

# news

## Bus Trip

The Willoughby United Methodist Church has been celebrating the 200th year of their founding during this past year. As a final event, a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater production of “JESUS” in Lancaster, PA on August 22 has been planned. The overnight tour (August 21-22) includes the show, a stop at Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA, hotel accommodations at the Lancaster Hotel (two queen beds per room), a tour of the historic 18th century home of a Revolutionary War General, two meals and a hot breakfast and bus transportation (55 passenger, rest room on board), Folks from WHUMC and Mentor UMC have been invited to join friends on this trip. A flyer with more info is on our Activities table in the Narthex. Contact Nancy Zabjek at 440-668-7997 or email: [fyzabjek@yahoo.com](mailto:fyzabjek@yahoo.com)

Tour price is \$365. per person due July 15th. If you have not already reserved, the total final payment (\$365) is due July 15. If you have made a down payment option, balance due (\$290) also be due July 15th. Check should be made out to Willoughby United Methodist Church; Check should be sent to Nancy Zabjek, Tamarac Apartments, 38340 Tamarac Blvd. 120E, Willoughby, Ohio 44094 •

## Kids4Christ

- July 9-13th VBS & SPORTSCAMP
- July 15: Festival: 11am-2pm after service we head outside for food, fun and games!
- July 19: Give Back Day: Senior Center
- July date TBD: Dig Deeper 6:30-7:30pm Upcoming 3rd&4th graders special night

- July 31: Give Back Day at McKinley Center
- Aug 19: School supply drive for Special needs and Food Drive for “End 68 Hours of Hunger”

### 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 grade and 2-5th grade. July 8, 22, 29

### 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!

### FAMILY CHALLENGES

Summer Challenge Available Now!

*Don’t forget to say a prayer of blessing over your child today!* “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Check out our Facebook page: WHUMC KIDS4Christ •

## Congratulations To Our 2018 Graduates



Maggie Grmek, Wickliffe High School



Lindey Newman, Mentor High School

## Celebrating Our Membership!

Congratulations to the following members of our congregation who will reach milestone years of membership in July and August!

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Celebrating 55 years (Aug)</b><br>Larry Raven               | <b>Celebrating 10 years (Jul)</b><br>Layne Kendig<br>Martha Flemming<br>Anne Horvath<br>Dr. Michael Horvath<br>Martha Howle<br>Bernice Jones<br>Judy Knoefel | Kelly Szakal<br>Thomas Szakal<br>Charlie Zito |
| <b>Celebrating 28 years (Aug)</b><br>Holly Shifflett           |  |   |
| <b>Celebrating 27 years (Jul)</b><br>Ben Howes<br>Laurel Howes |  |   |

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



Lydia Keipert, Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene, Lakeland Community College



Christopher Baldwin, Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, The Ohio State University



Mario Formica, Bachelor of Arts in Theater, Minors in Art Management and Music Theater, Miami University

### Youth Ministry News

The Salkehatchie Mission Team included Emily Dennison, Pete Formica, Sara Formica, Maggie Grmek, Neil Grmek, Simone Hofer, Anne & Mike Horvath, Clay Lovell, Herb & Carol Matthews, Lindey Newman, Tabby Pesch, and Hayden Smith. From

## Pastor's Pen

You've heard the expressions, "new kid on the block" and "new sheriff in town"? Well, beginning July 1, there will be a "new pastor in the pulpit." My name is Max Ralph Talmadge Beery. I would like to be called Pastor Max or Rev. Beery.

My wife, Carroll, and I recently celebrated our 5th wedding anniversary. Together, we have 9 adult children (that includes in-laws) and 7 wonderful grandchildren. As a side note, we have a set of triplets in the grandchildren division. Our family is as close as Cuyahoga Falls and Uniontown, and as far away as Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, Tacoma, Washington and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. My mom, at the age of 91, resides in Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

I graduated from Mt. Vernon High School, Mt. Vernon Nazarene College and The Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio. I have served the following churches in the East Ohio Conference: Thoburn UMC in St. Clairsville, Green Springs UMC, Rocky River UMC, Firestone Park UMC in Akron and Cambridge First UMC.

I am entering my 30th year of full-time pastoral ministry as I join the staff and volunteers of Willoughby Hills UMC. I wish to thank those of you who have so graciously welcomed us so far. Special thanks to Pastor Dana, Eric Hanson, and Larry DeMoss, as well as the SPRC, the Trustees, and the paid staff. God is good, all the time; and all the time, God is good.

I am passionate about worship, music and outreach ministry. I like to preach, teach and meet. On the lighter side, I enjoy playing golf, drinking coffee, and hanging with my wife, Carroll, and our dog, Parker. Speaking of Carroll, she is my best friend, loves to shop and see our grandchildren.

I look forward to working with all of you, joyfully helping God heal broken lives. I especially have my eye on my first Sunday with you as well as SportsCamp. I pray that our ministry and mission together will last many years.

Peace,  
Pastor Max

June 8-16, the team joined 90 other youth and adults in South Carolina to do repairs on seven homes. Thank you so much for your support of this mission project!

The youth group will be sponsoring some "Give Back Days" to serve our community.

- July 19, 10am – Craft with the residents at Governor's Village
- July 31, 10am – Work project at the McKinley Center
- August 19 – Food drive for End 68 Hours of Hunger and School supplies for special needs classrooms

Please see Anne Horvath if you would like more information and to sign up to participate. •



*Continue reading at on the next page*

## WHUMC Staff through the Years: Music Ministries and Office Help

*The WHUMC Historians always try to gather as much information as possible when we compose our newsletter stories. Sometimes, however, the information is scant, or even non-existent. Since we began our work in 2013, one of our goals has been to create complete lists of the staff members who have helped our congregation live out its mission and vision. Unfortunately, there is no one central list of all WHUMC staff members! By combing through the archives, page-by-page, we have tried to create lists of staff members, knowing full well that they are incomplete and inaccurate. This first story focuses on just some staff members – those in music ministry and the office. Future stories will cover other staff areas. Please help us by sending all additions and corrections to Meg Sondey at [m.sondey@yahoo.com](mailto:m.sondey@yahoo.com). Thank you for your help in remembering and honoring these individuals!*

We don't know who the very first WHUMC staff members were, but we have to believe that having music for worship services was of primary importance. WHUMC has had a variety of musical groups and ministries through the years and a variety of names for them! Some were paid staff members; others may have been volunteers or given an honorarium.

The very first musicians mentioned in existing records were Mrs. Elma Lessick, pianist; Cecilia Davies, Senior Choir Director; and Ellie Craun, Junior Choir Director. These three women served in those positions in 1955 when Willoughby Hills Methodist Church was still meeting at Garfield School. Since the school only was available for worship on Sundays, choir practices were often held in homes.

The first organists mentioned are in 1958 (Mrs. D. Neal Manross and Ellie Craun). This makes sense, as this is when Willoughby Hills MC constructed its own



building... and had a permanent place for an organ! Three other women are listed in charge of music in 1958 (perhaps this was a music committee?): Mrs. Freal Vermilion, Mrs. Gordon Charvat, and, again, Ellie Craun, who was serving as an organist. One year later, in 1959, Miss Edith Wadsworth is listed as organist.

Cecelia Davies served as the MYF (Methodist Youth

Fellowship) Choir Director in 1963. Mrs. Robert Kraps is listed as an organist that same year, with Ellie Craun again serving as organist in 1965. A pianist was added – or at least listed – in 1969 with Ellie Craun and Miss C. Reese sharing those responsibilities.

Records seem to be nonexistent for the 1970s. Looking at records from the 1980s and later, it can be assumed that Ellie Craun continued her music ministry, but we have no knowledge of others involved as choir directors or other musicians.

During the 1980s, Ellie Craun, Molly Nash and LaVerne Taylor are all listed as organists in various years. Ellie is listed as a pianist in 1988, but LaVerne Taylor was listed as pianist during most of that decade.

From 1981 to 1984, Rosanne Dukes was Senior Choir Director, with Pete Spetsersis serving in 1987. We do not know who served as choir director from 1955 to 1981 or from 1984 to 1987! Since there are photographs of choirs during these years, we are certain there was a choir – but who were the directors? In 1987, Bill Church became Senior Choir Director and then in 1989 also became Bell Choir Director. He served in both capacities until 1994.

The 1990s marked a time of both growth and change in the music ministries of WHUMC. Carol Matthews took over as Bell Choir Director from 1996 to 1997. Ben Howes took over as Senior Choir Director after Bill Church's departure and currently serves as WHUMC Director of Music. Both Ellie Craun as organist and LaVerne Taylor as pianist continued serving through 1997. Linda Apicella and Janine Granchelli served as accompanists, pianists or assistant pianists during that decade.

Two other choirs were created in 1991. Karen Malecek was the Youth Choir Director in 1991 and Barb Schmidt (1991) and then Helen Kenzig (1992-1996) directed the Joyful Noise Choir (a children's choir). Helen Kenzig also was listed as being responsible for Music Direction in 1995.

A worship group related to music was the Seraphims, a liturgical dance group. The Seraphim Technical Director from 1992 – 1994 was Judy Bray.

The new millennium brought two new women to music ministry. Christa Teston, the daughter of Rev. Michael Teston, played both piano and keyboards from about 2001 to 2006. Karen Blehi followed her, and continues to serve as Keyboardist and Worship Team Leader.

-----

But worship was not all that needed to happen at any church! Who was going to get the mail? Type the bulletin? Answer the phone? In the earliest days, perhaps Rev. Bill Ury or Rev. Bill Griffith did much of that, but, apparently, volunteers assisted as

well. In the Fourth Quarterly Conference Report from 5 May 1963, Grace Schultz noted, "We have five part-time secretaries... It would seem that one full time secretary would better coordinate the work which is required. If the church can afford to hire a person with sound secretarial skills who does this daily as a job, and not as a matter of spare time effort, even more volume would be handled well. The church records book and the small pin-map of the village both need more attention. With street numbers being newly assigned in the village there is a major job ahead of the office force. New [Addressograph] address plates will be needed for almost the whole mailing list for Circuit Rider [WHMC newsletter] and Upper Room [devotional publication]."

Sadly, we don't know who the five part-time secretaries were, nor whether a full time secretary was hired in 1963 or shortly thereafter. The first secretary that we could find in existing records is Laura Conomy, who served from about 1979 until 1984. Nancy Schilling is listed as secretary in 1987 and 1989. During the 1990s, Bonnie Wyant is identified as a secretary in 1991 and 1994 and as an administrative



assistant in 1996 and 1997. Joyce Kopper is listed as the administrative assistant in 1998 and 1999 as well as in 2001.

Sue Wood is listed as the administrative assistant in 2003 and 2004, with Carol Formica serving from about 2006 until 2015. Pat Dennison and Shannon Logue each provided short-term assistance in 2013 and 2015 respectively. Larry DeMoss is the current

administrative assistant, having started in 2015.

*So who cleaned the church? Organized children's and youth ministries? Kept the books? Paid the bills? We know some of their names.... But not all of them! As we mentioned at the beginning of this article, please help us out! If you can list names, dates and job titles for any of those individuals who have served as WHUMC staff members through the years, please let us know! Thank you!*