



LEDGEWOOD LIGHT

Ledgewood Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
A BEACON ON THE HILL™



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MAY 2018

REMEMBERING A LEDGEWOOD LEGACY

Early last month, Ledgewood Christian Church observed its 53rd birthday. On Easter Sunday, April 4, 1965, the newly formed congregation, temporarily named West Geauga Christian Church, met at Westwood School on Caves Road for its first worship service. For the next three years, each Sunday morning, a group of church members would arrive early to set up the worship area in the school gymnasium. They unlocked the storage room and brought out the chairs, the organ, the communion table, the lectern, the pulpit and the hymn books. Elements of Communion were prepared in the school cafeteria kitchen. After each service, everything was returned to storage, ready for the next Sunday. Russell Township was a fast-growing community at that time; and, on October 10, 1965, the church's official State Charter was signed by 127 adults and 32 youth. At the same time, the name of Ledgewood Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*) was adopted.

Fast forward a half century plus three, and, on April 10, 2018, we were saddened to receive word that Charter Member, Janet Kesler, had passed away at age 97. She was the last remaining member who had been in the congregation on that Easter Sunday in 1965, as well as on Charter Sunday, October 10, 1965. She was not only actively involved in the formation of the new congregation and seeing the new building come to fruition, she continued to dedicate her time and talents to serving the Lord at Ledgewood Church in many ways: Elder, Deaconess, choir member, Church Treasurer, member and officer of the Christian Women's Fellowship, to name just a few. She often served as Sunshine Chairperson of the church, sending cards and notes to members and friends as occasions arose or to let folks know that we had missed seeing them in worship. She attended Sunday School regularly and volunteered to help with many activities in the church, always wanting to support others in the work of Ledgewood. Jan was very vital to the success of our annual rummage sale, organizing the books and toys section and assisting customers and children with their purchases. She also served as our Saturday cashier when called upon.



When I first visited Ledgewood Christian Church early in 1966, Jan was quick to welcome me. Soon after joining the church, I was appointed to the Board of Deaconesses; and Jan was the one who coached me in the preparation of Communion. With our kitchen then being that of the school cafeteria, after the worship service, we washed the Communion elements in the huge deep cafeteria sinks.

Over the years, through church, Jan and I became close buddies: **bookkeeping buddies**, **baseball buddies**, **bell ringing buddies**.



In the early 1970's, during tax season, we worked together in the office of another Ledgewood Charter Member, CPA Ralph Duckworth, typing data into tax forms. That was before computers were in every office and Turbo Tax had been invented - when one had to sandwich carbon paper between 4 blank tax forms, load the package into the typewriter and type in all the information on a specific line, hoping to not make any mistakes which would require carefully correcting each individual copy. For many years, at Ledgewood, Jan and I worked together as Treasurer and Financial Secretary. I recorded the money coming in; Jan, recorded it on the way out.

Jan was always a huge baseball fan, even before the Indians got "hot" in the 1990's.

That's when we became **baseball buddies**. Thanks to her son-in-law, we were able to purchase a number of season ticket packages for those exciting games. Our seats were all in Row U-- that's 5 rows from the top--but right behind home plate. What fun we had! Jan was always "scolding" the players like a mom. "Now Omar, why didn't you catch that ball!" One day we got to stroll the bases after the game and had our picture taken standing at second base at Jacob's Field.

Jan and I were **bell-ringing buddies**, too. Her dedication to the Ledgewood bell choir made it possible for us to cover two octaves even with our small numbers. I rang notes G and A above middle C; Jan rang F and G an octave higher. Her high "G" was critical to some of our Christmas selections, and she was there, ringing right on time!

Now, in keeping with all the "b" words I've used thus far, another comes to mind: **Broccoli Salad**. Jan's was the **best**! And, it was a requested favorite at Ledgewood pot-lucks.

I am **blessed** to have lived the history of Ledgewood Christian Church, and my life is **better** for experiencing the friendship of Janet Kesler. Likewise, Ledgewood Christian Church has surely been **blessed** by Jan's love for the church and the Lord.

-Submitted by Jane Gray



Photo courtesy of Pastor Heidi

More like sisters than friends, Eve Henderson and Jan shared a very special bond for many years. Eve gave a special tribute to Jan during the worship service on Sunday, April 29th.



Photo courtesy of Don Angle

A Note from the Pastor:

The office renovations are just about done and I am so very grateful for the love and devotion that has gone into the project. Rather than put pictures of the finished product in the Light; however, I want to invite you stop by and see it for yourself. The professionals on HGTV cannot hold a candle to the crew that has been busy behind the scenes bringing the pastor's study into the 21st century!

The other day, while I was setting things out on the desk so I could figure out where they should go, I looked down and was reminded yet again that, "A picture is still worth a thousand words."



*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
(1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV)*

What I saw was a depiction of the journey that brought me to Ledgewood Christian Church in 2014. I was reminded of the **FAITH** I had, that one day God would send me to serve as the pastor of a local congregation. However, after nearly seven years in the Search and Call system, doubt had begun to creep in because nothing had come to fruition. But I still held onto the **HOPE** that God had something amazing in store. And that something amazing was the opportunity to come to Ledgewood Christian Church. And it did not take long at all for me to fall in **LOVE** with this congregation. I really do **LOVE** serving as your pastor and I am so thankful to God for calling us to this ministry together!

Each time I walk into the pastor's study, my heart is filled with gratitude and appreciation as well as anticipation as I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us next.

With love and thanksgiving!

Your Pastor and friend,

Pastor Heidi



A CARROT, AN EGG OR A COFFEE BEAN

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed that as one problem was solved, a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil.

In the first, she placed carrots. In the second, she placed eggs. And in the last, she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She then pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she said, "Tell me, what do you see?" "Carrots, eggs and coffee," the daughter replied. The mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and she noted they were soft. The mother then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally the mother asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma.

The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, Mother?" Her mother explained that each of the objects had faced the same adversity, boiling water – but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But, after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique; however. After they were in the boiling water, they changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this – Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship, or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside, am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor of your life.

If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hours are the darkest and the trials are at their greatest, do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you changed by your surroundings, or do you bring life and flavor to them?

"Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mother."

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

M is for the Many things she gave me,
O means only that she's growing Old.
T is for the Tears she shed to save me,
H is for her Heart of purest gold.
E is for her Eyes with love light shining,
R means Right and Right she'll always be.



Put them all together, they spell **MOTHER**.
A word that means the world to me.

A Little **LIGHT** Refreshment

Easy Chocolate Éclair Dessert

- 3 boxes of instant french vanilla pudding
- 1 20-ounce tub Cool Whip
- 4 C whole milk
- 1 box of Graham Crackers
- 1 can chocolate frosting
(microwave 30 seconds to soften)



Mix pudding and milk. Fold in Cool Whip. Layer in a deep aluminum cake pan: crackers, pudding, crackers, pudding, crackers... then pour the heated chocolate frosting over the top. Refrigerate overnight. Yum!

A Little LIGHT Humor...

PECANS IN THE CEMETERY

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old, pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me," said one boy. Several of the pecans dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

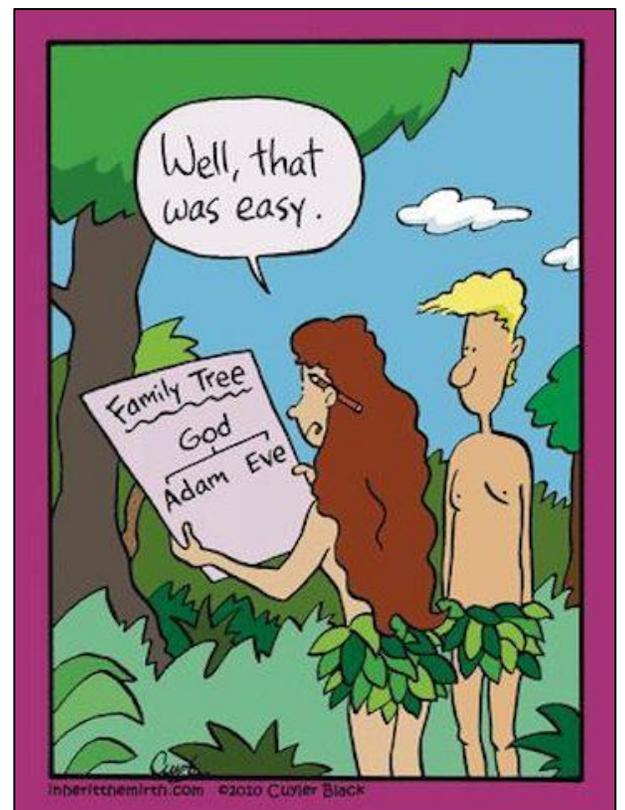
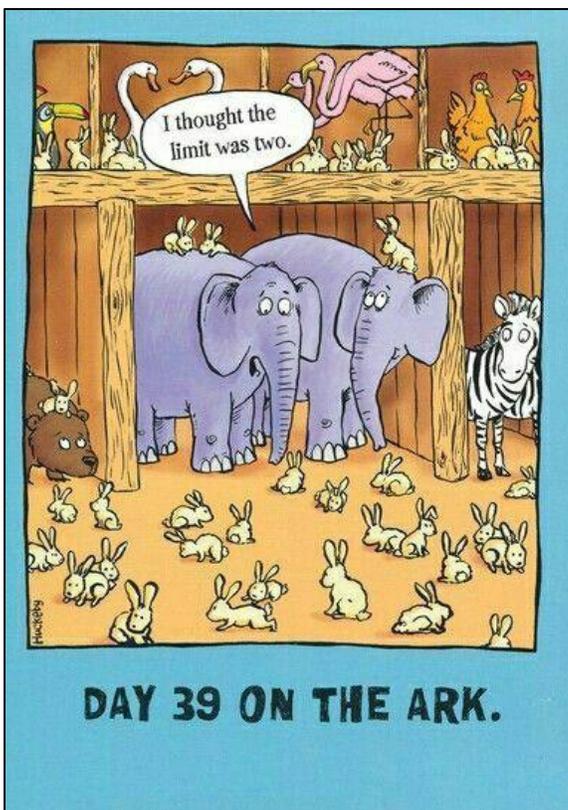
Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me..." He just knew what it was! He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man, with a cane, hobbling along. "Come here, quick," said the boy. "You won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!"

The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk?" When the boy insisted; however, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me..." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can get a look at the Lord." Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, but they were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all! Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done."

They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the kid on the bike!

(Author unknown – humbly submitted by a dear friend)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

REGULAR SCHEDULE



Worship Service

Sundays – 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

Sundays – 10:00 a.m.

WOW Bible Study for all ages

Every **First Sunday** 12:15 p.m.

Official Board Meeting

Next meeting, Thursday, June 14th 7:30 p.m.

Ledgewood Men's Fellowship Free Breakfast

Every **Third Saturday** 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 13th

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day most commonly falls on the second Sunday in May and traditionally involves presenting mothers with flowers, cards and other gifts.

Sunday, May 20th

Pentecost Sunday, often called "the birthday of the Church," is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter (50 days including Easter and Pentecost Sunday). It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the book of Acts.

Monday, May 28th

Memorial Day an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971

Sunday, June 3rd

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN! Worship service will start at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School will resume in September.

LEDGEWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FREE
MONTHLY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018
SERVING 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM



Menu includes: Pancakes, Scrambled eggs, Sausage
Salmon patties, Orange juice, Coffee, Tea
... and more!

Questions??? Please call Jeff Angle 440.564.5912

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