuel Thomas passed away in 2010.

Rev. Walter S. Chisholm, Painesville District Superintendent

“Thank you for taking the time yesterday to be present with us for the celebration of the dedication of our building and the burning of the mortgage. It was a great day in the life of our church. Somehow the change to daylight saving time and the weather were not as cooperative as we hoped they might be. However, that did not diminish the sense of excitement in the celebration.” Rev. Walter S. Chisholm was District Superintendent of the Painesville District of the East Ohio Conference from 1975-1981. He retired in 1992.

Don Campbell, WHUMC Lay Leader

"The leadership and creative thought that you gave to the celebration in our church this past weekend is much appreciated by the entire congregation. It was a grand and glorious day... Your leadership is a stimulus and inspiration to many. Again thank you for the generosity of time, talent, and energies that you invested in this past weekend." Donald Campbell served as mayor of Willoughby Hills from 1964-1974. He passed away in 1981.

Elmer Sakach, Chairman of the WHUMC Mortgage Burning and Building Dedication Committee

"I want to convey on behalf of the congregation our gratitude for the fine work and the stimulation you gave to the development of plans for the dedication of our building and the burning of the mortgage. You are looked upon by our congregation with great admiration and respect, and the willing cooperation that came from people under your leadership is a tribute to the kind of Christian life you lead." Elmer was a very active member of the church. He passed away in 2005.

Mayor Melvin Schaefer and The Council of Willoughby Hills

"The celebration of the mortgage burning and dedication of our church building this past weekend was a grand experience in the life of our congregation. We appreciate your taking time to be present with us. The congregation appreciates the supportiveness that you have demonstrated in this regard." Mel Schaefer has been a member of WHUMC for many years. He served as mayor of Willoughby Hills from 1976-1991.

Rev. James Simmons, former pastor

"It was a joy to have you with us yesterday in the celebration of the mortgage burning and dedication of our building. It was obvious from the warm reception you received from Charter Members that your work here was much appreciated." Rev. James Simmons served as the first pastor of the congregation. On 22 November 1953, he conducted the service attended by 30 people at Garfield School. He later became an archivist.

Chief of Police William Thomas, Willoughby Hills Police Chief from 1956 through the 1970s

"A work of gratitude to you and your police force who were on duty on Sunday morning, and who gave us protection and leadership in the parade from the school to the church building. It was a good experience for the children as well as the adults of our church to have an opportunity to walk on the highway to symbolize our movement from the past, through the present, and into the future. Will you please express our gratitude to the men who were on traffic control during this parade."

Rep. Dennis Wojtanowski, member of the Ohio House of Representatives

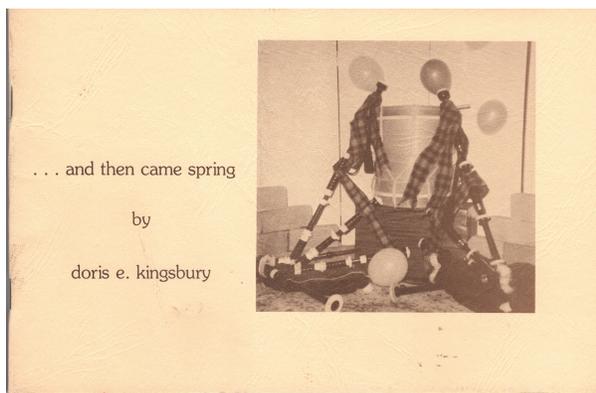
Rev. Bullock sent an invitation to Rep. Dennis Wojtanowski, member of the Ohio House of Representatives District #74. Rep. Wojtanowski and the members of the House of Representatives of the 112th General Assembly of Ohio sent a certificate in response to the invitation congratulating WHUMC and Rev. Bullock on the occasion of the mortgage

burning and dedication of our church building. The certificate stated: "More than a mere building a church is the dedicated individuals who have joined together to bring life to the house of the Lord. Since 1958, when the present structure was completed, the congregation of Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church has truly experienced and demonstrated the living faith...Therefore, with sincere pride and admiration, we congratulate the Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church on this most hallowed and happy occasion and honor the spirit of faith and brotherhood which has become it hallmark." Rev. Bullock sent a thank you letter to Rep. Dennis Wojtanowski for the certificate. Rev. Bullock wrote, "It was a grand and glorious experience in the life of our church and your greetings added to the sense of importance that our church plays in the community." Dennis Wojtanowski served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1975-1982.

To commemorate the parade from James Garfield School to the church, Doris Endress Kingsbury of Mayfield Village authored a book with photographs contributed by congregation member Alex Blazy. The book, sold for \$2.50 and printed by MC Graphics in Chagrin Falls, was "Written upon the occasion of the mortgage burning at Willoughby Hills Methodist Church, Willoughby Hills, Ohio." On the next page it noted, "Dedicated to Dolly whose loving encouragement made this book possible." Dolly was Doris Kingsbury's then 25-year-old daughter.

Doris Kingsbury became acquainted with the events because her husband, George R. Kingsbury was a good friend of Alex Blazy. George, and his son Christopher, played bagpipes with the Cleveland Kiltie Pipe Band and Alex invited them to play and lead the parade! They, in turn, invited Dale Mitchell, a drummer from Willoughby, to join them.

The book tells the story of two bagpipers and a drummer. They wanted to have a parade for the first day of spring, but the parade was cancelled due to the weather. The parade occurred on a later date, which happened to be on the Sunday of the church mortgage burning. Even though it was misty and raining, the parade began at Garfield School with bagpipes, drums, the Balloon Lady, and a crowd of current and former church members, clergy, and public officials marching down Chardon Road to the church on Eddy Road. The rain even stopped when they reached the church, and "the children raised balloons higher in the air...because it was truly Spring!" Doris E. Kingsbury passed away in 2010.



Rev. Edward Griffith described WHUMC, "As a loving, Christ-filled, Christ-centered, Christ serving congregation." That description is as true now as it was 41 years ago."