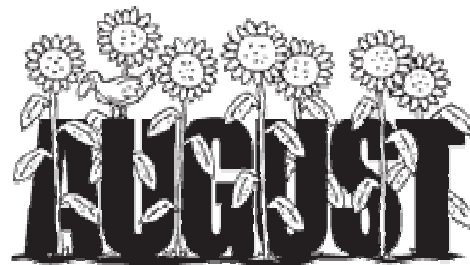




The Bell



2009

Church Picnic Sunday, August 30 11:00 a.m.

Fun for all ages!!!
Food, entertainment,
music, games



Come and enjoy this great time of fellowship!
Picnic food will be provided.

Anyone interested in helping to plan the activities for the day, please contact **Deanna Andamasaris**, **Sue Baker** or call and leave a message with Patty in the church office.



Guest Preacher on August 30

On Sunday, August 30, **Rev. Dee Lowman** will be preaching at HUM. The daughter of HUM members Dave Lowman and Donna Lowman, Dee grew up at HUM.

An especially formative experience for Dee was an HUM mission trip to London, England, where she stood in the same pulpit where John Wesley once preached.

Dee was recommended for candidacy for ministry through HUM. She is a graduate of Hiram College and The Methodist Theological School in Ohio (METHESCO). In the 12 years prior to her current appointment, she served churches in Vermont and New York State, within the Troy Conference of the United Methodist Church, where she also served as Conference Director of Camping and Spiritual Formation. Dee is an ordained Elder in full connection with the Troy Conference and has a life-long connection with the Methodist tradition.

In 2006, Dee left First United Methodist Church in Burlington, Vermont and became the Associate Pastor and Minister of Discipleship and Congregational Life at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, DC. Dee is married to Chris Scranton, and they are the proud parents of Maximillian ("Max"). They make their home in Hyattsville, Maryland.

Members In Service

Trustee-of-the-month for August

Anne Monroe

Altar Flowers for August

- 2 S. Wehmer
- 9 The Schoger Family
- 16 The Schoger Family
- 23 The Jones Family/ The France Family
- 30

Note: Call the church office if you would like to provide flowers on the open dates this month. Cost is \$23.

Ushers for July

Tim Downs, *captain*; Wendy Downs, Chuck May, Charlie Rice, Rick Muresan, George Drew, Bob Summers, Robert Lott

Staff

- Ronald C. Spore**, *pastor*
- Andy McCracken**, *lay leader*
- Patty Davis**, *church secretary*
- Frank McCauley**, *director of music*
- Lori Seinar-Roknick**, *organist/accompanist*
- Robert Gray**, *director of music emeritus*
- Carrie Santti**, *acting director of Christian preschool*
- Logan Sturgeon**, *custodian*
- Beth Ferrell**, *conference missionary*
- John L. Hopkins**, *resident bishop EOC*
- Dan Bryant**, *Mahoning Valley district superintendent*

Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found box in the narthex for anything you may have recently left at church, or in the church kitchen.

Items will stay in the box for one month and then be donated to the annual Heavenly Trash Garage Sale for next year's sale.

Dear HUM Friends,



In his 1991 *Quantum Spirituality*, Leonard Sweet tells of Sir Thomas Beecham, founder of the London Philharmonic and the Beecham Opera Company.

Beecham once traveled to a certain city to appear as the guest conductor.

During the first rehearsal he quickly noticed that the orchestra was not well trained. As the rehearsal continued, he became more and more frustrated. Finally he had to stop the musicians for the third time at the same place in the score.

One of the musicians protested: "Well, just how do you want us to play?"

Sir Thomas looked at him and calmly suggested, "Together."

As you read this, my family and I will be away on vacation. We are looking forward to playing "together" for awhile, as we recharge and renew for the fall season in the church.

Everything is a little better when we do it together. Whether it's a family vacation or the work we engage in ... it's better when we do it together. Whether it's sharing an evening meal or living out the mission of Jesus our Lord ... it's better when we do it together.

Great music rises to the glory of God ... when each instrument is in tune and in rhythm with all the others.

When we earnestly desire to do the work of Christ in our world — to heal the sick, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to free the captive, to visit the lonely and forgotten — we do more when we are together! May we be ready to respond to God's call!

Peace and joy in Him!

Pastor Ron

Computers Needed ...

The Sunday School is gearing up for some new learning experiences this fall. Computers will help us!

If you are planning to upgrade your home computer, consider donating your old one to the church. Good working desk or laptop, with CD and/or DVD capability, will be greatly appreciated. Contact Sue Spore.

(continued from page 3 :: Family Promise)

supervisors and did so much more. Nancy was my sounding board all week and she spent endless hours with the families. Sally was there every night playing games with the children, doing laundry for the families, and "mothering" them all. That was something they had never experienced before. Shari spent a lot of time with the families as well. Pastor Ron was so supportive, and dealt with a lot of obstacles that were thrown at us. I would also like to say thanks to my husband, Tom, and Dennis Moore for being so supportive, and to Dennis for "having our backs" that first night.

We will host families again the week of September 27. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this wonderful ministry.

Debbie Macino

HUM Family Promise Coordinator

Garage Sale Support Group

Mark your calendar for the second Thursday in October (October 8) for the first Garage Sale Support Group meeting!

As usual, we meet at Buena Vista Café at 5:30 p.m. for food, fun, and fellowship. Plan to join us in October!

Thank you to **Logan Sturgeon** for the beautiful job of cleaning and waxing the Fellowship Hall and hallways.

The Trustees

Thank you to **Wendy Downs, Jan Contestabile, and Bob Hoy**. We appreciate the many, many hours you spend working on the church finances.

Jan Rice

Dear HUM Members and Friends,

On behalf of the families of Family Promise, thank you for your care and hospitality during your host week. The families are very grateful.

Sincerely,

Patty DiGiacobbe

Family Promise Center Director

Please pray for...

HUM Members: Bob Gray, Sally Jones, Betty Holbrook, Mid Nighswander, Carl Isom, Ed Baker, Ginny Churchill, Gene Stefani, Cheryl Guerrero, Mary Miller, Lee Spak, Dick Gibbs, Jen Alberini, Joey Alberini, Sean Philbin

Friends and Family: Todd Santti, Bob and Theresa Rodgers, Linn Bartholomew, Diana Barreto, Doug Hansen, Delores Ross, Anthony Petrosky, Tim Flannery, Andrew Howe, Nick Macrinos, Archie Bateman, Mary Miller, Fred Norton, Krista Ronai, Ralph Weimer, Debbie Bosak, Diana Anderson, Ray Dales, Jr., Robbie Corbin, Lawrence Catley, Susan Cunningham, Mike Axelrod, Eleanor Duckett, Carol Begg, David Wright, Donna Thorpe, Jennifer Cunningham, Louise Philippi, Maetro Catley, David El Hatton, Debbie Wathen, Kristy Holm, Alexander Thompson



Reflections on Family Promise

HUM opened its doors to four families in the Family Promise program on June 28. I had attended planning meetings and training sessions for the past year. Pastor Ron, Sue and Jessie and Tom and I were greeting the families and sharing the first meal. I watched nervously as four frightened, apprehensive families walked through the front door. We each took a family to their sleeping quarters, and I was with the family with the baby (no surprise there!). We walked into the nursery and the mom looked at me in disbelief and asked me if they were really allowed to stay in there. I told her it was their room for the week and as her eyes filled with tears, she said she had never seen such an awesome room, and asked if she could hug me. I started to relax a little.

After the families had time to settle in and the children checked out the playground we sat down to eat. Pastor Ron offered some words of encouragement and led us in prayer. The families quickly put us at ease, and we shared good food and pleasant conversation. Later that night I got a call about a minor emergency with the baby. I came to the church, we dealt with the problem and everyone settled in for the night. The first night was pretty chaotic, but everyone became comfortable here and the week went without a hitch.

Let me tell you a little bit about these wonderful families:

- ▶ Our youngest family was a married couple, Justin and Leslie, with an absolutely adorable seven week old baby, Alyssa.
- ▶ Amy has three boys: Daniel, 15; Zach, 12; and Gabriel, 10. Daniel has some health problems and was taken to a hospital on Monday. He was not with us the rest of the week.
- ▶ Sasha is the single mom of O'Shea, a 9 year old boy.
- ▶ Shawntell is the mother of Nicholas, 6; and Ciara, a 7 year old who goes by the name of Betty. Shawntell's 23 year old brother, Joey, is also with them. Unfortunately, the week after they were with us, this family voluntarily left the program. They were replaced with a single mom and her 10 year old son.

It didn't take long until we fell in love with these families and they became a part of our family. We cried with them as they shared their stories with us. Some of them came from nice homes and had good lives. Some had very difficult childhoods, and were the product of dysfunctional families. They all watched helplessly as their lives fell apart and they ended up in shelters, and worse, Joey was living on the streets of Akron.

The families really didn't know each other that well when they came to us. As the week went on, they bonded and became a big family.

One of the rules of the program is that you are not allowed to proselytize. This is understandable since they go to a different church each week. The adults liked to sit in the kitchen and talk after the children were in bed. One night they started asking Nancy Moore and Jan Contestabile about the Bible. They are all church-going people, but they all had questions. Nancy gave them Bibles to use, and they had a really good talk that night.

It was so wonderful to see Sally Allen there every night playing board games with the children. They absolutely adored Sally, and if she wasn't there they were always asking when she was coming.

Saturday was the Fourth of July, so we celebrated with the families. Tim Downs and Dave Harriett treated everyone to a huge breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage and hash browns. Pastor Ron and Sue took the families to the Howland Parade. Nancy and Dennis Moore and Nancy's mom spent the afternoon with them; Nancy had organized games and prizes, and the families really enjoyed the day. They really appreciated being at our church instead of spending the day at the Day Center. Tom and I spent the evening with them. We took them to the Packard Band concert, where they were excited to see Nancy Moore in the band. We stayed for fireworks and spent the next hour trying to remember what street we parked on and then touring the back streets of Warren trying to avoid traffic. We all laughed until our sides ached. O'Shea made Tom promise he wouldn't "drive crazy anymore" and made me promise I would never give anyone directions again.

We got back to church around 11:30 p.m. and everyone went to bed. Sasha, Joey and I couldn't sleep so we got up and watched movies all night.

Sunday morning Tom and I made pancakes and sausage, but breakfast was pretty subdued. We were all dreading saying goodbye, and the families were nervous about going to the next church.

The families all attended worship. Zach went up for the children's sermon and pretty much took over, answering all of Sue's questions and even reciting a poem. Sandy Dunlosky presented Leslie and Justin with a beautiful baby blanket made by the Morning Glories craft group.

After the service we had lunch and packed up to leave. Nancy and Dennis Moore and Tom and I took them to the Day Center. There were a lot of tears shed as we said our goodbyes. Patty DiGiacobbe, the director, told me Sasha came in crying. She asked her what was wrong and Sasha told her that she had just said goodbye to an amazing group of people. She told Patty that she felt loved for the first time in her life. She said she felt more loved by us than she ever did from her own family.

Shawntell asked me if we were angels, because no one had ever been that nice to her in her whole life, including her family. Joey said he wished he could stay at our church forever, because that was the happiest time he ever had in his life. Amy came to us a crying, emotional wreck. She left us a happy, confident woman. She told me she was determined to find a job, get a house, and give her boys a good life. I believe her!

All four families told me we touched their lives, and they will never be the same. They got it wrong. It was they who touched our lives.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way. I thank all those who contributed food or money, those who prepared meals and shared them with the families, and those who spent the night. There are too many people to mention, but I would like especially to thank Jan Rice, Nancy Moore, Sally Allen and Shari Dillon. Jan organized all the food for the week. They were so well fed. They kept telling me all week they have never seen so much good food. Nancy organized the overnight

(continued on page 2)



At the time of this writing we are in the middle of Summer Camp, which has gone very well under the direction of **Robin Powell** (Robin teaches our three-year olds.)

Thank you, Robin, for a job well done, and to all of our teachers and helpers: **Lisa Medved, Beth Main, Sue and Jessica Spore, Debbie Macino, Deanna and Sydney Andamasaris.** We actually had one little girl cry when leaving at the end of the camp day because she was having so much fun!

Thank you for all the prayers for our new teacher of the five year olds. They have been answered in a great way...**Beth Main!** Beth filled in for me last April and May in the five year old class and did an awesome job. We are so happy to have her as part of our family—she is a great fit!

And the 4th of July ... a BIG thank you to **Chuck Baker**—for loaning us a truck; **Bill Andamasaris**—for driving the truck; **Sydney Andamasaris**—for riding with Dad; **Deanna Andamasaris and Beth Main**—for riding in the back with the kids; **Robin Powell and Lisa Medved**—for walking and passing out flyers; and for our “animals”: **Ryley Andamasaris, Katelyn and Megan Main, Kennedy Jones, Hunter Murcko, and Cole Medved**—for tossing candy to the crowd. All of these people made our July 4th Parade “boat “(we dressed the truck to look like Noah’s Ark) a great success!

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and may you see God all around you!

Carrie Santti

“A grieving father receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him to meet in the Oregon wilderness where his daughter has been abducted and murdered. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, "The Shack" wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?"



Help us kick off the sixth year of **HUM’s Book Bunch** by joining us Thursday, **September 17th** for an inspiring and though-provoking discussion of William Paul Young’s *The Shack*. You do

not have to be a member of Book Bunch or HUM to attend Book Bunch. We welcome anyone who likes to read. We usually meet the third Thursday of every month (except August and December) at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room.



If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email Deborah Lowman at dllowman@earthlink.net. We look forward to seeing you on **September 17th** even if you haven’t finished the book!

Post-High-School Care Package Info

Student’s Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name of College and Year: _____

Service Assignment: _____

Job/occupation: _____

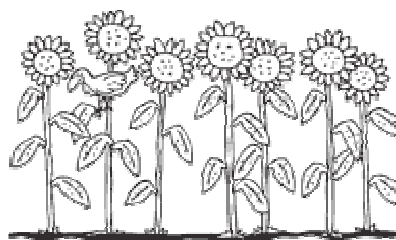
Parent (s) name: _____

Parent (s) phone number: _____

I would be willing to donate an item for the care package before each mailing. Yes
No

I would like to help package the care packages. No
Yes

Please mail completed form to the church office at **730 Howland Wilson Road NE, Warren, OH 44484** by the end of **September**. Include a recent photo, too, for the bulletin board (last year’s photos have been saved).



Nursery Walls Painted

A BIG thank you to **Lydia France** and her able assistant, **Jenna Green**, for their painting expertise in our church nursery. (**Rick and Karen France** also volunteered their time for this project.) Brightly colored animals grace the walls and the entire nursery is now a welcoming, cheerful place for our little ones. Stop in on Sunday morning and take a look—you will feel cheerful and uplifted!

The nursery is staffed every Sunday morning during both the worship hour and the Sunday school hour, and for our children from birth through age two.

Again, *thank you Lydia and Jenna!*



**Howland United
Methodist Church**

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The Bell is published monthly.

Ronald C. Spore, pastor
Patty Davis, editor

Worship—9:30 a.m.
Sunday School—10:45 a.m.

**Deadline for the
September 2009 newsletter:
Monday, August 17, 2009**

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Organization

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage PAID

Vienna, OH

Permit No. 33

Charge Conference—Thursday, October 1, 7 p.m.

HUMC's 2009 charge conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 1 at our church. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will meet with the district superintendent at 6 p.m. The charge conference is our annual meeting with the district superintendent to set ministry objectives for the next year, vote on certain matters of leadership, discipline, and finance, and be encouraged to work with the East Ohio Conference in making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. All church members are welcome. Your voice and vote are important as we set out an agenda for leadership and mission in the coming year. Chairs and leaders of all ministry teams, committees, boards and other agencies of the church are especially urged to attend. Some of you will be expected to complete report forms or brief statements reflecting on how we have lived out our mission in the community and world. You will want to get your teams charged up early in the fall, so we are ready for the conference on October 1. You will receive more information in late August.

We are excited this year to welcome Rev. Dan Bryant as our new district superintendent, effective July 1, 2009. A graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC, Rev. Bryant has served South Arlington UMC in inner-city Akron, Church of the Redeemer, Cleveland Heights, and most recently the Rockport UMC, Rocky River. Dan and Debbie Bryant have two grown children: Andrew, an elementary school teacher in Minnesota, and Kayla, a 2009 pre-med graduate of Washington University, Washington, DC. You will come to know more of Rev. Bryant and his family during the charge conference.

Blood Needed

The next semi-annual American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for **Friday, August 7, 12:00 (noon) to 6:00 p.m. at the Holwand Community Church, 198 Niles-Cortland Road.** The need is great. Can you help save a life?

Join the Red Cross in honoring local police, firefighters, and emergency responders at this special drive. All who come to donate will receive an American Red Cross "Badges for Blood" t-shirt.