



# THE CHERRY TREE

Cherry Grove United Methodist Church

January 2010

*"Blessed is the one...like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." Psalm 1:3*

## Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Study of the Holy Lands and Lessons of Jesus

Bible Study offered Thursdays, January 7-February 25

11:00 am or 7:00 pm

The narrow winding road from the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane descends fairly rapidly, and on either side high walls guide the way. The high wall on the left overlooks a vast Jewish graveyard with thousands of white tombs. Jewish tradition says that the first persons resurrected when the Messiah comes will be these interned bodies.



The wall on the right encloses the grounds of the Dominus Flevit Church – the chapel rests on the place where “The Lord wept” over Jerusalem.

One side holds the hopes of the coming Messiah and the other side the belief that the Messiah Jesus already has come!

Jesus passed from Bethany through the Mount of Olives using this same path. His journey made a passionate stop for prayer in the Garden. This stop began his walk on the road to Golgotha. – the road of suffering and salvation.

I will be offering a “Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus” Bible study at Thursdays at two different times: 11:00 am or 7:00 pm. The study will begin Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and end Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Each Thursday we will study the different places Jesus walked and how He changed history. Also the goal is to be changed by creating a deeper and more passionate walk with Jesus. You might say that you will descend into a deeper relationship with Jesus guided by the walls of the historical and holy places along the way.

I will be using three resources for the study:

- 1) Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus by Wayne Stiles
- 2) A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land booklet
- 3) Pastor Kurt's pictures, notes and personal experiences in the Holy Land.

I hope and pray that you would free yourself from your busy schedule long enough to join me and others as we walk together on this journey with Jesus in holy places.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem,

Pastor Kurt





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### 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.*

## Christ is Born!



Stained glass image is from the display under the bell tower in front of the church, created by Russ Gilmore.

### Church Directory Update

Randy Manning .....randymanning@zoomtown.com  
Dan Nagy .....dannagy@fuse.net

Please call the church office (474-1428) or send directory additions/changes to 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
1/3	Pam Bridgeman	*Bob & Ruth Stuntz Mike & Janet Brown	Joyce Vaught	Pam Bridgeman & Michele Estep
1/10			Clark & Miriam Van Scyoc	Gayle Cooper & Gail Matheny
1/17	Becky Becker		Burl Hughes	Cindi & Gregg Dietrich
1/24			Bill & Vicki Thatcher	Glenna Cluxton & Janet Brown
1/31	Ed Bridgeman		Dan & Becky Nagy	Lori Malpass & Emmy King

## Unhanging of the Greens—SCHEDULE CHANGE

Please stay to lend a hand on **Sunday, January 3** following Worship. There will be no *Encore!* groups that day. Questions? Contact Homer and Gail Matheny.



### United Methodist Women

**UMW says THANK YOU for supporting Cookie Walk and other events in 2009!**

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Cookie Walk this year (and that especially goes to Cindi, Gregg and Jonathan Dietrich who helped guide us to another successful event). Because of everyone's baking and help before and during the Walk, the UMW will be able to donate over \$1,100 to missions. This year a majority of the proceeds will be donated to the Nast Trinity Food Pantry (an inner city ministry) and the Wesley Education Center for Children (formerly Wesley Child Care Center).



And a big thank you to those who bought cookies - we appreciate you so much!

The UMW would also like to thank all those who helped with the Direct Sales Event and all the other events this past year. Because of the dedication and efforts of so many people the UMW was able to donate \$250 toward shipping Christmas gifts to military men and women through the Whole in My Heart Military Support Group (Eastgate area). A donation was also made to the Interparish Food Pantry (Newtown) in the amount of \$250, and a \$400 donation was made toward the Conference Apportionments. God has certainly used the UMW's efforts to further His Kingdom here on earth. We look forward to His many blessings in 2010!

For those interested in finding out more about UMW, please contact Debbie Desgrange at 528-1794 or [ddesgrange@yahoo.com](mailto:ddesgrange@yahoo.com). Be watching for the programs and events planned for 2010!

UMW will kick off the new year on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor (Room 201). Join us!

## JOIN THE CHOIR!

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 6th at 7:30 pm with our new choir director, Randy Manning. If you've been considering joining the choir, this is a perfect time to start!



The Treehouse Kids helped Gregg, Cindi and Jonathan Dietrich assemble Bethlehem Village on Sunday evening after Hanging of the Greens. After all their hard work, they had supper together in Fellowship Hall



L-R: Taylor Desgrange, Jillian Calvin, Marlo Matheny, Dru Matheny, Calvin King, Alex Desgrange

## Fed Like the Birds; Clothed Like the Flowers

Marge Roberts

When your boss phones you and says, “Come to my office. We have to talk,” you know what’s coming next. I heard this on a Tuesday morning in early February. On that day, I became a victim of the economy. The next Sunday I sat in my usual place in church. The scripture of the day was the one in Matthew that says that just as God feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, he will take care of you. The synchronicity wasn’t lost on me—in fact I was dazzled. It wasn’t the first time I was downsized, and it wasn’t the first time that the Sunday scripture applied exactly to me. You see, my first visit to Cherry Grove was also just after a downsizing and also after a Sunday snow day. The sermon was about getting through a personal storm.

Many people choose a particular Bible verse to be their life verse. I have considered many but have been unable to choose just one. Instead, this verse chose me. Way back when I was a new single mom, I had an extended period during which I found myself going to school full time, teaching night classes part time, and raising my two teenaged daughters. When I reached the end of this period, I marveled that I had had so much fun and hadn’t worried about my precarious situation. That’s when it dawned on me that I had been taken care of—fed like the birds and clothed like the flowers.

Hearing the verse on that Sunday reassured me that I had no reason to start worrying now. I knew I had the choice of worrying or enjoying what I’ve always called “my real life,” (i.e., time spent at home).

So now it was time to get busy and see what I could find. There was a slow (very slow) but steady stream of interviews. Before each one, I’d find myself saying, “Oh-please-oh-please-oh-please,” when I knew I should be saying, “Help me do my best,” or “Let me know what you want.” In June, there was a flurry of activity. I had a couple of huge disappointments and dodged a couple of bullets. During this time, two messages appeared on the church’s sign. The first said, “God answered your prayer.

Go in peace.” The next week it said, “Ask and you will receive.” Then came a long dead spell. I completed applications for some marginal things and was preparing myself to settle for anything. Then in mid-October a couple of recruiters became interested in me, and the interviews became more relevant. When a good opportunity became available, I asked Pastor Kurt to help me with some prayers, once in person and twice on the little blue card. The recruiter prepared me well. During the interviews, instead of being shy and stumbling, I was able to answer every question intelligently.

Everything clicked into place. The Red Sea opened in front of me. A second interview with my future boss followed. Then, of all things, an invitation to lunch. I had an anxious Thanksgiving during which I reverted to “Oh-please-oh-please-oh-please.” Then after a very anxious Monday morning, the recruiter called to tell me to expect a formal offer letter. You can’t imagine my pleasure and gratitude.

Since becoming a technical writer, I have felt that God gave me one thing to do. I do it well but I can’t do anything else. I am taken care of.



### Committee Meetings

Trustees—Tuesday, 1/5, 7pm  
Worship—Wednesday, 1/6, 6:30pm  
Finance—Monday, 1/18, 7pm



### Other Happenings!

Nast Trinity Dinner—Sunday, 1/17  
Parable Puppets—Resumes 1/11, Mondays, 7pm, Sanctuary  
Choir Rehearsal—Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Fellowship Hall

### Rooms in use

Terry’s Car Club—Saturday, 1/9, 6pm, Fellowship Hall  
Cub Scouts—First & Third Mondays, Rm. 102, 7-8pm  
Pinewood Derby—Saturdays, 1/16 & 1/23, 9-noon & 11-? respectively, F’ship Hall  
Thursday, 1/28—Room 102 in use (tentative)

See also the monthly calendar on back cover



# Memories and Poems of Shirley Gilmore's "Faith Journey"

by Clark Van Scyoc

In reflecting upon the dear lives of Shirley and Russ Gilmore, one cannot separate their love for each other, their life challenges, and their faith and hope through Christ that strengthens and brings Life Eternal.

In Shirley's February 2002 reflections in "My Faith Journey," she could not remember NOT believing in Jesus and God. She was baptized as an infant, went to church and Sunday School as long as she could remember. She enjoyed singing "In the Temple," "Praise Him," "Lord I Want to be a Christian," and telling their version of Bible stories. She won a contest at age 12, telling the story of the sower whose seed fell on different types of ground. Pictures that were embellished upon her mind and heart were "Jesus Knocking on a Door," and "Christ the Good Shepherd."

When she was older, she was active in the M.Y.F. and adult choir. She met Russell Gilmore in grade school, and they started dating in high school when they were seniors. Russ went on to school in Oklahoma. Shirley attended Drew University in New Jersey. They got married before their senior year. Shirley had transferred to Oklahoma University. They attended churches everywhere they moved.

They were married less than two years when Shirley became very ill. She was teaching school while Russ was attending dental school. She was in the hospital for ten weeks, with ten days close to death. Recognizing the power of prayer from many church members and family, she felt strength returning and the feeling that there was more the Lord wanted her to do on earth. They grew stronger in their marriage and learned what things are important in life.

Russ and Shirley were blessed with three children: Gail, Kimberly and Glen. When Glen was a sophomore in college, a brain tumor was discovered and required surgery. With church prayer and support, Glen had his tumor removed, but the tumor caused him to become legally blind. Through persistence and prayer he has trained to work in the IRS offices in Covington, KY. Glen lives independently in Cherry Grove.

As Shirley and Russ became involved in Discipleship I and II studies and other groups with Bible studies, they felt God's love grow within themselves and the call to serve others through the church missions to others in need.

Shirley's testimony states, "I am so thankful to God for the life I have had, and in spite of some difficult times like the death of my father, my illness, my son's brain surgery and his subsequent blindness, I feel I have been truly blessed.

"Upon looking back over some of the poems I have written

over the years, I find a recurring theme of hope, of a better tomorrow. I think God gave me the gift of poetry, and maybe that "hope" is the message He wants me to deliver.

"I will continue to search for the blessed assurance that intellectually I do understand, but my search must continue to be totally His in the way that all of you express. You have already helped me so much."

After a series of setbacks from cancer, Shirley began to respond to God's message to, "start writing. He will give me direction and words." To help her gain guidance she reread poems she had written. Late in July 2009, she assembled some key poems before she became too ill to continue. Some of this collection, important to Shirley, included poems by her mother, children, and grandchildren. The following poems, with their positive messages, are "Shirley's Poems!"

—August 1, 2009

The door is now open,  
It lets in the light.  
The door is now open,  
It's now time to write—  
God is the director  
Of the pen in my hand,  
So whatever He says  
Shall be my command.  
He said:  
"Start with the past  
At some poems you designed,  
Look for themes and messages  
You may find."



—1975

## LIFE

Life is strange in many ways—  
Our destinies keep changing.  
When things start getting too routine  
We need to do some rearranging.

Yet we must keep our spirits strong  
To meet whatever comes  
And sometimes lift our voice in song  
Above the steady heartbeat drums.

Life will have its times of stress,  
Its pain, and sometimes sorrow,  
But if we keep our faith we can  
Look forward to tomorrow.

*(Continued on page 6)*

Life will have its times of joy,  
Of undiluted pleasure.  
These peaks of happiness we hold  
To be a cherished treasure.

Life will have its times of peace—  
With inward calm presiding  
When strife and problems seem remote  
And love seems all-abiding.



—September 12, 2004  
by Jacquelyn Hetteberg, Shirley's granddaughter, age 11

### Fluttering Butterflies

As I watch a butterfly flutter past me it makes me think,  
Have I let my life flutter by like that butterfly?"  
So I flash back to all the great memories that I share  
With my friends and family.  
Maybe I have,  
So as I watch the butterfly flutter away I learn to love life  
And to never let it flutter away!



On August 8, 2009, after Shirley was admitted to the hospital, Russell was not able to get a response from Shirley. Later on he felt a message from God to write a statement on Shirley's behalf about the pain she was experiencing and her faith. He wrote, "I know God is there, but pain is my relentless pursuer. I know God will win the marathon, but pain controls the sprints. I have run the marathon to the best of my ability. When I last close my eyes, I will be comforted knowing that I dwell with God because of the salvation given me by my Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ." Shirley agreed later that this reflected her faith.

Shirley made a statement to her daughter Gail at about 6:00 a.m. on August 15, 2009. "Feel the love and let go of the hate." What a wonderful world this would be if we all lived this philosophy.

In loving memory of Shirley E. Gilmore  
July 24, 1937—August 18, 2009  
Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Teacher, Friend

"FEEL THE LOVE AND LET GO OF THE HATE!"

### Shawl Ministry

The shawl knitters will meet at Sue Merritt's home on Thursday, January 28th at 7:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us and become a part of the group. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, we will show you how. Need yarn? Money and yarn has been donated to create new shawls; we will also be making warm hats.



If you know of someone who would be comforted and cheered by a shawl, please let Marge Roberts know.

Even if you can't attend the official knitting sessions, you can be a solo knitter and donate your shawls to the ministry for blessing and distribution.

Contact Marge Roberts (528-1925, [marginnati@zoomtown.com](mailto:marginnati@zoomtown.com)) to talk about knitting or crocheting with this group.



Be sure to read on Page 1 about the new Bible Study starting January 7th!

**Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus**  
Study of the Holy Lands and Lessons of Jesus  
Bible Study offered Thursdays,  
January 7-February 25  
11:00 am or 7:00 pm

Chair of Administrative Council .....	Mike Estep
Lay Leader .....	Ed Bridgeman
Lay Member to Annual Conference .....	Cindi Dietrich
1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate (LMAC) .....	Clark Van Scyoc
Recording Secretary .....	Joyce Vaught
Membership Secretary.....	Glenna Cluxton
Ministry Team Leaders:	
Discipleship.....	Janet Carter
Fellowship.....	Homer & Gail Matheny
Ministry.....	Ed Bridgeman
Missions.....	Paul Kocsis
Worship.....	Paul Fritinger/Dan & Becky Nagy
Ministry Areas:	
Adult.....	Ed Bridgeman
Church School Superintendent.....	Burl Hughes
Choir Director.....	Randy Manning
Evangelism.....	Marilyn Estep
Health Ministries.....	Janet Brown
Historian.....	Terry Cooper
Secretary of Nominations.....	Jack Wallin
United Methodist Women.....	Elected by UMW
Youth.....	Kurt King
Members at Large:	
Young Adult.....	Michele Estep
Adult.....	Jeanette Shriver
Adult.....	Gladys Preyer
Ministry Support Leaders:	
Coordinator of Communication.....	Becky Nagy
Finance.....	Miriam Van Scyoc
Financial Secretary.....	Bob & Ruth Stuntz
Lay Leadership.....	Ed Bridgeman/Pastor Kurt King
Staff-Parish Relations.....	Joe Mason
Treasurer.....	Anne Kuhn
Trustees.....	Elected by Trustees

COMMITTEES: Class of	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
<u>Board of Trustees</u>			
Chair – Elected by Trustees	Tony Carter Janet Powell Clark Van Scyoc	Steve Stuntz Jim Gumbert Marge Roberts	Ed Kuhn Steve Kazee Mike Brown
<u>Lay Leadership</u>			
Chair – Pastor Kurt King	Jack Wallin	Wayne Kazee	Glenna Cluxton
Secretary – Jack Wallin	Janet Brown	Linda Wallin	Donna Scharp
Lay Leader – Ed Bridgeman	Amy Kocsis	Jeanne Clausen	Joe Iannelli
<u>Staff-Parish Relations</u>			
Chair – Joe Mason	Gladys Preyer	Debbie Desgrange	Phyllis Raker
Lay Leader – Ed Bridgeman	Joe Mason	Mary Fritinger	Burl Hughes
Lay Member – Cindi Dietrich	Vicki Thatcher	Betty Finzer	
<u>Endowment</u>			
Chair – Clark Van Scyoc	Kurt King, Pastor Jim Shriver, Ad. Council Chair Miriam Van Scyoc, Finance Chair Terry Cooper, Trustees Chair	Anne Kuhn, Treasurer Pam Bridgeman, At Large Clark Van Scyoc, At Large	
<u>Finance</u>			
Chair – Miriam Van Scyoc	Kurt King, Pastor Mike Estep, Ad. Council Chair Joe Mason, SPRC Chair To Be Elected, Trustees Chair	Ed Bridgeman, Lay Leader Anne Kuhn, Treasurer Bob & Ruth Stuntz, Finance Sec. Clark Van Scyoc, Endowment Chair	

# January

*BUILDING • STRENGTHENING • SHARING*



Revised  
12/16/09

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Office Closed	2
3 F'ship 9:30, Worship 10 am, No Encore Unhanging of the Greens following Worship	4 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Cub Scouts, Rm. 102, 7-8pm	5 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Trustees Mtg., 7pm, Rm. 102	6 Worship Committee Mtg., 6:30 pm, Rm. 102 Choir Reh, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	7 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	8 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	9 Terry's Car Club, 6 pm, Fellowship Hall
10 F'ship 9:30, Worship 10 am, Encore! 11 am	11 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Parable Puppet Reh, 7pm, Sanctuary	12 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Gertrude Laing Circle Mtg., 7:30 pm, Parlor	13 Choir Reh, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	14 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	15 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	16 Pinewood Derby Weigh-In, 9-Noon, Fellowship Hall
17 F'ship 9:30, Worship 10 am, Encore! 11 am Nast Trinity Dinner	18 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Parable Puppet Reh, 7pm, Sanctuary Finance Mtg., 7pm Cub Scouts, Rm. 102, 7-8pm Newsletter Deadline	19 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	20 Choir Reh, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	21 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	22 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	23 Pinewood Derby Race, 11am-?, Fellowship Hall
24 F'ship 9:30, Worship 10 am, Encore! 11 am 4th Sunday	25 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Parable Puppet Reh, 7pm, Sanctuary	26 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	27 Choir Reh, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	28 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105 Shawl Ministry, 7:30pm, Sue Merritt's home  Room 102 in use (Tentative)	29 Guitar 4-9 pm, Rm. 105	30
31 F'ship 9:30, Worship 10 am, Encore! 11 am						

2010