

## Pastor's Corner

As we've come through the walk with Jesus once again to His cross, crucifixion, and resurrection with our celebration of Lenten season and all of Holy week, let us not lay it aside to wait for another year to begin again.

No one can read the New Testament without observing that the passion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ are the cardinal doctrines of our Christian faith. In the Gospels we have the redemptive (bringing about salvation) event; in the Acts we have the redemptive experience, and in the Epistles we have the redemptive explanation of the death and resurrection of our Lord. The Apostle Paul, in particular, majors on this theme in all of his writings, and insists that it is the ground of salvation and the goal of our sanctification (the process in which new life is imparted to the believer or set aside for God) and service.

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he is dictating his final letter before he faces martyrdom. As he addresses Timothy, his son in the faith, he is determined that the young man shall not falter or fail under the pressures of preaching or of persecution; so he exhorts him to "remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead, according to my gospel" (2 Tim. 2:8). In other words, come what may, Jesus is alive! That fact alone guarantees endurance now and final conquest in the hour of death.

What Paul says to Timothy is the ultimate message for you and me. For us to know that Jesus is alive is all that really matters, for in our risen Lord we find the courage to live and the comfort to die.

In the book of Revelations chapter 2:11 we have these words of encouragement. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; he that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." What is meant by the second death?

The first death we must endure unless the Lord should suddenly come to His temple. This is the life we live now in the flesh on earth so let us abide in readiness, awaiting it without fear, since Jesus has transformed death from a dreary cavern into a passage leading to glory.

The thing to be feared is not the first, but the second death; not the parting of the soul from the body, but the final separation of the entire man from God. This is death indeed. This death kills all peace, joy, happiness, hope. When God is gone all is gone. Such a death is far worse than ceasing to be: it is existence without the life which makes existence worth the having. Now, if by God's grace we fight on to the end, and conquer in the glorious war, no second death can lay its chill finger upon us. We shall have no fear of death and hell, for we shall receive a crown of life which fadeth not away.

"I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." 2Cor. 6:16

God is the portion of His people, and the chosen people are the portion of their God. The saints find in God their chief possession, and He reckons them to be His peculiar treasure. What a mine of comfort lies in this fact for each believer! This happy condition of mutual interest leads to mutual consideration. God will always think of His own people, and they will always think of Him. This day my God will perform all things for me; what can I do for Him? My thoughts ought to run toward Him, for He thinketh upon me. Let us all make sure that it is so, and not be content with merely admitting that so it ought to be.

Oh, for grace to treat the Lord as my God: to trust Him and to serve Him, as His Godhead deserves! Oh, that I could love, worship, adore, and obey Jehovah in spirit and in truth! this we all must make as our heart's desire. When I (we) shall attain to it, I (we) shall have found my (our) Heaven. Lord, help me! Be my God in helping me to know thee as my God, for Jesus' sake. May this be our greatest desire! Love, Pastor Les

## *Calendar of Events*

### April

- 5 – Palm Sunday, Penny & Food collection at Ransomville
- 7 – Ransomville Administrative Council at 7:30 PM
- 9 – Maundy Thursday, Communion at Ransomville Church
- 10 – Good Friday
- 12 – Easter
- 16 – Ransomville UMW at 1:00 PM
- 19 – Fillmore Chapel Administrative Council following worship
- 22 – Earth Day – Remember to recycle your papers
- 25 – Family Night

### May

- 2 – Quilt Show
- 3 – Penny & Food Collection
- 10 – Mother's Day
- 12 – Ransomville Administrative Council Meeting at 7:30 PM.
- 16 – Armed Forces Day
- 17 – Fillmore Chapel Administrative Council meeting following worship
- 21 – Ransomville UMW at 1:00 PM
- 25 – Memorial Day
- 26 – Pastor/Parish Relationship meeting

### June

- 7 – Penny & Food Collection & Special collection for Peace with Justice Sunday
- 9 – Ransomville Administrative Council at 7:30 PM
- 14 – Flag Day
- 18 – Ransomville UMW at 1:00 PM
- 21 – Fillmore Chapel Administrative Council following worship.
- 21 – Father's Day



**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Ransomville church will be open from 7:00 – 7:45 PM for Communion. Those wishing to have communion may come in during the 45 minutes and receive communion and leave at any time.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** The service will begin at 6:00 PM at the Ransomville UMC and proceed to the Free Methodist Church. After arriving at the Free Methodist Church we will move inside for a Tenebrae Service. The service will start close to 7:00 PM depending on how long it takes us to walk.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE:** This year the service will begin at 7:00 AM at Fillmore Chapel. There will be a breakfast after. Everyone is invited to attend.

**EASTER SERVICE:** This year Easter Service will be at Ransomville Church at 10:00 AM.



### ***Birthdays***

#### Fillmore Chapel

- |                           |                       |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – John Susice           | 15 – Bernard Peters   | 23 – Randy Skellen    |
| 9 – Donna Johannes        | 18 – Kayla Wilkinson  | 25 – Henry Koroschetz |
| 12 – Chester Sulinski, Jr | 19 – Melissa Andrasik | 26 Michael Jordan     |
| 13 – Theodora Olsowski    | 20 – Rachel Senek     |                       |

#### Ransomville

- |                          |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 – Lou Caleb            | 8 – Beverly Jeffery                  | 18 – Natalie Grace Diez    |
| 2 – Jane Steiner         | 11 – Douglas Schroeder               | 19 – Erica Horvath         |
| 4 – Mary Ellen Belschner | 13 – Denton Hardison                 | 20 – Mary Lucille Andalora |
| 6 – Rosanne Moje         | 15 – Brian Mayer                     | 25 – Jim Tweed             |
| 7 – Marvin Spring        | 15 – Richard Chauvin (he will be 60) | 28 – Eleanor Bayne         |

### ***Anniversaries***

#### Fillmore Chapel

- 12 – Leo & Nancy Hillman

#### Ransomville

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 – Louis & Sharon York       | 11 – Douglas & Connie Diez    |
| 3 – Albert & Sharon Strasburg | 13 – Dean & Shirley Schroeder |
| 6 – Darwin & Joan Cramer      | 16 – Philo & Jeanette Brooks  |



### ***Birthdays***

#### Fillmore Chapel

- |                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 6 – Hap Skellen      | 14 – Carrie Skellen  | 23 – Corinne Schlyer |
| 8 – Lindsay Andrasik | 15 – Jeanette Brooks | 26 – Arlene Moore    |
| 9 – Amber Lederhouse | 19 – Stephen Diez    | 29 – Norman Daniels  |
| 9 – Kathy Michel     | 21 – Jeremy Andrasik | 31 – Frank Canfield  |



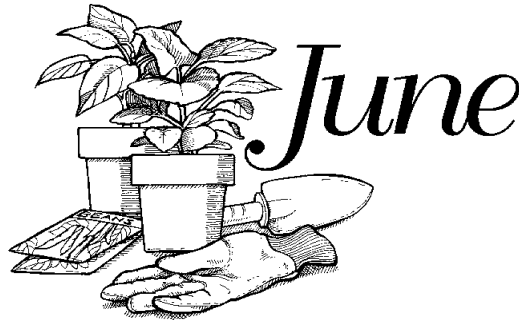
### Ransomville

- |                     |                      |                              |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 – Tim Truesdell   | 10 – Nathan Spring   | 19 – Erva Graf               |
| 1 – Connie Diez     | 11 – Charlotte Mayer | 19 – Sharon Strasburg        |
| 6 – Linda Steck     | 11 – Lydia Bodner    | 20 – Ellen Diez              |
| 7 – Jessica Horvath | 13 – Amanda Mayer    | 23 – Jayne Spring            |
| 7 – Philo Brooks    | 15 – Jeanette Brooks | 26 – Christian Van Den Bosch |
|                     |                      | 30 – Hugh Nevins             |

### *Anniversaries*

#### Fillmore Chapel

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 – Chuck & Cathy Wills       | 13 – Henry & Maureen Kososchetz |
| 6 – Malcom & Brenda Johannes  | 25 – Russell & Kathy Harris     |
| 12 – John & Patty Susice, Jr. |                                 |



### *Birthdays*

#### Fillmore Chapel

- |                      |                      |                       |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 – Megan Johannes   | 18 – A. Gene Bradley | 28 – Sheri Senek      |
| 6 – Tim Senek        | 21 – Rick Lederhouse | 29 – Kimberli Schultz |
| 10 – John Senek      | 23 – Debbie Skellen  | 29 – Angela Orzetti   |
| 15 – Patricia Stojak | 26 – Greg Canfield   | 29 – Kyle Canfield    |

### Ransomville

- |                  |                       |                  |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 – Ruth Gates   | 10 – Mary Truesdell   | 13 – Janet Fedak |
| 3 – Mike Fedak   | 12 – Tom Moje         | 18 – Joel Spring |
| 8 – Rachel Wilms | 12 – Shirley Williams |                  |

### *Anniversaries*

#### Fillmore Chapel

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 – Herbert & Pam Lederhouse | 21 – Larry & Crystal Peters |
| 20 – Charles & Kathy Michel  |                             |

### Ransomville

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7 – Mike & Teresa Trank | 30 – Larry & Nancy Trank |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|

## **YOUTH NEWS FROM HAP SKELLEN**

What have the youth been up to? First I would like to say “Thank you” to everyone. We have been getting great comments on our Youth Sunday service. It was suggested that we do more of them. We are going to try and do one more before summer rolls around.

We have changed youth meetings to Monday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 PM, in the youth area at Ransomville church (downstairs). It is working out better.

We have been working with the puppets and starting to practice weekly with them, we have had offers from adults to drive and help out if we decided to take our show on the road.

We still do our monthly breakfast at *Knead the Dough* ...”thank you” to our silent adult who pays for this each month. We did go bowling last month. The score will stay between the youth and the leaders. This month we hope to go roller-skating at *Skateland* on a Christian music night. We have lots of fun, good fellowship; snacks so come out and join us.

I look around at both churches and see so many youth who don’t come to youth group...it would be nice to see you at youth meetings. I hear, “why don’t the youth come to church on Sunday”, I’m thankful that they come to youth group on Monday. For information on the Youth Group, see Pam Jacobs at Ransomville or Hap Skellen at Fillmore Chapel.

Thank you to all who help when we need or ask. Pam Jacobs for your time each and every week, Terry Skellen for building the puppet stage, Debbie Skellen for the stage curtains, and our secret adult for our monthly breakfast.

See you at Youth!!!  
Hap

### **INVITATION FROM THE YOUTH**

The youth want to invite everyone to a combined youth service on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the Ransomville Church. The youth have something to say. Come, the service will be totally planned and carried out by the youth. The sermon will be given by the youth. Come and hear what we have to say. There will be NO service at Fillmore Chapel on this day.

### **FILLMORE CHAPEL TRUSTEES**

Where have they been, they never meet. That’s what I hear about the trustees. Well it’s time to get started again. If you are a Trustee, let’s get started. Watch for a meeting in the next couple of weeks. See Hap for more information.

# FILLMORE CHAPEL LAY LEADER

## By Hap Skellen

### *“SHALL WE PICK A CLOSING DATE?”*

All I hear at church, at the store, at meetings I attend is negative about my church. Did you hear who left the church, that we are old fashioned and set in our ways, no one want to do anything around here, no one wants to serve on anything, no one wants to help out, if the pastor stays I'm leaving.

Does that sound like a church that should pick a closing date? Or is it time...to do something “BOLD” something new. A church in the area was in the same boat, they were down to 20 – 30 members, they even shut the doors for a couple of months, then they sat down and did something, they hired a group to go around and ask the people who lived in the area what they wanted in a church. They came back...”made a bold move”...They gutted the church, out went the pews, out went the pulpit, out went the organ and piano, then they gutted their church, they brought in padded chairs and coffee tables. They put in drums and guitars, and an electric piano, put out coffee that you could have during church at your table. The pastor came and sat at a table in the front to give talks. Then they put tables on the side for Children could color and took down the cross in front and brought in a projector to show things on the wall.

How did the members feel about this? Some left, but a lot came, new faces started coming. They are mailing postcards out to homes in the area telling them to rediscover the church.

Oh yea, they even changed the name.

Do we need to do that – maybe, but we do need to make a “Bold Move” here at Fillmore. We need to pray and seek out God's will for this church family or we will set a closing date in the near future.

We need to start the healing process...the way we will come out of this is to get on our knees and work together. Seek God's plan.

What will it be: A bold move or a closing date.

God has a plan for Fillmore.... let's find out what it is.

Just think, a few years ago we talked about a Saturday service. We never did anything but talk and now that service is at another church with about 40 – 50 people every week. That could have been our “Bold Move”.

## **RANSOMVILLE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

**By Doug Diez**

As chairperson of the Administrative Board, I would like to give some information about the workings of the Ad. Board. The Administrative Board shall have general oversight of the administration and programs at Ransomville UMC. The board shall initiate planning, establish objectives, adopt goals, authorize action, determine policy, receive reports, evaluate the church's ministries and review the mission and ministry of the church. We must also establish the budget on the recommendation from the Finance Committee. We must review the recommendations from Pastor Parish Relations Committee regarding adequate housing for the Pastor with attention to parsonage standards as set by Annual Conference. We shall make proper and adequate provisions for the financial needs of the church including items of local expense, and items apportioned to the church. We shall encourage understanding of and commitment to inclusiveness in the life of the church.

All of the above items submitted in an annual report to the Charge Conference.

This is why I feel it is so important that everyone who is a member of Ransomville UMC attend the Administrative Board meetings. The decisions made involve you!

## **TO BE A CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER**

**By Doug Diez**

To be a Certified lay speaker you must be a member of a local church who is ready and desires to serve the church, who is well informed on the scriptures, and the doctrine, heritage, organization and life of the United Methodist Church. We must receive specific training to develop skills in witnessing to the Christian faith, through spoken communication, church and community leadership and care giving ministries. We must also be active in the support of our local church.

We must complete a basic training course as recommended by the General Board of Discipleship. Completing the basic training course allows the individual to be a local lay speaker. This allows you to conduct services of worship, present sermons at your local church only.

To be a Certified Lay Speaker you must complete the basic training course and one advance-training course as approved by the General Board of Discipleship. You must then appear before the appropriate committee for review of his or her application and a consideration of the responsibilities of a lay speaker. This committee might consist of Pastors and Certified lay speakers.

The certification of a certified lay speaker shall be reviewed annually by the conference committee on lay speaking and by the district. We must request in writing for the renewal of certification and have a pastor's recommendation along with charge conference approval yearly.

We must also complete at least once every three years an advance course for Lay Speaking as approved by the appropriate committee.

I became a local lay speaker in 1990 and in 1993 I became a Certified Lay Speaker.

If you might be interested in Lay Speaking, please speak to Hap Skellen or myself. We will be happy to give you the guidance to being a Lay Speaker.

**NEWS FROM FILLMORE CHAPEL  
BY DEBBIE SKELLEN**

Thank God... Spring is finally here! To get a jump on one of the ideas that came up from our planning meetings, let's start thinking about individuals who may need our help for some spring-cleaning! Do you know of any older people in the community (or close by) that could use a helping hand cleaning up the yard, cleaning windows, trimming bushes, cutting the grass, etc? Let's get the work team organized and help out before we miss our opportunity! If you would like to volunteer or if you know of someone in need, please contact Debbie Skellen at 205-8104 or [debbterry@aol.com](mailto:debbterry@aol.com).

Since e-mail is so popular these days, it would be great if we could update our mailing list with your e-mail address. Let's save some trees and expense of stamps wherever we have the opportunity. Another nice benefit is that it is quick! No e-mail address? Don't worry; we will still keep you informed! Please contact Debbie Skellen or Bev Chauvin so that we can build our e-mail address listing.

**FAMILY NIGHT AT RANSOMVILLE CHURCH  
APRIL 25, 2009 AT 5:00 PM**

We will be having a "Family Night" for both churches on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. This will be a time for fun and fellowship for all ages! We will have food and games for all! The youth have planned a Chili Bowl, we are going to put all together in one big bowl and have some hard bread and eat all night long!!! Bring your best brownies and enter the brownie contest to see who makes the best brownies. Everyone will be the judge!!!

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**SIGNS IN FRONT OF CHURCHES**

The best vitamin fro a Christian is B1.

Under same management for over 2000 years.

Soul food served here.

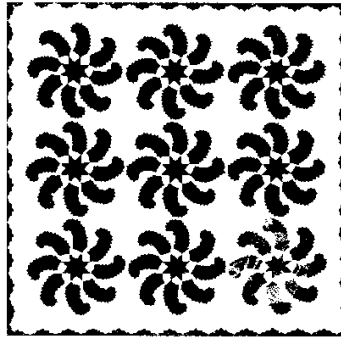
You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church.

Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.

Life has many choices, Eternity has two. What's yours?

United Methodist Women  
Tea and Quilt Show



Saturday May 2nd 2009

at the  
Ransomville United Methodist Church  
2573 Youngstown Lockport Road

Donation of \$12



Tickets available by contacting:  
Teresa Trank: 791-3155 or  
Ellen Truesdel: 791-3960

## CHILDREN'S BIBLE IN A NUTSHELL...

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think he must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, Give me a light and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then He gave them His top Ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, "*Close the door! Were you born in a barn? It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was!"*"

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyway's, Jesus died for our sins, and then came back to life again. He went up to heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

I held a notice from my 13-year-old daughter's school announcing a meeting to preview the new course in sexuality. Parents could examine the curriculum and take part in a lesson presented exactly as it would be given to the students.

When I arrived at the school, I was surprised to discover only about a dozen parents present. As we waited for the presentation, I thumbed through page after page of instructions on the prevention of pregnancy or disease. I found abstinence mentioned only in passing.

When the teacher arrived with the school nurse, she asked if there were any questions. I asked why abstinence did not play a noticeable part in the material. I was shocked by what happened next. There was a great deal of laughter, and someone suggested that if I thought abstinence had any merit, I should go back to burying my head in the sand. The teacher and the nurse said nothing as I drowned in a sea of embarrassment. My mind went blank, and I could think of nothing to say. The teacher explained that the job of the school was to "teach facts," and the home was responsible for moral training.

I sat in silence for the next 20 minutes as the course was explained. The other parents seemed to give their unqualified support to the materials. "Donuts at the back," announced the teacher during the break. "I'd like you to put on the name tags we have prepared and mingle with the other parents." Everyone moved to the back of the room. As I watched them affix their name tags and shake hands, I sat deep in thought. I was ashamed I had not been able to convince them to include a serious discussion of abstinence in the materials. I uttered a silent prayer for guidance.

My thoughts were interrupted by the nurse's hand on my shoulder. "Won't you join the others?" The nurse smiled sweetly at me. "The donuts are good." "Thank you, no." I replied. "Well, then, how about a name tag? I'm sure the others would like to meet you." "Somehow I doubt that." I replied. "Won't you please join them?" she coaxed. Then I heard a still, small voice whisper, Don't go. The instruction was unmistakable: Don't go! "I'll just wait here," I said.

When the class was called back to order, the teacher looked around the long table and thanked everyone for putting on name tags. She ignored me. Then she said, "Now we're going to give you the same lesson we'll be giving your children. Everyone please peel off your name tags." I watched in silence as the tags came off. "Now, then, on the back of one of the tags, I drew a tiny flower. Who has it?" The gentleman across from me held it up. "All right," she said. "The flower represents disease." Then she asked the man, "Do you recall with whom you shook hands?" He pointed to a couple of people. "Very good," she replied. "The handshake in this case represents intimacy. The two people you had contact with now have the disease."

There was laughter and joking among the parents. The teacher continued, "And whom did the two of you shake hands with?" The point was well taken, and she explained how this lesson would show students how quickly disease spreads. "Since we all shook hands, we all have the disease." It was then that I heard the still, small voice again. Speak now, but be humble. I rose from my chair. I apologized for any upset I might have caused earlier, congratulated the teacher on an excellent lesson that would impress the youth, and concluded by saying I had only one small point I wished to make. "Not all of us were infected," I said. "One of us... abstained."