

Being Good Stewards of Time

A Message from Our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin Orr

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."-- Psalm 90:12

Of course, none of us know the number of our days. Perhaps this is the first step in gaining a heart of wisdom, the acknowledgement that we do not know how long our lives will be. We do know that each day that passes is one day closer to our deaths. And we know that when placed in the endless roll of time, even a person blessed with 100 years of life is but a breath. In the grand scheme of things, our lives are extremely short.

But this does not mean that our lives have no meaning, significance, or purpose. Although our lives are short, they are also of great meaning and significance. Our lives have meaning because we are stewards of the time that God has given us. God is the author of Time. God truly is timeless. He exists outside of time. He is the maker of time. And God has seen fit to entrust us with the time that He has made. Time is a gift from God that is entrusted to us for a very brief period of time. We do not choose the time that God gives us. But we do choose what to do with the time given to us. And because we have that choice, our life has meaning, significance and purpose.

What to do with the time we have? Regrettably, we often fail to reflect on this question. We tend to fritter away the time we have. But God is so gracious. Although we cannot get back the days that have passed, we can decide to make the most of the time God sees fit to give us. Each day is a gift, and the opportunity to begin anew.

So, as the calendar turns, and we enter into the year 2010, I urge you to receive each day as a gift. When you awaken, dedicate the day to the One who gave it to you. And then, live out whatever that day may bring: the routines, chores, work, surprises, frustrations, temptations, setbacks, tragedies, and victories. Live each day as the steward you are, knowing that the timeless and eternal God is with you every moment of your life, that, in Christ Jesus, has no end.

Do You Grocery Shop?

If so, you might want to visit Kroger's! They have everything you need *AND* you can help our church finances by using the Kroger Card. It works just like a pre-paid credit card, except our church receives 4% on every dollar when you reload the card. Add \$50 to the card, and we get \$2. Add \$100 and our church gets \$4!! It's that simple!!! Re-loading the card is easy – just stop by the Customer Service Center as you enter your local Kroger's to do your shopping. You can add any amount, anytime. What you don't use will carry over to your next shopping trip. *AND*, you can use your Kroger Card at *ANY* Kroger affiliate across the nation. To get started, see Mark Palmer to purchase your card for \$25, or for additional questions. It's a small thing to ask, but helps our church in a BIG way!!!

About Compassion: Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back!

About Peace: Peace starts with a smile.

Exuberant Singing Abounds at Mt. Healthy UMC!

A Message from Our Music Director, Cheryl Raine

December was about the craziest month we've had around here. After we all threw our Christmas decorations up during that last weekend of balmy weather from the late fall, the thermometer started to plummet and it didn't seem to know when to stop. Some considerable rain, snow and wind, and we still hadn't quite arrived at winter solstice.

I'm thinking back to Hanging of the Greens Sunday, our traditional kick-off to Advent. On that Sunday and for the next several weeks you truly displayed Exuberant Singing, the second topic of my Four Spiritual Practices for a Purposeful Congregation. You might remember – we had carol singing, singing with bells, children singing, choir singing and everybody singing together. It was a singing Bonanza!

The congregation seemed to out-do itself with enthusiastic participation. There were probably a few more families in attendance, with visitors from the Thanksgiving gatherings. So when we raised our voices, we upped the decibels a bit, too. The music jumped off the pages and into the space around us as folks sang with verve. (I guess you can understand why I didn't call it "verveful singing".)

So, how did that make you feel? Were the vocal juices flowing a little more than usual? Was it contagious to hear the folks on either side of you "breaking into song" with Christmas carols? When "those old familiar carols play" does it strike a familiar chord and make you want to call out "Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel!"?

Well, people of Mt. Healthy United Methodist, something must have tickled your "singing bones", because singing has grown, both on Sundays, and for our special events. Folks who joined in caroling for shut-ins found satisfaction and joy as they sang exuberantly in the retirement homes. And the strains of "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Joy to the World" sounded strong in the final moments of the cantata, HOPE HAS HANDS. The familiar carols proved to be friendly to our ears and our lips.

Then finally, as we stand on Christmas Eve and blend our voices on "Silent Night, Holy Night", there is a realization that we have journeyed to the moment when we are blessed once more by the coming of our Savior, Jesus. This special time is captured with the song we sing, and the friends and family who join us. "Hark, the Herald angels sing (exuberantly) glory to the new-born King." May you always keep a song of love and peace in your heart!

The choir schedule will resume on January 6th. Children will take a break until February.

Join The Uphill Gang for Food, Fun and Fellowship!

All senior citizens are invited to Fellowship Hall on Monday, January 4 at 12 PM. The cost is only \$5 at the door. Please make your reservation by calling Barbara Benson at 825-1254 before Friday, January 1.

About Prayer: God answers knee-mail.

In Appreciation...

♥ Dear Friends,

My son and I would like to thank all of the people who helped me when I was ill. Thanks for the good meals. All the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls were appreciated. It is wonderful to know, we have such a loving, caring church family. Thank you again. God bless you everyone.

Sincerely,
Helen Waldman and son, John

♥ Thank you all so much!

Our bazaar was a huge success, thanks to the special efforts of our United Methodist Women, friends and families.

To all the chairpersons and co-chairs: Mary Reep and Sylvia Lawson; to Barb Benson and Ruth Warner for their excellent work with the candy booth; to Anna Bowen and Betty Hines for the terrific job with the bake booth. A special thanks to the kitchen committee and their chair, Carol Smith; Sharon Heim and Mary Reep, who were able to adjust so efficiently from a dinner to a luncheon.

Thanks to Jeanine Smith for the dinner tickets and to Berdene Vehr for the public relations; and to boutique chair, Darlene Long and her dedicated staff.

To Bob Reep and Jim Benson for all their help and support - our sincere appreciation.

To all the "unsung heroes" who gave their talent and time to really open their hearts and our church to many visitors. We counted approximately 52 people who had either visited our church once, or this was their very first visit. We saw families gathering, new friends and old friends meeting and sharing laughs, joys and memories.

Aside from our wonderful tables, from the delicious baked goods, the terrific candy and the colorful boutique center, to our theme baskets, we were able to serve a wonderful luncheon.

One of the highlights was our display of our church quilts in the back of the sanctuary — "The Sharing of Our Love of the History of the Quilts and the Families of Our Church".

Thanks to the Vehr family for operating our elevator service and to those who assisted them.

Remember anything our church does is a reflection of our many people who make up what we call the Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church. We are truly a family who share our joys and sorrows each and every day.

A special thank you to Diana Klenk and Virginia Michael who donated special theme baskets; to Cindy Rahn and her extra efforts, and to all those who donated these very unique baskets. A thank you to all those who had winning bids.

My sincere appreciation to Margaret Miller, Ester Greenlee, Alice Williamson and Carrie Ivory, who pitched in to help me after my recent surgery.

As this year's chairperson, I am proud to say that all the committees learned to adjust to whatever circumstances arose. Our primary goal was the one thought— We are doing this to raise funds to support our church projects.

You have heard it many times... The Lord will provide. We learn to focus with our eyes on the sparrow and to make everything flow with God's help. Nothing can defeat you.

Please continue to follow the star of hope and peace throughout the coming year. Let us keep the spirit of Christmas alive today, tomorrow and always.

P.S. Thank you, Mary Martin, for coordinating the outreach baskets.

God Bless You All,
Jeanne Marie Stophlet
Chairperson, 2009 Bazaar

♥ The Rev. Robert D. Clo, pastor of North Bend United Methodist Church expresses his appreciation for the gift of forty United Methodist hymnals (those formerly used at Heritage UMC) to his church. The hymnals are not only greatly appreciated, but used regularly during their Sunday morning worship.

Happy Birthday!

Jim Agee	1/20
Celia Andrews	1/22
Chuck Bowman	1/19
Diana Brown	1/6
Jean Davis	1/5
Carol Haskins	1/14
Jim Hines	1/9
Miranda Hovemeyer	1/4
Ashley Johnson	1/15
Joyce Kelly	1/17
Norma Keye	1/15
Maxine Martin	1/29
Clara Miller	1/25
Barbara Pritchard	1/11
Walter Prop	1/6
Jim Rahn	1/7
Jaquille Short	1/14
Dennis Smith	1/17
Sharon Smith	1/2
Madison Spitler	1/16
Amanda Vreeland	1/24
Amy Wiesman	1/4

Did You Know...





Gifts of all types and amounts are welcomed by the Council on Development. The gifts can be earmarked for any United Methodist purpose, such as your local church, colleges, hospitals, retirement homes, camps, general church organizations, leadership development, Builder's Club, seminaries and ministers' retirement and health care funds. For more information, please refer to the brochure, *Giving at Year-End* (available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and in the church office) or call 800-437-0028.

You can also visit
www.westohioumc.org.

Click on *Council on Development*, then *Did You Know?*

About Hope: Man's way leads to a hopeless end. God's way leads to an endless hope.

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Interested in registering for a Red Cross class? Visit www.cincinnati-redcross.org or call 792-4000. First Aid/Adult CPR with AED will be taught on January 6.	Deadline to submit information for the weekly bulletin is Wednesday at 12 PM. Deadline to submit information for the newsletter is the 10 th of the month at 12 PM.	Church Office Hours: Monday through Wednesday: 9 AM to 2 PM; Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM; Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM			1 New Years Day Church Office Closed	2 TENTATIVE: 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC
3 Epiphany Sunday 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional 11:30 AM Contemporary 1:00 PM American Indian Council Jazz Trio at Hwy. 127	4 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 12:00 PM Uphill Gang 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	5 5 PM – 7 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 6:30 PM Boy Scouts #0880 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Finance 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anon.	6 Epiphany 8:30 AM-4 PM Red Cross Class 5:30 PM Hwy. 127 Practice 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:00 PM Mt. Healthy Historical Society 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	7 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC	8  9 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC	9 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC
10 Baptism of the Lord 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional 11:30 AM Contemporary 12:00 PM Deadline to Submit February Newsletter Articles Holy Communion	11 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 6:30 PM Girl Scouts #9935 6:30 PM Embroidery Guild	12 5 PM – 7 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 6:15 PM Missions 6:30 PM Boy Scouts #0880 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anon.	13 5:30 PM Hwy. 127 Practice 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	14 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 7:00 PM Mt. Healthy Alliance	15 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC	16 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC
17 Human Relations Day 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional 11:30 AM Contemporary	18 M. L. King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed TENTATIVE: 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC	19 10:00 AM Faith Circle 5 PM – 7 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 6:30 PM Boy Scouts #0880 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Education 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anon.	20 10:00 AM Charity Circle 12:00 PM Light Circle 5:30 PM Hwy. 127 Practice 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Committee 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	21 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 7:00 PM Trustees	22 	23 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC
24 Ecumenical Sunday 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional 11:30 AM Contemporary	25 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 6:30 PM Girl Scouts #9935	26 5 PM – 7 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 6:30 PM Boy Scouts #0880 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Evangelism 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anon.	27 5:30 PM Hwy. 127 Practice 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Staff Parish 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	28 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC 7:00 PM Administrative Council	29	30 9 AM – 12 PM Food Pantry at MHCC
31 4th Sun After Epiph 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional 11:30 AM Contemporary Bring a Friend to Church TENTATIVE: Chili Cook Off						Calendar Revision Date: 12/1/09 Calendar subject to change. Please refer to weekly bulletins for postponement additions or cancellations.

Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church
7612 Perry St.
Cincinnati, OH 45231

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Welcome Guests

Sunday School:
8:45 AM

Sunday Traditional Service:
10:00 AM

Sunday Highway 127
Contemporary Service:
11:30 AM

This issue's mail date:
December 18, 2009

Deadline to submit articles for the February issue of
the newsletter is **Sunday, January 10, 12 PM.**

Human Relations Day: Sunday, January 17

A special offering will be taken on this day to help support the
following programs:

- Church-based community developers working in ethnic minority communities
- Multiracial network of grassroots social justice organizations related to the United Methodist voluntary services
- Christ-centered youth offender rehabilitation projects, giving teenagers a chance to succeed

Below are the dates for the other special Sundays of the year. United Methodist churches will collect special offerings on these days.

- One Great Hour of Sharing: March 14, 2010
- Native American Ministries: April 18, 2010
- Peace with Justice: May 30, 2010
- World Communion: October 3, 2010
- United Methodist Student Day: November 28, 2010

*About Benefits: Working for God doesn't pay
much, but His retirement plan is out of this world!*

Submitting an Article to *The Messenger*

- Please type or print your article, to the attention of the Editorial Team. Drop off your article in the designated folder by the church office door, or email it to the address below. To ensure accuracy and to provide a paper copy for the Editorial Team to review, *please do not give your article over the telephone.*
- Due to the size limit of the newsletter, *please keep your article as brief as possible.*
- Please submit your article on or before the 10th of the month. The deadline for submitting articles for the February issue is **Sunday, January 10, 12 PM.** Due to the scheduling of volunteer assistance, processing and bulk-rate mailing time, late articles cannot be included in the newsletter, but will be considered for the weekly bulletin instead. Thank you for your news!

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kevin Orr • **Phone:** 931-5827 • **Email:** mthealthymc@fuse.net • **Website:** www.mthealthymc.org
Church Office Hours: Monday—Wednesday: 9 AM to 2 PM; Thursday: 9 AM to 4 PM; Friday: 9 AM to 12 PM
The church office will be closed on New Years Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
When the Mt. Healthy City Schools are closed due to icy, snowy weather, the church office is closed.

Mt. Healthy Alliance Food Pantry:

A 501© (3) Non-Profit Tax Exempt Corporation • Located at Mt. Healthy Christian Church • 7717 Harrison Avenue
551-8036 • Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 9 AM to 12 PM; Tuesdays, 5 PM to 7 PM • Serving 45231
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31028; Mt. Healthy, Ohio; 45231 • Website: www.mthealthyalliance.org