



# THE CHERRY TREE

Cherry Grove United Methodist Church

April, 2010

*We care...We share...We love people where they are!*

## The Moving Process

Since the announcement Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> about my move to the Chillicothe Trinity UMC beginning July 1, 2010, I thought it would be advantageous to share a little bit about the appointive process.

United Methodist clergy are called to "Word, Sacrament and Order" in the United Methodist Church, and it is a privilege and honor to preach the Word and administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Baptism. This privilege comes with a yoke of obedience to Christ and His Church. One part of being yoked together involves the "itinerancy." It is the work of appointing clergy to each church across the West Ohio Conference under Bishop Ough's authority. This appointment-making system sometimes creates a dynamic where there is a need in another church for a particular pastor's gifts and abilities, and a move becomes necessary for the greater good of the church body.

This description fits the situation we find ourselves in here. I shared with our District Superintendent Randy Stearns back in September 2009 that I was not looking or wanting to move given the children's school age and the positive shifts in the Cherry Grove ministry. I did not desire a move; and the Cherry Grove Church did not desire a move in their pastoral leadership. However, the dynamics were such that the Bishop saw a need to fill the Chillicothe Trinity Church with the gifts and abilities I possess. Hence, after a series of phone calls, Rev. Joe Bishman of the Shawnee Valley District introduced Annie and me to the Trinity UMC on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

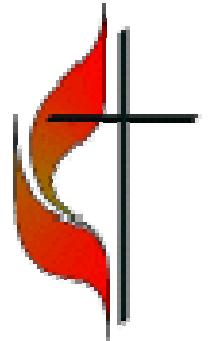
Chillicothe Trinity UMC is a county seat church with 582 members and 240 in worship attendance. They have a 8:30 and 10:45 worship service with Sunday School of approximately 112. The paid staff includes a full-time secretary and janitor and a paid youth pastor, administrator, choir director, organist and children's director. It is also the home church for the Southern

Ohio Emmaus and Chrysalis plus the Kairos prison ministry.

As I write this, Cherry Grove UMC is in a place where Rev. Stearns will meet with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee to discuss the congregation's profile and the committee's priority list for a new pastor. Joe Mason, SPRC Chair, has been contacted by Rev. Stearns and the discernment process is under way to seek God's guidance in this matter.

*On a spiritual note let me say, "... everyone who has been given much, much will be required..." (Luke 12:48)*

The King family arrived in Cherry Grove eight years ago; we made our home and planted our roots firmly in the community and church. We loved and received much. These gifts of memories and ministries have shaped us, and we hope that our ministry, love and prayers have guided you closer to Christ. Love first. Love last. Love always.



The official move date is June 23, 2010 so there is much you and I will share together in the coming weeks before the next chapter begins on this journey with Christ. So as I prepare to take the next step, I covenant today to be in prayer for you and the church now and in the future. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29:11)

For myself and the King family, we have received much love and affirmation since the news broke. Your prayers are appreciated and the King's will do the same.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kurt



## Inside This Issue

Blessed Earth Sunday	3
Calendar	6
Carry In Dinner	5
Committee Meetings, Other Happenings, Rooms in Use	5
Dancing with God	4
Family Announcements, Thank Yous, Weddings, New borns, Sympathies, and more	2
Ladies Night Out	2
Mother-Children Event	5
Pastor Kurt's Message: The Moving Process	1
Statements of Direction for Cherry Grove Church	2
United Methodist Women	5
Women's Sunday	5
Worship Team Schedule	2



Thanks to all of you who have kept my sister, Ann, in your prayers during her bout with cancer and for keeping the family in your prayers during her recent death. Thank you, too, for all the cards and support you've shown us. She will be missed so much but I know we will be together again someday as God promises us in John 14. We are blessed to have such a loving and caring church family.

Betty and Pete Finzer

Becky and I would like to thank our Cherry Grove Church family for all your prayers, support and cards during my Mother's injury, stroke and death. It was a trying few weeks, and the love and support of our church family certainly could be felt and was definitely comforting and appreciated by our entire family.

Dan Nagy

### Cherry Grove United Methodist Church Statements of Direction

*adopted by Administrative Council, October 2005*

Our Focus (the source)

**Glory to Jesus Christ**— 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Our Purpose (the reason)

**Carry the Message of God's Love**— 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

Our Mission (the energy)

**Reaching People and Making Disciples**— Matthew 28:18-20

Our Vision (the movement)

**The Cherry Grove United Methodist Church will be known as a family of faith that values believers and seekers of all ages and in all stages of Christian growth. We will help people build, strengthen, and share their personal relationship with Jesus Christ through energizing worship and music, missions, ministry and educational opportunities, fellowship, and community involvement.**

Slogan drawn from Vision Statement  
**"Building, Strengthening, Sharing"**

*May these God-inspired statements be a source of inspiration and direction and provide clear decision-making criteria for Cherry Grove Church.*



**LADIES NIGHT OUT!** Fun, fellowship and good food for all women is held at various local restaurants. Reserve your place by signing up in the narthex, or email [bjfinzer@aol.com](mailto:bjfinzer@aol.com) by the preceding Sunday.

**This Month: National Exemplar  
April 15th**

(Next LNO will be June 17th)

### Church Directory Update

Bill Thatcher ..... [b.thatcher@fuse.net](mailto:b.thatcher@fuse.net)

Please call the church office (474-1428) or send directory additions/changes to [cgumc.secretary@fuse.net](mailto:cgumc.secretary@fuse.net).

### Worship Team

*If you are unable to serve as listed, please secure a substitute and notify the office (474-1428)*

Date	Liturgist	Ushers (*Head Usher)	Greeters	Children's Church
4/4	Ed Bridgeman	*Mike Pieper, Bill Cluxton, Leo Honebrink, Tony Carter	Sue Merritt	Janet Carter
4/11	Paul Kocsis		Mike & Janet Brown	Gayle Cooper & Gail Matheny
4/18			Bill & Vicki Thatcher	Cindi & Gregg Dietrich
4/25	Debbie Desgrange		Bill & Vicki Thatcher	Glenna Cluxton & Janet Brown



## Sunday, April 25 is Blessed Earth Sunday

The Cherry Grove United Methodist Church will celebrate Earth Day by having a special worship service and activity on Sunday, April 25. Pastor Kurt will share a “Hope for Creation” message focusing on the creation story in Genesis 1. “*God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful...God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”*” As part of the celebration, our *Encore!* groups, classes and congregation members will have an opportunity to select one or two activities to participate in. This is another way to show the community how much we love and care for the community called Earth!

### History of “Blessed Earth”

The Sleeth family’s environmental journey has paralleled their faith journey. As they began to live out what it means to love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves, they found their calling: to live more simply. The first and most important miracle for the Sleeths is that their entire family came to know Christ, not just in their heads but in their daily actions. Hanging clothes on the line, washing dishes by hand, and growing their own food are all ways of they show daily respect for God’s creation and love for their global neighbors.

From these humble beginnings a revolutionary ministry began to grow. Dr. Sleeth wrote a book which received a much wider, more enthusiastic response than he could have ever dreamed. Then, to address larger audiences and respond to the hundreds of speaking requests, the Sleeths formed a nonprofit called Blessed Earth. In the last two years, the Sleeths have spoken in churches, colleges and the media more than 850 times. The Sleeths’ message has inspired congregations that never had creation care on their radar screen to make huge changes quickly—switching to fair trade coffee, conducting energy audits on their buildings, creating community gardens, harvesting water with rain barrels, using ceramic dishes instead of disposables, embracing green cleaning products, and completely re-visioning building additions and renovations with a green lens. Churches have found more money in their pockets from these adjustments—money that is now available for other needs in their church families.

Blessed Earth now also does a lot of work with colleges; while schools may initially embrace the Sleeths’ ideas to save money, when people embrace the principles of

simplicity and conservation in their hearts the programs take on a life of their own.

Many of the people who have followed the Sleeths’ testimony and lifestyle changes report that they are inspired to dramatically change areas of their everyday lives.

Most inspiring of all are the people the Sleeths have met on their journey. They hear story after story about how focusing less on material things, and more on relationships with family, friends, and God, leads to happier, more meaningful, and richer lives. With God, all things are possible—including a cleaner, healthier world to leave for future generations.

### Mission

Blessed Earth is an educational nonprofit that inspires and equips faith communities to become better stewards of the earth. Through outreach to churches, campuses and media we build bridges that promote measurable environmental change and meaningful spiritual growth.

### Blessed Earth Beliefs

1. *Blessed Earth* is motivated by the biblical mandate to care for creation. We recognize that mountains, trees, oceans and wildlife are our inheritance and that they have meaning beyond merely supplying the raw material for human commerce. The earth exists to meet an unknown number of generations’ needs. We must not destroy it to meet this generation’s wants.
2. *Blessed Earth* promotes individual and group actions that conserve energy and care for the beauty of the world.
3. *Blessed Earth* builds bridges between people of different faith communities and those who work to solve environmental problems.
4. *Blessed Earth* believes that science without humanity leads to great harm, and that faith without works is dead.
5. *Blessed Earth* calls people to action. The time for talk has passed. It is our meaningful actions today that will determine the quality of life for future generations. *Blessed Earth* promotes measurable change.
6. *Blessed Earth* believes we are each morally responsible for the poorest among us. We recognize that those with the fewest resources are the most hurt by on-going destruction of the natural world. We who are given much are called to do more. To show true and meaningful love for our neighbors, we are called to give generously of our abundant resources.

# G - U - I - DANCE

## *Dancing With God*



*When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.*



*When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.*



*My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw "G": I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God, "u" and "i" dance." God, you, and I dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life.. Once again, I became willing to let God lead...*

*My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies are upon you on this day and everyday. May you abide in God, as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.*

*- Anonymous*



## United Methodist Women

The next few weeks will be very busy ones for the United Methodist Women, starting with circle meeting on Tuesday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor. The program that evening is **“Human Trafficking, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Slavery,”** presented by Eileen Simpson. Although very few of us are aware of it, human trafficking is a problem right on our doorstep. Ohio has the reputation of being one of the worst states where this horrendous exploitation of human lives (especially young ones) is taking place.

The following Sunday, April 18, is Cherry Grove Church’s traditional **Women’s Sunday** when Rev. Steve Putka, Director of Spiritual Life and Development at the United Methodist Children’s Home in Worthington, Ohio will be our guest speaker. His message, “Christian Greatness” will be an inspiration to each one of us as he shares their ministry to children and youth. The worship service will be immediately followed by a carry-in dinner at 11:30 a.m. for the entire congregation. Encore groups will not meet that morning.

Saturday, April 24, is another date for your calendars – the annual **Spring Retreat of Ohio River District United Methodist Women**. This year it will be held nearby at Anderson Hills United Methodist Church from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. “A Journey of the Soul” is the topic to be presented by Rev. Elaine Parulis-Wright, from St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. Cost is \$9 per person and reservations are needed by April 18.

A very special treat is in store for all mothers, grandmothers, boys and girls on Saturday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. when Teresa Greer will bring her unique friends to visit us for a **“Mother-Children Event.”** Teresa is a ventriloquist and will delight young and old with her program. It’s not too soon to start making plans to attend – tickets will be available by mid-April. A sundae bar will conclude the program that evening.



Come join us for the **Carry-in Dinner** which has been planned for Women’s Sunday on **April 18**.

Everyone in the congregation is invited to stay after the worship service and enjoy the food and fellowship. It will also be an excellent time to talk with our guest speaker, Rev. Steve Putka from the United Methodist Children’s Home in Worthington, Ohio. Encore groups will not meet that day so that we can eat at approximately 11:30 a.m. Each family is asked to bring a main dish and a side dish (salad, vegetable or dessert). Anyone coming by oneself should bring just one item to share. Beverages will be furnished.



It’s a new idea! This year, on **Saturday, May 1** we’re having a **Mother-Children Event** in the Fellowship Hall. That means this is something special for all you mothers, grandmothers, sons, daughters, grandsons and

granddaughters. At 7:00 that evening Teresa Greer is going to introduce us to her unique friends. Teresa is a ventriloquist whose special talents will amaze you as she entertains you. Start making plans now to attend – neighbors and friends are welcome to join us – tickets will be available by mid-April. A sundae bar will conclude the program.

### Committee Meetings

PPR—Tuesday, 4/6, 7pm  
Trustees—Tuesday, 4/6, 7pm  
Finance—Monday, 4/19, 7pm



### Other Happenings!

IHN Dinner—Thursday, 3/4  
Parable Puppets— Mondays, 7pm, Sanctuary  
Choir Rehearsal—Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Fellowship Hall

### Rooms in use

Poll Training—4/12-4/17 (specific hours on calendar), F’ship Hall  
Homework Lab—Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:45-5pm, F’ship Hall  
CG Counseling—Thursdays, 3-9pm, Rooms 201-204

See also the monthly calendar on back cover

# April

Revised  
3/30/10

CGUMC is a LOVE FIRST Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm CG Counseling, 3-9pm, Rms. 201-204 Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm, Sanctuary	2 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Shroud of Turin, 6 pm Good Friday Services: Noon: Veteran's Park 7pm, Sanctuary	3 Choir Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 1pm
Holy Week						
4 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 7am, Sunrise Breakfast 8am, F'ship 9:30, Easter Celebration Worship & Cantata 10am, No <i>Encore!</i>	5 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 No Puppet Practice	6 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm Trustees, 7pm PPR Mtg, 7pm, Parlor	7 Choir Reh, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	8 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm CG Counseling, 3-9pm, Rms. 201-204	9 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	10
11 F'ship 9:30, Worship 10 am, <i>Encore!</i> 11 am  Certified Lay Ministry Consecration of Ed Bridgeman	12 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Parable Puppet Reh, 7pm, Sanctuary	13 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm Gertrude Laing Circle Mtg., 7:30 pm	14 Choir Reh, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	15 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm CG Counseling, 3-9pm, Rms. 201-204 Ladies Night Out, National Exemplar, 6pm	16 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	17
Poll Training in Fellowship Hall						
	7:30am-9pm	9am-1pm, 6-10pm	9am-5pm	9am-12pm, 6-10pm	9am-10pm	9am-5pm
18 F'ship 9:30, Worship 10 am, <i>Encore!</i> 11 am  Women's Sunday Carry in Dinner	19 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Parable Puppet Reh, 7pm, Sanctuary Finance Mtg, 7 pm Newsletter Deadline	20 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm	21 Choir Reh, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	22 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm CG Counseling, 3-9pm, Rms. 201-204	23 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	24  TENTATIVE: Relay for Life Pancake Breakfast
25 F'ship 9:30, Worship 10 am, <i>Encore!</i> 11 am  4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering	26 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Parable Puppet Reh, 7pm, Sanctuary	27 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm	28 Choir Reh, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	29 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Homework Lab 3:45-5pm CG Counseling, 3-9pm, Rms. 201-204	30 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	May 1  Mother/Child Event, Fellowship Hall, 7pm

2010