

news

Mission Opportunities

FROM BILL HINES, MISSION COMMITTEE

Ever feel like you are being asked to contribute to too many mission opportunities? The Mission Committee would prefer to have you look at these requests with a different frame of reference. The Missions Committee brings forward various opportunities to give our congregation a variety of possible causes and interests to support. We want you to listen to the various opportunities and pray about which ones you feel you are led to support. We do not want you to feel obligated to participate or fund them all. Pick the one, two, or three you feel moved to support and place your available resources there.

Our congregation continues to do mighty things in the name of Christ. Whether it's for Project Hope, RFK, ZOE, Sports Camp, Salkahatchie, or the many other projects your love for Christ and our fellow human beings is on display. The amount of support given in funds and time is amazing! Faith without works is dead but faith with works is a mighty force for good, We want to thank you all for the good we are collectively able to accomplish! •

Project Hope Meals

If you are interested in providing a meal for Project Hope but not sure how to use our church kitchen...save the date: **Feb 17th**. I will be preparing the meal and happy to host a kitchen certification class at the same time.

Contact Marie to RSVP. You can always donate towards the meal whether you are cooking or not. It can cost between \$100-

150.00 for the meal each month. Feb 17th meet me in the kitchen at 4pm! •

Children's Ministry

- Oct 21 Nursery graduation, both services
- Oct 27: Fall Fest: Trunk or Treat, games, crafts. Chili cook-off, bake-off, costume contest
- Kid's Choir singing Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 9th
- Nov 8: Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov-Dec 8 RFK Angel Tree Mission Project
- Dec 8 Angel Breakfast 9:30-11am
- Dec 9 Pageant at 9:30
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services: Kids moment
- Dec 30: New Year Ring In
- January 2019: Family Challenge
- Apr 14 Willoughby Hills Community Easter Egg Hunt at Calvary
- Apr: Egg Hunt at WHUMC (possible Apr 20th Family event)
- VBS/SPORTSCAMP is now July 8-12th! •

Challenge Match Opportunity Results

FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who donated to the Challenge Match Opportunity that was held the month of September. We exceeded our \$6,000 goal with matching funds by a significant margin. Together with the matching funds the total raised is over \$7,300! The support our congregation continues to give to the ministries we have committed to is heart warming. The funds raised will be split equally between Project Hope for the Homeless, Royal Family Kids, and Zimbabwe Orphan Empowerment (ZOE). Thanks again •

Did You Know...

BY RICK POLBURN

The intention of this new column is to inform the reader of aspects of the Bible within the context of the writer within the time it was written. These will be fairly simple examples on a monthly basis for your Bible reading enjoyment and understanding.

Celebrating Our Membership!

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

Celebrating 62 years

Pete Mortensen

Celebrating 55 years

Maggie Soeder

Celebrating 51 years

Helen Griffith

Celebrating 28 years

Chuck Kenzig

Helen Kenzig

Celebrating 26 years

Lois Durda

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

Did You Know that the early writers did everything possible to promote ethical monotheism after over 400 years of Egyptian captivity and slavery? And how, you may ask, did they do this? They did it by a method called “demythologizing”. The simplest example is the use of the words “lesser light” and “greater light” in the creation story. The Egyptian words for “moon” and “sun” were names of Egyptian gods; therefore they needed to be avoided at all cost.

Another example is in Exodus where God insists on the sacrifice of rams and bulls at the Tabernacle. Rams and bulls were revered as gods by the early Egyptians. The idea of sacrificing rams and bulls demonstrated that these pagan gods would go up in smoke as an offering to the one true God.

With these examples in mind, a careful re-reading of Genesis and Exodus will reveal many other examples. I’ll let you be the detective. •

Congregational Care Team

We are announcing the formation of a new Congregational Care Team at WHUMC! This team will provide more attention to congregational members and friends with specific needs. There are many opportunities in which team members can serve. Visit those in the hospital and care facilities, and those who are shut in their own homes. Provide rides to people to and from church, small groups and appointments. Arrange for people to get needed help in their homes, through repair, construction, or improving accessibility. Send cards to those who are ill or have lost loved ones.

The opportunities to serve are many and can be tailored according to your gifts and availability. Please contact Dr. Laura Tradowsky if you are interested in this ministry. (ltrad@earthlink.net or 440/477-7479) •

Small Group Opportunities

NEW Online Bible Study led by Dr. Jacob and Lara Waldenmaier
One trait that unites WHUMC is a cu-

From the Pastor’s Desk

“I would rather be seen and not viewed.” “I woke up this morning on the right side of the grass.” I’ve heard these two statements recently, a lot. I have even used one myself. I think what’s behind these two statements is thankfulness for another day of life. God’s obviously not done with me. God still has purpose for my life.

November brings with it the Thanksgiving holiday. I want to invite you to our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 8, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Food and drink will be provided, however I do ask you to bring a dessert or some bread to share.

What are you thankful for this season? Faith, family, friends? Food, shelter, clothing? Job, retirement, play? I’m thankful for the love of God in my life. I’m thankful for a loving, supportive wife. I’m thankful for all my family. I’m also thankful for a loving and supportive congregation here at Willoughby Hills UMC who has welcomed me with open hearts and open minds. I’m looking forward to what new doors God will open for us in the future.

The old hymn, “Count Your Blessings” comes to mind. Here is the chorus to that 1897 hymn of thanksgiving: “Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done! Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your many blessings, see what God has done.”

Join me today and start counting!!!

Peace,
Pastor Max

riosity about the Bible. While we enjoy exploring scripture together in person, it’s also helpful to discuss biblical themes online. Anyone in our congregation is very welcome to join the new WHUMC Bible Group on Facebook. Please feel free also to invite friends and colleagues who might share this curiosity.

During the month of October we are making our way through the Psalms, and in November we’ll explore passages that deal with gratitude and abundance. We hope to see you there!

NEW Wed, Bible Study: 7–8:30 pm in

the Library beginning November 7th led by Patty Dorsey. This class will study the book Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today by Adam Hamilton. We will integrate our study with Bible reading and relevant art, music, and literature. Childcare available upon request.

Sundays

9:30 am in the Library—led by Patty Dorsey. Lectionary Bible Study: looking at the verses that Pastor Max will be preaching on each week. This is open format, meaning you do not need to attend each week to participate.

Mondays

10–11:30 am in the Library—led by Anne Horvath
A time for women of all ages to meet for devotion, prayer, and support. Childcare available upon request. Come when you are able. Co-ed.

7 pm in the Library—led by Pastor Max. Men's Bible Study, The Gospel of Mark.

Tuesdays

10–11:30 am in the Library—led by Patty Dorsey
Bible Study: "Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today by Adam Hamilton. Childcare available upon request.

Wednesdays

10–11:30 am in the Library—led by Patty Dorsey
Book Study: Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2017-2020.

Thursdays

10:00am–12:00pm in the Library—led by Dr. Laura Tradowsky. Spiritual Formation / Bible Study: "Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John" by Jean Vanier. Childcare available upon request.

Saturdays

8–9:30 am in the Library—led by Dr. John Borgert
Men's Bible Study-The Gospel of John •

Church Thanksgiving Celebration

Everyone is invited to join us for Food, Fellowship, and Fun Thursday, November 8, 5:30-7pm. Dinner will be provided this year; a donation will be collected to help cover the cost, You can bring bread or a non-refrigerated dessert to share if you would like Program: Thanksgiving activities for all ages

The sign-up sheet is on the Information and Activities Table. You are also asked to bring non-perishable food items for the Willoughby Food Pantry.

November Youth Group Schedule

November 4

3:00pm Confirmation 4

No youth group due to Charge Conference

November 11

12:30-6pm Project Feed at Wadsworth Middle School following Soup Sunday. Bring a canned good and \$5 to participate.

November 18

Morning Bake Sale as dessert for Soup Sunday.

3:45-5pm Confirmation 5

5-6:30pm Middle School Regular Youth Group

6-7:30pm High School Regular Youth Group

November 25

6-7pm Combined youth group—Snacks and Grog Night (no dinner meal)

52 Club Dinner

Sunday, December 2 at 5:30pm—All who have donated to the youth ministry through the 52 Club or directly to our youth ministry for activities or missions (including Salkehatchie) are invited to come and enjoy a "thank you" dinner. We will show you some pictures of events that have happened over the year and enjoy some fellowship with you. Join us! •

Willoughby Hills Methodist Church and Voters' Events

Memories of the early 1960s... the Beatles debut on Ed Sullivan... LIFE magazine on the side table by the overstuffed armchair... Jell-O salads of all colors... visiting Santa at downtown department stores... John Glenn orbiting the earth... But there were other events as well... the Cuban Missile crisis... American troops in Vietnam... Civil rights protests at home...

Happening at Willoughby Hills Methodist Church in the early 1960s were community meetings where local voters could hear from candidates and learn about ballot issues. Willoughby Hills, incorporated in 1954, was still a small village in 1960 – only 4241 residents – but would grow to 5969 by 1970. Many young families had moved from Cleveland into this developing suburb and surrounding areas and were not only involved in the first church in Willoughby Hills (Willoughby Hills Methodist) but were

also interested in learning more about local government and school issues.

So it was not surprising that Willoughby Hills Methodist would take the lead in ensuring that its congregational and community members would be well informed about the issues and challenges affecting their neighborhoods, state, and country. Through the efforts of the congregational Social Concerns Commission,



the church provided space for a variety of public programs.

The pastor during these years was Rev. William D. Griffith (he served from 1959 through June 1966) who took a personal interest in community affairs. Rev. Griffith voiced his personal opinion in a letter to the editor of The News Herald on 3 November 1962. He urged voters to vote "no" on Issue One, which was an issue to allow stores to be open on Sunday. Toward the end of his letter, he stated, "Therefore, I join with Rev. Eberhard in calling Chris-

tians to cease purchasing on Sunday, to provide quality worship services on the days when the victims of secular society and the devoted servants of mankind can attend, and to be devoted in obedience to all the commandments of God." He concluded by calling on all Christians to vote "no" on the issue and to contact elected officials to enforce the existing Ohio state laws.

In the 3 November 1962 issue of The News-Herald, an advertisement invited people to attend a "Responsible Voters' Tea" at the church at 2 pm on Sunday. Candidates for various offices scheduled to be present included Congressional candidates Mr. Robert E. Cook and Mr. Oliver P. Bolton; Mr. Alan D. Wright (candidate for county auditor); and Mr. Robert Stockdale (candidate for state senate). The Sunday Opening amendment was planned to be debated by Clarence Moses of the Cleveland Area Church Federation and Andrew Larned of the Lawson Milk Company according to a 1 November 1962 News-Herald article. Willoughby Hills Councilmen James Atwell and Roy McGurer would discuss the local water bond issue. Finally, board members from both Willoughby-Eastlake schools and Wickliffe would talk about their respective 3.44 and 1.8 mil school bond issues.

One of the more humorous incidents was when a "political campaigner" had "complained about not being able to contact the church by phone, instead getting only a recorded prayer." Stan Arnett of Mentor, who recounted this incident in a letter to the editor in the 7 November 1962 issue of The News-Herald, then reminded readers that the "Ansa Fone recording machine" which was used for the "Dial-A-Prayer" ministry did instruct listeners to leave a message after the prayer. As Mr. Arnett concluded in his letter, "Let those of us who are great talkers and poor listeners, use the 'Dial-A-Prayer' service for we may well be in need of Spiritual Inspiration." A 5 November 1962 article in The News-Herald identified that candidate as Robert E. Cook, who had attempted to inform the church that he was detained at a post office building dedication in Ashtabula and could not attend the event, but would be represented by Mr. E. W. Mastrangelo of Willoughby.

In April 1963, Robert Salisburn, then curriculum coordinator for Wickliffe Schools, and James T. Smith, Jr., then clerk-treasurer for Willoughby-Eastlake Schools, were invited to a 2 pm program open to the general community. A News-Herald article explained that Mr. Salisburn would speak about how curriculum was developed, as well as admission standards for students interested in college or technical education. Mr. Smith would speak about how the district staffed its schools, as well as the economic needs of the district and available state and federal funding.

The 30 June 1963 report from the Commission on Christian Social Concerns noted: "The Commission sponsored three public meetings. One on Church and State, approximately 35 attending, one on the election issues and candidates, approximately 80 attending and a meeting on the schools with 20 attending." H. Roe

Hawkey, the chairman of the committee expanded upon these activities in a page attached to the report:

"This Commission had three major activities during the year. The first was a motion picture and talk dealing with the separation of Church and State. On the Sunday prior to the election last November the commission held a Tea at which time several candidates spoke and various issues were discussed. The third major activity was a program on the Schools in which the economic factors of school operation and the changing curriculum [sic] were discussed.

"These programs were presented so that our interest in our schools, civic and church activities might be aroused.

"Our Church feels the need for its members to meet squarely, in a Christian way, the social problems of the day. Our Commission desires to provide you with an understanding of what our Christian attitude toward these problems must be and to help you attack in a Christian way the evil which is the root of these social problems."

Later that same year, a 2 November 1963 News-Herald article announced that there would be an "annual voters tea" from 3 to 5 pm at the church, with hostesses "Mrs. Lynn Mottice and Mrs. Glen Keeney." Topics included six local levies (including ones related to education, parks, and a proposed new Willoughby Hills fire station) and the Ohio constitutional amendment dealing with Sunday opening of businesses. Reed Johnson, the chair of the Christian Social Concerns Committee, served as moderator. Additionally, local various candidates were to be present.

Mrs. Jessie Hayduk wrote a lengthy article describing this event published in the 4 November 1963 issue of The Telegraph. She described the scene in this fashion:

"... on Sunday afternoon doors to the sprawling buff brick edifice on Eddy Road were open to all voters and their candidates.

"Despite the competing influences of football, tempting autumn weather, and even a weekend retreat involving men of the church, people walked in and out, expressing and seeking ideas, for two hours.

"Every levy affecting the area was aired. Questions were welcomed. Political candidates were introduced. And information was available on voting places, how to get to them and when to vote."

Rev. Griffith was continuing his community activity in 1964 as he promoted a "new citizen's committee in Willoughby Hills" according to a 15 May 1964 article in The News-Herald. He invited all interested to attend a dinner meeting at the church, with the meal prepared by the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The article noted: "The pastor of Willoughby Hills Methodist Church believes 'if Willoughby Hills is going to advance, we have to support our elected officials and we have to seek out desirable industry, commerce and residents.'"

The 25 October 1965 issue of "The Circuit Rider" the WHMC newsletter reported that a Voters Tea would once again be held on October 31st from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Again organized by the Christian Social Concerns Commission, speakers included Mr. Robert R. Pierce speaking on the "Community College", Mr. James T. Smith, Jr. on Willoughby-Eastlake School issues and Mr. Joseph R. Ferrari on the Wickliffe School issues. The article noted that candidates present would be introduced, but no speeches would be given. Rev. Griffith, in the section "Pastor's Postscript," noted: "The only opportunity to meet Willoughby Hills candidates will be at our Voters Tea next Sunday. It is unchristian and unwise to be uninformed on issues and candidates when you approach the ballot box. Also, if the American democracy is ever destroyed, it will have lost its existence by the apathy of the voter."

Apparently, this was one of the last community voters events held by Willoughby Hills Methodist Church, as no information exists in the archives beyond this date. As Rev. Griffith concluded his pastorate at Willoughby Hills in June 1966, it may be that

the congregation refocused its energy in other areas. Although this tradition has not been continued at Willoughby Hills UMC, many churches still hold similar voter events throughout the United States. According to the latest rulings reported on the IRS website, "Providing a forum for candidates is not, in and of itself, prohibited political activity... a forum held for the purpose of educating and informing the voters, which provides fair and impartial treatment of candidates, and which does not promote or advance one candidate over another, would not constitute participation or intervention in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office." •

