

Early History of the Methodist Church in Clyde, Ohio

Methodism in this vicinity began as an organized church in the year 1820. Previous to this, prayer meetings were held by a few who belonged to the church before settling here. The sparsely settled country admitted of no regular stations and large tracts were organized into circuits. This place was included in the Lower Sandusky District, and in the year of 1821. Rev. Boardman organized the church here. The class consisted of six, viz: Samuel McMillan and wife, James Guinall and wife, and Albert Guinall and wife. Preaching was held in a log school house (standing on what is now Main Street) once in four weeks, usually on week days. Under these circumstances it could not be expected that the church would grow very rapidly, but the few were faithful, and under Mr. McMillan as class leader, they held class and prayer meetings once a week, in their private houses and kept up the interest, so that in 1825, they were ready for the revival which occurred. It was one of great interest and a large number were converted, among whom was Amos Fenn, who afterwards served the church as a local preacher for many years. Again in 1827, under the preaching of Presiding Elder McMahan, John Hazzard and Adam Poe, preachers, a revival occurred, and about twenty-five united with the church, Norton Russell being the first convert, his wife and sister, Mrs. McPherson, were also converted at that time. Preaching was held once in two weeks and the members held prayer meetings every night, the interest

kept up several weeks, and extended all through the circuit.

For some years following, the success of the church depended almost wholly on the efforts of the members and local ministry, and though there were clouds and sometimes seasons of depressions, the faithful few kept on, under all adverse fortunes, and held their meetings, often a handful, yet not despising the "day of small things," looked hopefully to the future, trusting that brighter days were near. And thus they kept on, while some were "gathered home," and some sought a home in the west, yet they waited, and not in vain, for the years came and went, and in '44 there was a great awakening in the church, especially among the young people, numbers united with the church, among them was James B. McPherson. Also a number of young men, some of whom are respected ministers. Again a time of quiet pervaded the church, preaching only semi-monthly. The society depended on class and prayer meetings to keep up the interest, but their faith kept them strong so that their numbers increased, if slowly yet surely. In 1850, preaching was held in the Dewey school house on (now) Buckeye Street, W. H. Seeley was the pastor. In 1851, the society decided to build a church. A subscription was circulated by Norton Russell in Green Creek, Townsend and York townships and a sufficient amount raised to justify the building of the church. Accordingly the contract was let to Wm. Weeks by Amos Fenn, Norton

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Russell, M. Persing and others, and the first Methodist church (now United Brethren) on Duane Street was built, the lot was donated by Jonathan Ames. Geo. Eaton was preacher in charge, his health failing, Alfred Wheeler supplied him, Rev. Day assistant. The church was finished and dedicated the last day of December 1852. Presiding Elder Disboro preached the dedicatory sermon at which time \$400 was raised which freed the church from debt, the whole cost was fifteen hundred and thirty dollars (\$1,530) the meetings continued for several weeks and many were added to the church, the Sabbath school connected with the church continued through the winter for the first time, Mr Weeks, superintendent.

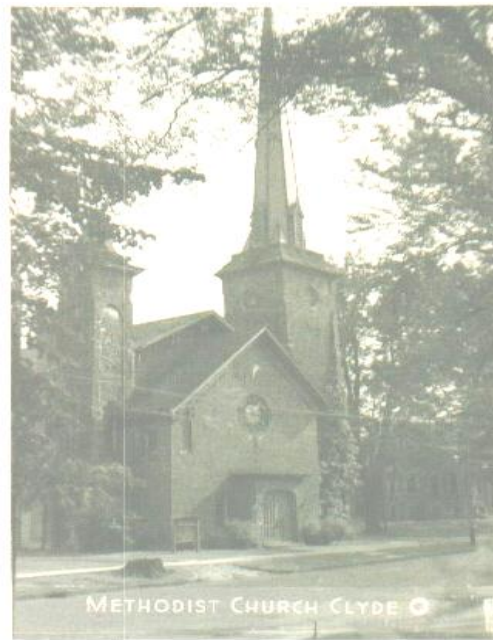
The charge consisted of the following appointments Clyde, Green Spring, Hedgetown, Person's school house, North Ridge, Castalia, Muscash and Tuttle's school house. In the winter of '53 and 4, Rev's Pelton and Vertican conducted a revival of considerable magnitude, and 30 united with the church.

In '56 Rev's. McKane and E. Y. Warner, were stationd here and remained two years. Under their labors the church increased in numbers. They were succeeded by Rev's. Castle and Thompson. In '59, Holderman and Barker, '60. Wilson and Sites in '61. The circuit was now reduced to the following appointments, Clyde, Green Spring and Townsend, Rev. Barker, pastor in '62, Rev. Jones in '63, remained six

months and enlisted in the army, and Rev. McKillips filled out the year. During this time series of meetings were held during the winter with some success and the membership of the church increased. In the winter of 1864, Rev. Broadwell, pastor, held a revival meeting and the church was filled every night. Many who were converted joined other branches of the church, the congregation continued to increase, the necessity for a larger church became apparent, and in 1866, the officials decided to build a new church (J. S. Broadwell, pastor); the membership of the church at that time was 145. A subscription was circulated and several thousand dollars subscribed, and two lots on the corner of George and Buckeye Streets were purchased at a cost of \$1,150, and a contract made with Mr. Carroll to superintend the work. He proceeded to erect the church and so far completed it, that in Feb. 1867 the basement was ready, and the congregation used it until the audience room should be ready. Work was continued on the church, and it was dedicated in August 1867, Rev. Dr. Donaldson preaching the dedicatory sermon. Thirty-seven hundred dollars were subscribed. Enough it was then supposed to pay the debt; however, the church was not completed, neither the spire nor gallery were built, and on completion of the whole, and a failure on the part of the subscribers to pay, it was found to be in debt. Rev. E. Y. Warner was pastor in the fall of '67. Nothing was

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done this year towards paying the debt, the church was in a good spiritual condition, the Sabbath school increasing in interest and earnest spirit, pervaded the church in all its departments. In '68, Rev. W. S. Paul was pastor, a move to reduce the church debt was made, a reunion society was formed and considerable amounts were raised at each reunion, held monthly. Notwithstanding the debt and its consequent embarrassment the church and congregation kept up, and a few were added to the church. Rev. Paul was returned pastor, in 1869 and '70. During his pastorate arrangements were perfected with Messrs. Remington of Illion, N. Y. and money borrowed to pay the church debt, which was then on interest, the church to pay the principal in yearly payments, no interest being charged on the same. Great credit is due the pastor for his energy and faithfulness in thus arranging the affairs of the church, giving new life to its membership. In the winter of '71, the pastor resigned his charge, and B. Wright supplied his place. Fall of '71 – Rev. G. H. Hartupée pastor. The reunions were still continued, and the debt was being reduced, the church was in a healthy state. In the following spring the church was badly injured due to a heavy wind which prostrated the spire, and otherwise injured the building. This was a heavy blow on the church financially, but it was then determined by the board of trustees to erect a new spire and also procure a bell, which was done during the summer, at a cost of thirty-seven hundred dollars, thus



greatly increasing the indebtedness. During the following winter (Rev. Hartupée pastor) a series of meetings were held by all the churches, all uniting in one, occupying the M. E., for convenience, it being larger than others. The meeting were kept up for weeks, the interest was great and many were converted and united with the church. In the spring following, the church debt was so large that it was resolved to try and raise a part of it. Accordingly Bishop Bowman was called and preached, a subscription was taken and several thousand dollars promised, but a failure on part of the subscribers to pay again left the church yet in debt, and though considerable reductions was made, the indebtedness continued burdensome. In '74 and '75 Rev. S. L. Yourtee labored with some success, and the debt was somewhat reduced. Yet in the fall of '75 they

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were still \$4,250 in debt, Rev. J. W. Mendenhall, pastor. It seemed a necessity to reduce the indebtedness as much as possible, and the pastor asked for subscriptions, and by the first of February '76, the debt was reduced to \$1,600. Rev. Mendenhall labored zealously and awakened among the members a lively interest in the welfare of the church, resulting in the cancellation of the entire remaining debt during his pastorate. The event was celebrated by a jubilee meeting. Rev. W. H. Painter succeeded as pastor in 1878, and remained the maximum allotted term of three years. He was succeeded by Rev. B. J. Hoadley, who served as pastor until the fall of 1882, when he was stationed by the conference at Sandusky, to assist in liquidating a debt of considerable magnitude which rested on the church at that place. Rev. G. W. Ball was the next pastor of the Clyde congregation; he served two years. In the fall of 1884 he was by the Bishop appointed Presiding Elder of Mt. Vernon District; the duties thus imposed on him cause him to release his engagement as pastor at this place. Through the assistance of evangelists many new members were added to the congregation during the time he remained here. Rev. O. Badgley, the present pastor, succeeded Rev. Ball and will have served the congregation three years in September next, at which date his term expires. The church has steadily prospered under the guardianship of these several pastors, and enjoys a solid footing financially and otherwise. From an early date a Sabbath school has been

regularly maintained, and for a number of years past it has been largely attended; Mr. G. S. Pickett is the present superintendent, and Mr. D. A. Heffner assistant. The trustees of the church are: H. H. Rabe, S. M. Terry, Wm. Weeks, G. S. Pickett, Wm. Russell, S. H. Rhoades, John Lefever, and A. A. Hutchins.

HISTORY OF THE CLYDE CHURCH DEBT (1866-1877)

Now that the Methodist Episcopal Church at Clyde is free from embarrassment, it may not be improper to give a brief history of the debt, its making and its extinction. In doing so we shall be guided chiefly by the written report of the Trustees, which now lies before us. The edifice was built during the pastorate of Rev. J.S. Broadwell, and was dedicated, in an almost completed state, August 23, 1867, Rev. Dr. Donelson, now of Toledo, officiating. At the dedication a subscription of \$3,599 was taken, it being believed by both pastor and Trustees to be sufficient to cancel the remaining indebtedness against the church.

But by some oversight or miscalculation it had cost much more than was originally intended, or was known at the dedication. Although rumors were soon in circulation that an un-provided debt of several thousand dollars, sufficient to bankrupt it, rested upon the church, the "bottom facts" were not ascertained for nearly two years afterward.

The then pastor, Rev. W.S. Paul, undertook with the aid of competent assistants to probe the matter, and ascertain, if possible, the amounts received and expended, and the amount of indebtedness then existing. This committee, after a careful inspection of all the memoranda, accounts, bills, receipts, and papers to be found, were compelled to report that a debt of nearly \$8,000 still stood against the church.

Though Mr. Paul was fertile in expedients, and consecrated himself to reducing this debt, yet, as the interest accumulated at the rate of \$800 per annum, he closed his pastorate of nearly three years with the debt of nearly \$7,000 still to be paid. During his stay providence raised up friends for the Church, without whom disaster must have been inevitable.

In December, 1870, the Trustees were enabled to negotiate a loan with E. Remington & Sons, of New York, for \$6,000, payable in six annual installments without interest.

Rev. Dr. Hartupée succeeding Mr. Paul, applied himself with zeal to reducing the burden; but a tornado struck the church in December, 1871, requiring an expense of \$2,800 for repairs; and although this was paid by the new subscription, at the close of the year the debt had increased \$600.

To finally provide for the debt, a "Reopening Service" was held May 25, 1873, Bishop Bowman preaching. The debt was then \$6,500, but the people became generous again, and subscribed that day \$4,800, which, with notes and subscription previously taken, was supposed to be sufficient to cancel the debt. During the two years' ministry of Rev. S.L. Yourtee, who succeeded Dr. Hartupée, only \$600 were raised and applied on the debt, the subscriptions of the "Reopening" being suffered, unaccountably, to shrink and lose their value.

The writer was appointed to the charge in September, 1875, and found a debt of fully \$4,000, with no resources to meet it, except a few unpaid notes and subscriptions taken in other years, and which were now largely uncollectible. It is not needful, nor would it be proper, for the writer to say much concerning the interest he took, soon after his arrival in Clyde, in the removal of the burden which had oppressed the Church for so many years. Let it be sufficient to remark that he felt the burden rested as heavily upon him as it did upon the Church, and that it soon became to him a personal debt, which must be

discharged at whatever sacrifice it might require. During his first year he had the satisfaction of recording the payment of \$2,750, which so encouraged the Church that, long before the expiration of his second year the remainder of the debt (\$1,805) was paid. And it may not be amiss to say, that of over \$4,500 paid during the last eighteen months, nearly all of it was raised from new subscriptions obtained by the pastor's personal solicitation.

Thus this debt of eleven years' standing; this debt announced on three different occasions to have been provided for; this debt which has nearly exhausted the treasure of one generation and threatened the comfort of the next generation, is at last absolutely, and unconditionally paid. We can not commend too highly the patience, perseverance, and liberality of this people, who during these years never murmured and never lost their faith in God.

With this example before us, perhaps a word might be said on the general subject of Church indebtedness. It may not be true that a large proportion of our Churches are in debt, but it is true that too many are carrying burdens which they ought never to have assumed. The time has come when a society should not erect a building if it can not pay for it. Sometimes trustees are prompted to build beyond the ability of the membership, because some wealthy member is full of enthusiasm on the subject and gives largely himself to start it.

Sometimes pride is at the bottom of these enterprises. Sometimes indifference as to final cost obtains in a board. Too often the matter is committed to incompetent hands; and quite frequently the trustees are negligent in examining the accounts, and knowing exactly what the building is costing as it goes up. In view of these and other considerations, suffer a word of exhortation: 1. Let no society resolve upon building a church without having in bona fide, available subscriptions at least three-fourths of what is necessary; and not then if the remaining fourth can not be easily raised. 2. Do not depend upon the enthusiasm of a dedication for providing for encumbrances and deficiencies. Raise the money before dedication. 3. Do not take subscriptions running a long time. One can pay in six months if he can pay at all, unless the subscription is very heavy. Give longer time, and the feelings have changes; his fortunes may have changed; he may have moved from the locality; he may be in heaven. 4. Take no buncombe subscriptions. 5. Secure a collector who will attend to his duties; remove him at once if he does not. 6. Inspect accounts monthly or oftener. 7. Let the membership know in the beginning what you propose to build, and let them give accordingly. 8. Relieve the pastor of any responsibility for the success of the enterprise.

By Rev. J.W. Mendenhall, A.M.
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Events to Remember

Methodism had its beginning in Hamer's Corners (Clyde) in the log cabins of a few families prior to 1820.

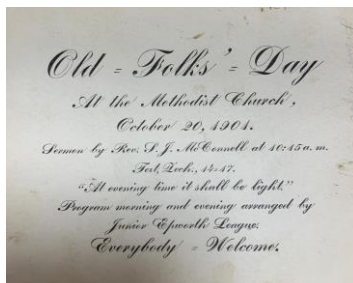
- 1820 Meetings were held in the McMillan cabin.
- 1821 Reverend Boardman organized the Methodist Church in Clyde. Meetings were still held in McMillan cabin. Meetings later were moved to a log schoolhouse located on what is now known as Main Street.
- 1825 Revival meetings were held with a large number of converts joining the Methodist movement. Among them was Amos Fenn, who later served as local pastor.
- 1827 A second revival service was held with 25 new members joining the church. Among them was Mrs. William McPherson, mother of James McPherson.
- 1844 A great awakening occurred and many young people joined the Methodist fold. Among them was the young James McPherson. A goodly number of this movement became respected ministers.
- 1850 Church services were held in the Dewey schoolhouse located on Buckeye Street.
- 1851 The Methodist congregation decided to build their own church. A petition was circulated in Green Creek and York townships and sufficient funds were raised to justify building a church on Duane Street. Norton Russell was instrumental in this endeavor, aided by the donation of the lots by Jonathon Ames.
- 1852 The church was finished and dedicated and free of debt. Total cost of the edifice was \$1,530.

The church in the 1850's was on a circuit taken care of by two ministers, and the charge consisted of the following places: Clyde, Green Springs, Hedgetown, Person's Schoolhouse, North Ridge, Castalia, Muscash, and Tuttle's Hill Schoolhouse.

- 1862 The charge was reduced to include Clyde, Green Springs, and Townsend, served by one minister.

Events to Remember

- 1864 Another successful revival meeting was held with a capacity crowd every night. Many joined the church. It soon became necessary to consider a new and larger building
- 1866 A lot was purchased at the corner of Buckeye and George Streets for a sum of \$1,150.
- 1867 The new church was built at a cost of \$14,569. A Consecration Service was held on August the 23rd.
- 1871 Severe windstorms damaged the church and tore off the spire. Repairs were made, and it was decided that the church would procure a bell.
- 1872 A bell was purchased on July 15, 1872, from the Buckeye Bell Foundry of Cincinnati for \$762. The bell weighs 1,603 pounds and is approximately four feet in diameter. The names of the church trustees are inscribed on the bell.
- 1877 The church's debt was completely paid.
- 1900 The church continued to grow, and the building was remodeled with new windows installed and an addition added that enabled the sanctuary seating to be turned. Stained glass windows and a John Sole pipe organ (built in Fremont, Ohio) were installed.



Events to Remember

- 1920 Beginners Class assisted in planting the Sweet Cherry tree in the Parsonage yard, on May 21st 1920.



Pauline Lucas Prentice, Harold Walter Prentice, Donald Killinger, Sammy Killinger, Mary Westerhouse, Awilda Keyse, Helene Hummell, Ralph Birdal Abbott, Iona Hall, Agnes Franks, Donald Carter, Betty Heffner

All these are also members of the Mother's Jewels Band.

- 1942 The sanctuary was rededicated.



- 1943 Pictured above "Remembrance Ceremony for the men and women serving in our armed forces - WWII"

- 1952 The old church spire was removed.

Events to Remember

1956 The John Sole organ was replaced with a new Moeller pipe organ.

There was continued growth in membership to approximately 700 and church school enrollment of 500. This prompted the congregation to investigate new facilities. Property at the corner of W. Maple and Race Streets was secured. The location is especially significant since this is where the McMillan cabin had stood and where Methodism in Clyde had really started.

A campaign was held to raise funds to construct a new church on the corner of West Maple and Race Streets. A total of \$86,405 was pledged toward this edifice.

1962 The church borrowed \$75,000 to begin building the Education Wing and Fellowship Hall. When the Hall house, located on the new church property, was torn down, in the center of the house stood the 140 year old McMillan cabin. A section of a McMillan log is on display in the church.



Groundbreaking Service

June 10, 1962

Rev. Paul Olinger, Marvin Pearce, Ralph Staver, Wilbur Sarvis, Ben Davis, Alton Drown, Martha Mitchell, John Jackson, George Clark, Vincent Garn

1963 The "Church" moved from the Buckeye Street Church to the new location at the corner of West Maple and Race Streets. Worship services were held in Fellowship Hall. Consecration services were held on May 19th.

1964 On November 1st, two Sunday morning worship services were held for the first time.

Events to Remember

- 1968 The Mortgage burning and Dedication Services were held for the Education Wing and Fellowship Hall.
- 1969 A Congregational meeting was held to approve the plans for a new sanctuary. Dr. L. P. Miller, Chairman of the Building Committee, and the architects presented the plans for the proposed building. The estimated cost for the building was \$212,999 plus \$12,000 to \$15,000 for furnishings. The submitted plans were approved by a vote of 149 for and 9 against.
- 1970 March 15, the congregation approved a resolution to enter into a contract with Janotta & Herner Construction Company of Monroeville, Ohio, to construct the new Sanctuary for the sum of \$182,477. Also approved was a loan for \$175,000 at eight percent interest rate for a 15 year period.

Ground was broken for the new sanctuary in April. In July the cornerstone was laid and on December 20th the sanctuary was consecrated.

A large walnut cross (12' by 6") was built and given in love of Christ and the church by Dr. Luther P. and Margaret Miller. The cross was hand hewn by Dr. Miller with assistance and advice from Harry Stout and Leslie Robbins. In November the cross was hung above the altar by the builders.



First United Methodist Church – Completed 1970

Events to Remember

- 1971 The Lillian Franks Foundation was established by Dee Christopher Franks in memory of his wife. The purpose of this foundation is to provide beautification for the Church altar and the Church grounds. Funds are established for Church Altar concerns: i.e. live flowers weekly on the altar, care and maintenance of the altar, and assistance devices for the hearing impaired. Church grounds include; tree, shrubbery, and flowers for the beautification of the church property.
- 1974 The adjacent Cunningham property (lot 180' x 350') was purchased at a cost of \$10,000. This would allow for expansion of the church parking lot.
- 1977 September the 18th, the mortgage was burned, and the entire building was dedicated to the glory of God.
- 1980 A Bell Committee was formed to acquire the "1872 Bell" from the former church. An agreement was made with the Masons that the church could have the bell for removing it and restoring the affected roof area. In August, Hossler Construction Company removed the bell. It was then placed in storage.
- 1982 An appreciation dinner was held for the Clyde Police Department for their service to the community.

The church organized and held its first Red Cross Blood Mobile.

The church sponsored two youth who attended a "Reach Out" program in Southern Ohio.

A new roof was installed on the upper level of the education wing. Improvements were made in the sanctuary heating system.

- 1983 On January the 18th the "1872 Bell" was removed from storage and set upon a low pedestal in front of the Church. Heritage Day, (24 APR 1983) the bell was dedicated to the glory of God by the Bell Committee, the History and Records Committee, and the congregation of the First United Methodist Church. Installation of the carillon and electrification of the bell was completed December 24th.
- 1984 A church museum project was authorized and the first phase began with the purchase of two display cases.

Bicentennial plates designed and procured as a part of the church's observance of the Bicentennial Year of American Methodism.

Events to Remember

- The first annual Communion by the Lake was held at East Harbor on the shores of Lake Erie.
- 1985 The Korean Mission Church began to hold their services in our church.
- 1986 A major outreach project was accomplished through a large donation (\$5,000) to Baughman United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, West Africa.
- Leaders of the youth and members of the men's group went on a work project to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky.
- Phase I of the organ renovation (adding swell and great shades) by Bunn-Minnick was completed.
- 1987 The first church pictorial directory was completed and distributed.
- The church supported a member to join the Norwalk District project to Haiti. Also a group of youth and their counselors went to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky for mission work. Five men from the church went to Camp Zimmerman to paint the camp buildings.
- 1988 Over twenty people went to the Henderson Settlement for a week long work camp.
- 1989 Phase II of the organ renovation (a new console) was completed on May 15, 1989.
- The youth group went to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky on a work mission project.
- 1991 Handicapped friendly restrooms were installed.
- 1992 A Peace Pole was installed and dedicated.
- 1993 The congregation celebrated thirty years in the church at West Maple and Race Street.
- An additional rank was added to the organ at a cost of \$11,000.
- The first of three historically commemorative Christmas ornaments were procured and made available by the History and Records Committee.
- A new roof was installed at the parsonage.

Events to Remember

The Missions Committee participated in the opening of The City of Clyde Food Pantry.

Several men from the congregation painted the Sand Hill United Methodist Church on Mason Road in Erie County, Ohio.

- 1995 175th Anniversary of the United Methodist Church in Clyde was observed. History and Records Committee planned special activities for each month of the year to commemorate this historical event.

The Rev. Sue Chidley was invited to deliver the message on Sunday, February 11. Steve Kline, Missionary to Casablanca, Africa gave the message on September 8. Both Sue and Steve had grown-up in this church. United Methodist Women's Sunday highlighted the role of women in the church. Reverend Mark George a former pastor of this church, gave the sermon on Homecoming Sunday. Other former pastors in attendance were the Reverends Paul Olinger, Avery Butler, Arthur Kirk and Fred Bell. Recognition of 50-year members was held. Dramatic monologue featuring important people in the church's history was presented by various members of the church. Youth Sunday was planned and presented by the youth of the Church. History & Records Committee sponsored the first annual Church picnic held under a tent on the church grounds. Also an Old Fashioned Church Bazaar was held in November.

A new youth choral group was formed.

- 1997 Vision 2000 was undertaken to express the goals of the church for five years. The goals were categorized to include administration, buildings & grounds, and the general programs.

A Church Endowment Fund was established; by the end of the year \$46,525.00 had been received.

A Youth Mission trip was made to St. Clairsville, Ohio – Ohio Valley District.

A children's play group was held weekly under the guidance of Natalie Danhoff.

The Second Annual Church picnic held on July 27th. Membership & Evangelism Committee held an auction during the picnic.

Events to Remember

An alternative contemporary service "Saturday Night Alive" was begun. The service was informal and held in Fellowship hall. Music was provided by the Praise Team which included instrumental and vocal participants. After a full year the service was discontinued due to poor attendance.

- 1998 Hand bells were purchased with memorial funds from the Coleman family in memory of Ethel Coleman. A three octave bell choir was established. The third annual Church picnic held on August 9th was very well attended.

A historical picture gallery was established in the upper hall of the education wing by the History & Records Committee

- 1999 History & Records Committee arranged for the lighted showcase to be built in the narthex. The showcase is in memory of Tom Perry with memorial funds from the Perry family.

The church sound system was upgraded and a projection system was installed in the sanctuary.

A Child Protection policy was adopted.

A Youth mission trip was made to the Henderson Settlement in Kentucky.

There was a rebirth of the Men's Group.

A Vision Statement was adopted; **It is our vision to become a congregation that serves the un-churched people of our area and invites and inspires them to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.**

- 2000 A second bell choir was formed, the two choirs were identified as "Praise Ringers" and "JuBellation".

Pictures of early (1825) converts to the Methodist Church were donated by a direct descendant (Alice Pickett Wolfe). These pictures were framed and matted and added to the picture gallery.

A fifteen passenger van was purchased for transporting church groups.

A Youth Work Mission Trip was taken to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky.

In May, Miracle Sunday was held to raise funds for needed improvements to the church facilities. Over \$60,500 was raised for this cause.

Events to Remember

The church participated in a mission project that raised \$5,000 for the Heifer Project International. This was done in addition to the regular support of missions by this congregation/

New landscaping was added to enhance the overall appearance of the church. A "Love In Bloom" offering campaign provided the funds to accomplish this project.

- 2001 A Core Value statement was developed and adopted;
- * Lost people matter to God and should be the top priority of the church
 - * Every Christian has spiritual gifts and a ministry to perform in service to the Kingdom of God.
 - * Children and youth are a primary concern of the church and ministry with them is a priority.
 - * The church should be culturally relevant while retaining authenticity and integrity.
 - * Continuous learning and spiritual growth are crucial in the life of discipleship.
 - * We express our gratitude for God's blessings by helping to meet the needs of others.
 - * Prayer is the foundation of the church's ministry and mission.
 - * Dynamic worship is the cornerstone of the church's corporate life.
 - * As Christians we are stewards of the grace of God and will be held accountable.
 - * God deserves the best that we have to offer, as individuals and as a church.

The church purchased the vacated railroad right of way and the Raypole house and lot. Both properties are adjacent to the church's property. The house was purchased with borrowed money, the rent proceeds were to be used to make the payments.

Some of the Miracle Sunday projects were completed. The sanctuary, entry way and Ladies Lounge were re-carpeted. The Chancel area was expanded to give more flexibility for worship. A new sound system and media projections system was installed in the sanctuary.

Emphasis was placed on the music program. The expanded position of Director of Music was instituted.

- 2002 An alternative worship form was begun on Sundays at the 10:30 am service. The service included contemporary music, multimedia elements

Events to Remember

and drama. The altar area was remodeled to accommodate the instrumental band.

An instrumental music group for youth in grades five thru eight was organized. Tone chimes were purchased with memorial funds given in memory of Harriet (Shellhammer) Green.

A number of new small support, study, and interest groups were included in the church program.

Vacation Bible School was held outside. Tents were erected to depict Bible times. Crafts of Bible times were taught to the children

The kitchen was renovated and major appliances replaced. This was made possible by a generous donation, designated for that purpose, by a member of the congregation.

Twelve youth and six adults were received on profession of faith along with six transfers. The church lost eleven members through death or transfer to another church.

2003 The Ladies Lounge was completely refurbished through a generous donation designated for that purpose.

A Child Protection Policy was adopted.

The flat roof section over Fellowship Hall and surrounding area was replaced with a slightly slanted roof. This was financed with funds from Miracle Sunday.

Vacation Bible School was held which incorporated hands on learning experience. Tents were erected to simulate a village in Bible times.

An enclosed breeze way was added to the parsonage; all materials and labor were donated by a generous member of the congregation.

"Care Packages" were sent to college students and members of the military in February and December.

A fund raiser was held "Power Up For God" to provide funds for upgrading the church computer and telephone systems.

The Church and Compassionate Ministries provided and served a free community dinner, over 300 meals were served.

Events to Remember

Rev. James Greenawalt (Interim Pastor) served this church for the first six months of the year. In June, Rev. Dennis Rinehart became the pastor.

2004 The Church found itself in a financial crisis. Church operating expenses were far exceeding the giving. Designated and restricted funds were inadvertently used to fund church operations, thus reserve funds were nearly depleted. The situation came to light in January when steps began to be taken to find how to relieve the financial difficulties.

Two part time staff positions (custodial and clerical) were eliminated and the salaries of two other positions (Administrative Assistant and Director of Music) were drastically reduced.

A professional audit was performed to review all records and reconcile all accounts.

A Church Conference Meeting was held on March 21, 2004 with the District Superintendent presiding. It was revealed there had not been a financial audit turned into the District Office since 1999. A resolution was passed to hold a major financial campaign, beginning in June 2004 to re-pay the designated funds and to increase weekly and monthly giving.

A complete financial disaster was averted with the substantial funds given by faithful members. Many volunteers stepped forward to assist with the clerical and custodial duties to fill the gap from the elimination of staff positions.

"Blessed to Be a Blessing" financial campaign was held in June to increase regular giving and build a contingency fund that would put the church back on a firm financial foundation. By the end of the year the crisis had subsided and the church was on a course to financial stability.

A new permanent storage building was erected on the church property. Most of the materials and all of the labor were donated to complete this project.

A Missions Work Camp for the youth of the church was organized. The youth and adults re-roofed the garage at the rental property and built wheelchair access at Misty Meadows Campfire Girls camp. Several ladies of the church prepared meals for the campers. The youth and adult chaperones slept at the church each night of the week long camp session. This was a successful local mission endeavor.

Events to Remember

Without a Director of Music many of the music groups became inactive. Volunteer directors assisted the Senior Choir, Praise Singers and Tone Chimes in renewing their music ministry.

The two bell choirs were reorganized and blended into one.

"Care Packages" were sent to college students and military members for Valentines and again at Christmas time.

On December 20th this Church in partnership with Compassionate ministries provided a noon meal for School of Hope attendees and staff. The same evening a free Community Dinner was held providing meals for over 650 people. All of this was accomplished by the many volunteers from the church and community.

- 2005 "The River Girls" made their debut, singing during the Sunday Worship Service. Kindergarten and preschool children "Kinderbells" were given the opportunity to play hand held bells.

The youth of the church held a local mission camp. They assisted local residences with yard and house work.

This church provided the volunteers needed at the collection point for the Clyde Hurricane Relief effort. More than 39,000 pounds of food, water, baby items, pet food, and other items were collected during the week of this community project.

The second annual free community picnic was held in August. Several music groups provided entertainment.

Beautification of the back entrance of the church was completed by Robert Hintz for his Eagle Scout project. This included benches and landscaping.



Events to Remember

Major capital improvements were the installation of new doors at the handicap and parking lot entrances. Also, a boiler was replaced with a new one at a cost of \$7,000.

The Church Picnic was held at Misty Meadows Campground. Those attending had the opportunity to see the work of the Youth Mission Team. The youth painted the shelter house structure. Also, with the help of the leaders siding was added to one wall.

A fourth octave of hand bells were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Albert Coleman and Margaret Miller by the children of the late Albert and Ethel Coleman.

Decorations (Chrismons) for the sanctuary Christmas tree were crafted from wood, painted and decorated with tinsel, sparkles and etc.

New entrance doors at handicapped and back parking area were consecrated on 18 DEC 2005 to the glory of God and in loving memory of LaDonna S. Werth and Thomas P. Wadsworth. The funds for the doors were donated by the Werth and Wadsworth families.

The Church once again invited the students and staff from the School of Hope to a dinner in their honor. Entertainment was presented by a group from Clyde High School. Students received gifts during a visit from Santa.

The Missions Team sponsored the second annual free Community Dinner in December.

2006 The second annual picnic for the community was held under the tent during the summer.

The lower hall and classrooms in the Education Wing were painted with representative scenes of Noah's Ark by Bethany Smith.

Memorial funds were used to purchase a lighted welcome sign. The sign was installed in the area near the front entrance driveway loop.

An additional octave of hand bells was donated by the Coleman family. In December the congregation once again treated the students and staff from the School of Hope to a dinner, entertainment and a visit from Santa. On the same day a free dinner was prepared and served for community residents.

Events to Remember

- 2007 The education wing roof was removed down to the metal deck and completely replaced at a cost of approximately \$32,000. The cost was covered by pledges from the congregation.

Landscaping was completed around the lighted welcome sign. On Heritage Sunday the sign was dedicated.

Fellowship Hall was upgraded with new light fixtures.

The church was generous in their support of many giving projects including the Clyde Food Pantry, Angel and Mitten Trees at Christmas for needy families, School of Hope Dinner, Care Packages for College Students, and Share and Care Ministries.

- 2008 A website was established for the church.

Automated Clearing House (ACH) for contributors wishing to have financial gifts to the church automatically withdrawn from their accounts was established.

The parsonage was upgraded with landscaping and a new roof on the garage.

At the church, a new boiler was installed; this has improved the distribution of hot water to the kitchen.

- 2009 The History and Records Team planned a special occasion to celebrate Heritage Sunday. Reverend Mark George was the guest speaker. Special music was performed by the Hand Bell Choir and Fifty Year members were honored. The well attended celebration was concluded with a potluck dinner.

College students were remembered with Care Packages twice this year. The congregation supported the Conference Flood Buckets Project with their donations and also with volunteers to pack the buckets.

Generous donations were made to the Clyde Food Pantry all year.

Needy families received food and gifts from the generous giving to the Angel Tree Project. Many children were provided with hats and gloves from the donations to the Mitten Tree Project

Events to Remember

The Sisters Study group gave generously to the sixth grade classes at Green Springs School so all students regardless of financial situation could be included on an educational field trip.

Many volunteers prepared and served a meal and provided entertainment for the students and staff from the School of Hope.

All the floors in the building were stripped and waxed by an outside contractor.

2010 Heritage Sunday was celebrated on April 25th. The History and Records Committee honored member of fifty or more years. The new Carillon was dedicated during the service.

In December the congregation once again treated the students and staff from the School of Hope to a dinner, entertainment and a visit from Santa.

The congregation made extraordinary donations to the food pantry during the year.

2011

Vacation Bible School was a joint project with three other Clyde churches and attendance was very good.

The church was a sponsor for the Alexa Brown 5K run/walk.

A church picnic was held.

Steve Kline spoke of his missionary work.

Sisters group held a women's retreat that was well attended.

Missions committee hosted the School of Hope Christmas luncheon.

2012

Rev. Kovach started a confirmation class and is expecting 6 - 8 students. They will lead the service on the day of confirmation.

Membership is organizing a scrapbooking group, a chili cook-off, a euchre and spoons card night, bowling night, family game night, Cleveland Indians game, and the Stitch Together group.

Events to Remember

The Youth Group made cookies to be sent to shut-ins and other church friends to show concern and support.

Our parish nurse presented a program on strokes and attendees can have their blood pressure checked.

A three year campaign to re-roof the church was begun.

Financial support was given to Steve and Betsy Kline for their missionary work in Oman.

Confirmation class members served at the Victory Soup Kitchen in Sandusky over spring break.

Money was donated to the Heifer Project.

Past minister, Rev. Kim Anderson, spoke on Heritage Sunday.

The church held a rummage sale in conjunction with the community wide garage sales.

Junior church will focus on tracing Jesus' roots.

The church was a sponsor for the Alexa Brown 5K run/walk.

The October break-in to the church was discussed. Letters were sent to those who might have donated money that Sunday. Doors and windows seem to be secure. Corrective measures to secure the church are in progress. A church member covered the loss of \$400 in cash.

The collection of coats for those in need was successful.

2013

Security bars for the doors were installed.

Healthcare committee planned a variety of ideas to encourage healthy living.

A new technology team was formed to explore tech and social media use for the church.

Easter eggstravaganza, bowling, game night, and a community picnic socials were held.

Events to Remember

The Fellowship Hall and kitchen were repainted.

Wireless internet was installed.

Mother-Daughter banquet was held in May.

The District Superintendent (Rev. Judy Claycomb) spoke on her mission trip to Africa.

Communion by the lake and potluck was held at East Harbor State Park.

Items were donated to Hayes UMC in Fremont for their Hispanic ministry.

2014

Missions Committee has decided to host free community dinners the last Wednesday of each month beginning in March, from 5 - 6 pm.

The Lenten offerings will be used for Methodist outreach relief efforts.

"Sow the Seeds of Love" special offering will be collected each month and given to the Ministerial Association to help local people in need.

Healthcare committee will sponsor a healthy challenge this year.

The Tent Troupe performed an afternoon matinee of children's fables and an evening family performance of "All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten".

An AED unit has been installed in Fellowship Hall.

Military care packages were sent.

The church hosted five separate Catholic funeral services.

Sisters group distributed blankets at the October community dinner.
The Chancel Choir performed a Christmas cantata.

United Methodist Women held a homemade Christmas cookie sale.

2015

In January there was a hearing for the person believed to have stolen from the church. He has been charged with theft by deception from the Ministerial Association.

Events to Remember

The possibility of a community youth group is being investigated.

Checks from the December theft are at the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Bowling Green, Ohio.

An appreciation dinner for police, firemen, and EMS personnel was held.

"The Passion of Christ" movie was shown in the sanctuary.

Care packages were sent to member college students.

Mother-Daughter banquet was held May 6th.

Rev. Ray Kovach explained the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. He gives the money he receives from weddings, funeral, etc. to the fund and at his discretion the money is given to special projects or people in need.

Rev. Kovach will be recognized at the Lakeside Annual Conference retirement ceremony. Incoming minister, Rev. Sheryl Seitz, will be commissioned at Annual Conference.

Our church is now listed as a charitable organization on Smile.Amazon. This is a way for the church to receive .5% of eligible purchases.

The minister picture gallery will be funded through Memorial funds.

Rev. Sheryl Seitz began as the new minister on July 5th.

Sisters group donated money to McPherson Middle School to assist students unable to pay their Chromebook fee.

An open house was held at the parsonage to see the recent renovations.

2016

A confirmation class began in January.

A new ministry for crocheting and knitting opportunities was started.

A Dartball group is meeting on Saturdays for fun and fellowship.

Health kit items were collected and taken to Annual Conference.

Events to Remember

The healthcare committee gifts that Rev. Seitz delivered to shut-ins have been well received.

Kinder bells, Chancel Choir and Hand bells were all a part of the Christmas Eve worship service. A potluck breakfast was held Christmas morning.

2017

Members of the youth group attended a retreat at Kalahari.

The youth will have a "serve the city" day in February; they plan to work with the drug recovery group.

Worship service survey results are 69 votes for one worship service and 20 votes for two worship services.

Valentines were given to members of the congregation from the Children's Sunday school students.

Lenten lunches, by the Clyde – Green Springs – Vickery Ministerial Association, will be in fellowship hall on Wednesdays.

The church was able to pay 100% of its apportionments.

Flowers not picked up after the Easter service will be planted outside the church.

Funds collected at the Lenten lunches helped to provide rent and utility assistance for those in the Clyde, Green Springs, Vickery areas, and to help the diaper collection project for the Dept. of Job and Family Services.

History and Records committee met with the Fremont News-Messenger for a feature article about Heritage Sunday, 50 year members and members 70+ in age.

An anonymous donation was given for upcoming salary increases for 2018, 2019, 2020.

Sunday evening Corn hole and campfire has been well attended this summer.

Events to Remember

Blue Christmas service was held December 10th.

A chair lift was installed on the stairway connecting all levels of the church, paid by the Jennings Memorial Fund.

2018

Clyde Community Youth Group, CCYG, sent college care packages with a St. Patrick's theme.

A new, updated church website debuted. A church Facebook page was established.

Former pastor, Rev. Mark George, preached on Heritage Sunday in May.

Red Bird Mission of eastern Kentucky held a craft show at FUMC. Missionaries shared the Red Bird story during worship.

CCYG discussed how to have the group be a priority for youth.

The yearly rummage sale was coordinated by the Sisters Bible study group.

A Blessing of the Animals was held.

Sisters group sponsored a flu shot clinic at the community dinner and paid for those not covered by insurance.

Harvest offering items were donated to the Clyde Food Pantry.
For the School of Hope Christmas dinner, Roots donated 10 turkeys and Home Depot donated gifts.

Sisters study group collected blankets and 70 were given away at the community Christmas dinner. Angel tree families and Micah House of Fremont also received blankets.

Events to Remember

2019

Area churches collected soup for Souper Bowl Sunday to donate to the food pantry.

A Day Camp was held on Presidents' Day. Children were busy with crafts, games, songs, food.

Special session of General Conference met in St. Louis to vote on the Discipline. Three plans were presented on the topics of human sexuality, clergy, homosexuality, and same-sex marriage. The vote was to adopt the traditional plan which means that the mission of the church will not change.

An Easter egg hunt was held during Sunday school on Palm Sunday.

Members of the Confirmation class attended a trustees meeting.

A church group outing was taken to a Toledo Mud Hens game.

The Sisters Study group donated flood bucket supplies to Annual Conference and to Fremont's Micah House (which serves meals to those in need).

Graduates were recognized during worship.

An outdoor worship service was held.

Christian education committee is having a drive to "Stack the Altar" with school supplies for Clyde Elementary.

A teen worship service was held in September to challenge youth to: come to Jesus; grow in their faith; and impact their community.

Clyde Community Youth Group will have a "See you at the (flag) Pole" event, which is part of a national organization. Our church will provide donuts and water.

Church held a fall craft show as part of Winesburg weekend.

Events to Remember

A giant thank you card, plus donuts, were given to the school bus drivers in appreciation for their work with our children.

A Christmas luncheon was held for School of Hope students.

The children's Christmas program will be followed by a birthday party for Jesus.

A security system, with camera and entrance buzzer, was installed.

2020

Green Springs Elementary was the recipient of Christian education's hat and mitten tree project.

On Presidents' Day, a day camp was held for area children.

Due to a worldwide pandemic known as Covid 19, there are no in-person activities at the church. Meetings were held via Zoom so that people can have group meetings from their own computers. Community meals have switched to drive thru style. Sunday worship will be streamed live via Facebook and YouTube; this will continue until further health instructions from Gov. DeWine and our EOC bishop to keep members at home for health safety. Not sure if May activities will be in person.

The church remains closed for in-person worship.

Vacation Bible School will be virtual, not in-person.

Due to Covid, our monthly Community Dinner will be served drive-thru style.

If church will open during Covid, people must wear masks. Hand sanitizer containers will be placed about the church. No social gatherings, no singing, no communion, no ushers.

Events to Remember

This June is the last time East Ohio Conference will be held at Lakeside. Now due to Covid, the conference will not be held until the last weekend of September and it will be a virtual format.

Beginning July 1st, a new ministry partnership with Green Springs UMC begins. Rev. Seitz will be the lead pastor and her primary focus will be Clyde. Mr. Frank Letterly's focus will be Green Springs.

Due to the Covid pandemic there are many requirements by health officials to slow its spread. No in person meetings will be held at church. Weddings, funerals are limited to 50 people. Health masks must be worn, and a social distance of 6' should be kept. Outdoor meetings are fine.

We continue to collect Covid supplies to donate to the schools: face masks, sanitizer, disinfectant wipes.

Golembiowski memorial funds were used to purchase A/V equipment to more efficiently live stream services.

Trunk or Treat on Halloween was drive thru style.

The Finance Committee chair enrolled the church in the Payroll Protection Program, which is a forgivable federal Covid business loan, to cover 3 months of payroll. This covered about \$10,000 for the church to prevent a shortage.

The 2020 committees have been frozen for 2021 due to unusual Covid year and moving into ministry partnership with Green Springs UMC.

Thanksgiving community dinner was drive thru style.

No School of Hope Christmas dinner this year.

Sisters study group provided Christmas goodie bags to accompany each community drive thru meal.

Christmas Eve afternoon "Music in the Manger" was held at Cravens' barn. While singing carols, people wore their health masks.

Events to Remember

2021

Bob and Carol Bishop were thanked for their dedication to the monthly community meal project and their willingness to coordinate them, from planning, to cooking, to distribution.

Sunday school classes collected and donated items to Flat Rock Homes, and they sent care packages to shut-in members.

Methodist Moments are presented monthly, beginning in May, during worship that highlight our church's history.



2021 high school graduates.

Vacation Bible School will meet in person with a 60 child limit. This is a combined project with several Clyde churches.

Rev. Sheryl Seitz will continue her appointment at Clyde FUMC 3/4 time and Green Springs UMC 1/4 time as the sole pastor for both churches.

The church's Paycheck Protection Program loan was forgiven and an application through First National Bank for a second PPP loan is in process.

Annual Conference from Akron will be live streamed, nothing in-person.

The 200th anniversary committee has been making plans to celebrate that milestone for this Methodist church's presence in Clyde.

All meetings of the Clyde Community Youth Group will be in person at St. Paul Lutheran. Middle school and high school students will meet on alternating weeks.

Events to Remember



There was a joint Ice Cream Social with Green Springs UMC. Entertainment was provided by our Praise Band and by Wade Young.

A back to school bag blessing and a blessing of the animals were held.



50 year members

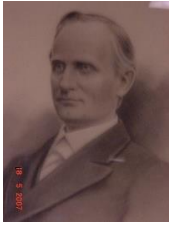
October 10th was a celebration of our church's 200th anniversary in Clyde. Bishop Tracy Smith Malone gave the message.

* * *

MINISTERS SERVING THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CLYDE, OHIO

1821	Rev. Boardman	1889-1894	L. K. Warner
	organized the church	1894-1896	C. F. Johnson
1821-1825	Samuel McMillan (lay	1896-1897	Dr. Wm. Keplar
	preacher and class leader)	1897-1902	S. J. McConnell
1825-1827	Amos Fenn (lay preacher)	1902-1905	S. L. Stewart
	aided by Samuel McMillan	1905-1908	T. B. Stroup
1827-1844	Presiding Elder McMahan,	1908-1913	R. F. Mayer
	John Hazzard and	1913-1915	H. W. Dewey
	Adam Poe (lay preachers)	1915-1919	L. O. Eldredge
1844-1850	Local lay preachers	1919-1925	T. L. McConnell
	including some of the above	1925-1929	S. A. Mayer
1850-1851	W. H. Seeley	1929-1930	Wm. K. Mackey
1851-1852	George Eaton	1930-1931	L. A. Ensley
	assisted by Rev. Day	1931-1936	Carroll Stewart
1852-1853	Presiding Elder Disbro	1936-1940	Walter R. Taylor
	(lay preacher)	1940-1947	John P. Cordero
1853-1856	Rev. Pelton	1947-1951	Perry Neldon
	and Rev. Vertican	1951-1959	Avery H. Butler
1856-1858	Rev. McKane	1959-1963	Paul R. Olinger
	and E. Y. Warner	1963-1968	Reuben Rader
1859	Rev. Castle	1968-1975	L. Mark George
	and Rev. Thompson	1975-1979	Arthur Kirk
1860	Rev. Holderman	1979-1983	Phillip Stillings
	and Rev. Barker	1983-1989	Kim L. Anderson
1861	Rev. Wilson	1989-1994	Fred Bell
	and Rev. Sites	1994-2003	John Bailey
1862	Rev. Barker	2003	James Greenawalt
1863	Rev. Jones (6 months)		(Interim for 6 months)
1863	Rev. McKillips (6 months)	2003-2008	Dennis Rinehart
1864-1867	J. S. Broadwell	2008-2015	Ray Kovach
1867-1868	E. G. Warner	2015 -	Sheryl Seitz
		present	
1868-1870	Wm. S. Paul		
1870-1871	B. Wright		
1871-1873	G. H. Hartupee		
1873-1873	O. Squire		
1873-1875	S. S. Youltee		
1875-1878	J. W. Mendenhall		
1878-1881	W. H. Painter		
1881-1883	B. J. Hoadley		
1883-1884	G. W. Ball		
1884-1886	O. Badgeley		
1887-1888	G. W. Hanawalt		
1888-1889	E. B. Russell		

Ministers of Clyde First United Methodist Church



John S. Broadwell
1864-1867



G.H. Hartuppee
1871-1873



J.W. Mendeall
1875-1878



W.H. Painter
1878-1881



B.J. Hoadley
1881-1883



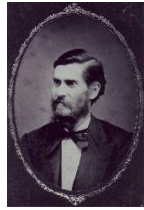
G.W. Ball
1883-1884



O. Badgeley
1884-1886



G.W. Hanawalt
1887-1888



L.K. Warner
1889-1894



C.F. Johnson
1894-1896



Dr. Wm. Keppler
1896-1897



S.J. McConnell
1897-1902



S.L. Stewart
1902-1905



T.B. Stroup
1905-1908



R.F. Mayer
1908-1913



H.W. Dewey
1913-1915



L.O. Eldredge
1915-1919



T.L. McConnell
1919-1925



S.A. Mayer
1925-1929



Wm. K. Mackey
1929-1930



L.A. Ensley
1930-1931



Carroll Stewart
1931-1936



Walter R. Taylor
1936-1940



John P. Cordero
1940-1947



Perry Neldon
1947-1951



Avery H. Butler
1951-1959



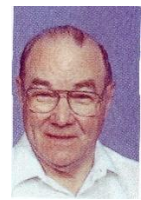
Paul R. Olinger
1959-1963



Reuben Rader
1963-1968

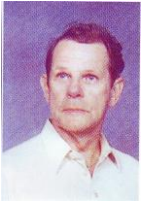


L. Mark George
1968-1975



Arthur Kirk
1975-1979

Ministers of Clyde First United Methodist Church



Phillip Stillings
1979-1983



Kim L. Anderson
1983-1989



Fred Bell
1989-1994



John Bailey
1994-2003



James Greenawalt
2003 Interim 6 mo



Dennis Rinehart
2003-2008



Ray Kovach
2008-2015



Sheryl Seitz
2015-present

***The Sanctuary Windows
of
First United Methodist Church
Clyde, Ohio***

*Designed by White Stained Glass Studio
Sarasota FL*

Order of description starts with the back left window, as you face the altar.

WINDOW #1 *The Holy Spirit*

CENTER PANEL: The descending dove has long been a symbol of the Holy Spirit and comes from the story of Jesus' baptism. (Matthew 3:13-17)

LEFT PANEL: Fire represents the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4)

RIGHT PANEL: The olive branch symbolizes the peace, harmony, and healing which the Spirit brings.

WINDOW #2 *The Word of God*

CENTER PANEL: This depicts Christ teaching. The book in his hand is the Word of God. *(When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. Matthew 7:28-29)*

LEFT PANEL: The orb with cross represents the triumph of the gospel in all the world.

RIGHT PANEL: The four open books represent the writings of the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

WINDOW #3: *The Creation*

CENTER PANEL: This panel depicts the hand of God reaching down to bring light and order to the formless darkness. (Genesis 1:1-5)

LEFT PANEL: Here we see the symbolic separation of the light from the darkness and the water from the dry land. (Genesis 1:3-5; 9-10)

RIGHT PANEL: Here are the stars, planets, and other heavenly bodies which God created. (Genesis 1:14-19)

WINDOW #4: *The Triumphant Christ*

CENTER PANEL: This window shows the Risen Lord, who will one day return to judge humanity. In his hand he carries a set of scales, the symbol of justice. (I Peter 4:5-6)

LEFT PANEL: The butterfly is the symbol of new life and has long been used to represent the resurrection of Christ and Easter.

RIGHT PANEL: The crown reminds us that the Risen Christ is the ruler of all things and that one day his authority will be recognized by all people. (Romans 14:9-12)

WINDOW #5: *The Church*

CENTER PANEL: Here Christ is depicted with a bag of seeds scattering them in a field. In one of his parables, Jesus told of a sower. The seed represented the Word of God.

(Matthew 13:1-23) This window reminds us that the role of the Church is to spread God's Word.

LEFT PANEL: The Cross and Flame is the logo of the United Methodist Church. It symbolizes the Old Covenant (the burning bush) and the New Covenant (the cross of Christ)

RIGHT PANEL: This panel contains the Greek letters Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω). This is a symbol of Christ, who is the foundation of the Church (Revelation 22:12-13)

WINDOW #6: *The Incarnation*

CENTER PANEL: The candle symbolizes Jesus as the Light of the World. His birth brought light to a world of darkness (John 1:1-9)

LEFT PANEL: The star represents the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Wise Men to the manger. (Matthew 2:1-2)

RIGHT PANEL: In Christian art, the rose without thorns is the symbol for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

WINDOW #7: *God's Care*

CENTER PANEL: Here Christ is depicted as the Good Shepherd. As the Good Shepherd, Christ cares for his people. (John 10:11-18)

LEFT PANEL: The shepherd's staff is a symbol of God's care. In the 23rd Psalm we read, "...thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me."

RIGHT PANEL: The rainbow symbolizes the covenant which God made with Noah. It is a sign that God will care for Noah and never again send a flood to destroy humanity. (Genesis 9:8-17)

WINDOW #8: *God's Providence*

CENTER PANEL: In this panel, Christ is offering a net filled with fish. This represents the way the providence of God supplies our physical needs.

LEFT AND RIGHT PANELS: The cup and the grapes and the wheat are symbolic of the communion meal which Christ instituted to help to satisfy our spiritual hunger.

THE WINDOWS IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY from left to right.

THE MAN'S HEAD is the traditional symbol for Matthew, the evangelist.

THE LAUREL BRANCH symbolizes triumph and eternity.

THE LION'S HEAD is the traditional symbol for Mark, the evangelist.

THE GLOBE WITH FOUR CROSSES represents the message of the Gospel taken to the four corners of the world.

THE CIRCUIT RIDER brings to mind the early traveling Methodist preachers who founded many of the Methodist Churches in our nation.

THE OX'S HEAD is the traditional symbol for Luke, the evangelist.

THE SHIELD in the colors of red, white and blue is a symbol of the United States of America.

THE EAGLE'S HEAD is the traditional symbol for John, the evangelist.

During 2021, vignettes were presented during worship that highlighted some of the interesting history of Clyde First United Methodist Church. In addition to the descriptions of the stained glass windows in the current church, the following Methodist Moments were presented.

Methodist Moments June 2021

History of the sanctuary cross and the church organ

Our beautiful cross that hangs in the sanctuary was hand-hewn by a church member, Dr. Luther P. Miller, a long-time local veterinarian. In November of 1970 he and two others hung it over the altar. It measures 12 feet by 6 feet. Dr. and Margaret (Dickie) Miller donated this beautiful symbol.

The church organ is a prominent fixture in the church although we don't see it. Its beautiful sounds add much to any service in the church. Many organists remark how great it is. The first organ, in 1901, was a John Sole pipe organ. In 1956 that organ was replaced with the new Moeller pipe organ.

When the new West Maple Street church was built, the console and pipes were moved to the new church. The blower and chests were also brought. The blower is located in the janitor's closet and magically makes the whole thing work. The chests look like the inside of toolboxes, only wooden, that each pipe must fit into. And there are MANY pipes.

The year 1986 brought another new organ, a Bunn-Minnick. In 1989 the work was completed on the console with the swell and great shades added. The swell is the top keyboard, and the great is the bottom. The same note sounds slightly different depending on where it is played.

An additional rank was added in 1993. 61 pipes and a chest were added then as well, which adds a different sound. A VOX Humana addition was donated by the Brown family.

2001 added flutes: 73 pipes and chest, octave 73 pipes and chest, sub bass pedals 16 and 8. The trumpet stops are yet to be added. Every sound has its own pipe.

Very critical to the organ's health is keeping a constant humidity to ensure the leather parts stay pliable.

The chimes you hear on the organ were donated many years ago by the Pearce family in memory of loved ones and were moved from the Buckeye Street church to our current building.

In 2001 it was suggested that the organ should be insured of \$200,000.

Methodist Moments August 2021

The Women's Society of Christian Services of the Methodist Church has long been active in raising money for various causes. The Sisters group is continuing this important ministry. The recent rummage sale brought in over \$2,500 which will help fund their many worthy projects.

In 1959 The Women's Society held an auction to raise money for the building fund for a new church. Offered were household and outdoor services. Mrs. Luella (John) Jackson and Mrs. (Harry) Russell, Jr were co-chairwomen with Mrs. W. A. Downing in charge of publicity. And publicity there was! The Clyde Enterprise and the Toledo Blade both covered the event.

This was the Blade's account of the fund raiser:

Muscle (four hours of free service) was sold by Bud Klickman, a local insurance agent, to Charles Russell. Mr. Russell needed "a little cleaning and painting job down on the farm."

"Mrs. B.V. Mitchell (Martha) **Note use of husband's names. No women's first names.** Figured she had a bargain of three hours of babysitting for the price of \$2.00 until she remembered that she didn't have a baby.

Mrs. William Metz offered three hours of free transportation in the area. Carl Smart won the bid but admitted he couldn't think of any place to go... "I'll give it some thought." he added.

H.C.Terbush made one of the highest bids of the evening when he offered \$10.00 for two lemon pies. "I'm not particularly fond of lemon pie," he said, "but my wife is and she's sitting right behind me."

Even the minister at the time, Reverend Paul Olinger couldn't pass up a bargain. He won three hours of painting for \$1.00

Lawn mower sharpening during January and baked goods, washing cars and trimming shrubbery went like wildfire.

Mrs. R.F. Hildwein won the bid for sidewalk shoveling for two snows provided by 14 year old Jan Smith.

The auction of services, kitchen utensils and artwork drew wholehearted response from the bidders. So much so in fact that the gamut of bids from 25 cents-\$10.00 netted a total of \$375.

Art Duffett, auctioneer, donated his professional services for the occasion.

So enthusiastic was the bidding that a Blade photographer bought a painting when he raised his hand to put a new flash bulb in his camera.

While the amount received was small by today's standards, the enthusiasm and spirit of the parishioners toward a common goal-a new church- was heartfelt. Raising money CAN be fun!

Clyde First United Methodist Church is honored to have dedicated members. Some of our long time members were asked to share their thoughts regarding the church and their time here.

Margie McClanahan Interview

9/7/21

When did you start attending the Methodist Church?

As a baby – 86 years ago

Who was your favorite pastor while growing up?

Reverend Rader

How did you participate in the church?

*Women's UMW, kitchen help, secretary in office, taught pre-school
Sunday school*

What brought you to this church?

Parents brought me

What is your hope for the future of this church?

More young people and children to come to church

John Fiser Interview

9/10/21

When did you start going to Clyde Methodist Church and what brought you to the church?

In the early 1940s my parents, Paul and Marguerite Fiser, brought me when they moved back to Clyde from Liberty Center.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

Growing up I remember Rev. Neldon and Rev. Butler very fondly. In my older years the minister I remember the most is Rev. Mark George.

Rev. George and I were very active in the Men's group at that time. We met once a month at Tom Perry's home for a men's breakfast. It was such a great time. We also cooked for the mother-daughter banquet and many other functions. Not only can Methodist women cook, so can Methodist men.

What is your favorite memory?

Sunday school in classrooms with curtains you would pull to separate the classes and Sunday school rooms behind the organ at the Buckeye Street church. I also always liked the winding staircase at the Buckeye

St. Church. I enjoyed helping with the Scout program for many years. We had a very successful Cub Scout and Boy Scout program.

How have you participated in the church?

By attending Sunday school and church. Serving on numerous committees over the years. Usher. Worship greeter. Member of Men's group. Trustee. Cleaning of display cases in the church. Volunteered when the church was designated a disaster shelter for Clyde. Dartball. Provide financial support to the church and to community ministries. Nursery helper. Boy Scout leader.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

I would love to see the sanctuary once again filled on Sundays with families, seniors, youth, teenagers, and especially the unchurched.

What do you want the next generation to know about our church?

We care about everyone and we want you to come and join us. You will not be sorry.

Phyllis Fiser Interview

9/10/21

When did you start going to Clyde Methodist Church and what brought you to the church?

As a child, my parents, Howard and Helen Baker, took me to the Methodist Church.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

During my youth, Rev. John Cordero, Rev. Perry Neldon and Rev. Avery Butler were our ministers. They were all very instrumental in helping me become the person I am today. Rev. Butler has a very special place in my heart as he married John and I.

What is your favorite memory?

My wedding day at the Buckeye Street Church with the beautiful stained glass windows. Also, being selected from a Sunday school class to go to the bell tower at the Buckeye St. Church and ring the huge bell. An adult was always present to help us keep our feet on the ground. It was so much fun and I would talk about it all day. My brother, Lamar, and my sister, Shirley, also thought it was a special day if they were selected to ring that bell.

How have you participated in the church?

By attending Sunday school and church. Serving on numerous committees over the years. Sunday school teacher. Nursery helper. Worship greeter. Helped with vacation Bible school. Providing food for funeral dinners. Cleaning the display cases in the church. Volunteered when the church was designated a disaster shelter for Clyde. Attended communion at the lake. Dartball. Provide financial support to the church and to community ministries and outreach.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

To grow the church's membership with emphasis on young families, children, youth, and teenagers.

What do you want the next generation to know about our church?

We are a very faithful, supportive, compassionate, generous, and loving congregation. Come and see what God has to offer.

Herb Brooks Interview

9/10/21

Herb and Bunny Brooks moved to Clyde in 1962 and after attending churches in Fremont and Bellevue, settled on the First United Methodist Church as their spiritual home. They always enjoyed their association with the church. Herb was heavily involved with the maintenance of the church, keeping many aspects of the physical running of the church functioning. He provided a diagram of the church electrical system. He also was a dependable usher. Herb would like to see the church continue to thrive. He thinks supporting the church both physically and financially is important. His fond memories of the church are special to him.

Jean Frey Interview

9/10/21

Jean has been coming to the First United Methodist Church for over half of her life. She came to church as a young child with her parents. Memories of the church are dear to her.

Linda Derucki Interview

9/7/21

When did you start attending the Methodist Church?

About 50 years ago. I first attended a Baptist church in Clyde.

Who was your favorite pastor while growing up?

Pastor Webb – a pastor in a Baptist church in Paintsville, Kentucky. He was a good man.

How did you participate in the Methodist Church?

Everything I could: Taught 7th and 8th grade Sunday school for years. I was in the Women's group. Helped with dinners. Attended adult Sunday school until I wasn't able to come. I've always loved Sunday school.

What brought you to the church?

I had been to a Methodist church in Kentucky and that was comfortable for me and this church was close to where I lived and easy to get to.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

That we will be able to begin to go and enjoy church and be able to reach out and let people know we miss them, and invite them back. Do what we can to spread the Word. I'm doing what I can here to be the kind of Christian I need to be.

At this time, Linda is in the Bethesda Nursing Home, Fremont, Ohio.

Shirley Matter Interview

9/13/21

When did you start attending Clyde FUMC?

In 1951. We were married in the church. Reverend Butler married us.

What brought you to the church?

I didn't start attending until I got married. We were looking for a church at the time and decided and picked this church.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

My favorite was probably Mark George. To this day, we've remained friends.

How have you participated in the church?

I worked in the kitchen and sang in the choir.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

I hope to have all members back and more younger generations to come.

Marilyn Huston Interview

8/31/2021

When did you start going to Clyde Methodist Church?

1953, when we moved here

Who was your favorite minister?

I don't have one. I don't rate the ministers.

What is your favorite church memory?

None

How did you participate in church?

I didn't participate in the church services except for attending. The church activities were what I did, like cooking meals, missions, and the UMW.

What brought you to the church?

I grew up going to church with my parents, grandparents. Reverend Olinger contacted us and we resumed our attendance after a period of absence.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

I hope we continue to survive and concentrate on being welcoming to anyone who wants to attend, not just worry about money.

What do you want the next generation to know about our church?

The church has always been there, and hopefully will continue to be there, a place where you feel welcome.

Edie Gray Interview

9/2/21

When did you start attending Clyde FUMC?

1959

What brought you to the church?

My Aunt Arlo Loudenslager, who was always cheerful and happy, invited me.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

Mark George, Avery Butler, and others

How have you participated in the church?

Taught Sunday school, vacation Bible school, served dinners, helped with computer graphics, put the history of the church together, and many other ways.

What is your favorite memory?

The church picnics, especially when Marissa Greenslade Cush gave horse drawn wagon rides. The community dinners. Helping with vacation Bible school. I particularly enjoyed the one in 2002 organized by Marsha Rader. Tents were erected outside to depict Bible times and crafts of those times were taught to the children.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

I hope that they can connect with the young people.

What do you want the next generation to know about our church?

They need to know the history of the church to know where they've come from. The church evolves and doesn't stay stagnant.

Tom Davis Interview

9/13/21

When did you start attending Clyde FUMC?

I started going to church as a small child with my father, Ben Davis, and my siblings.

What brought you to the church?

My father physically brought me to the church, but I continued as an adult with my wife, Barb, and my daughters. It was and still is our foundation.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

Each minister brings a different relationship, but I was closest to Rev. George and Kim Anderson and Ray Kovach. We had many things in common and they were here for many of our family milestones.

What is your favorite memory?

So many memories over the years, but I did enjoy the adult Sunday school class that Ray Kovach led.

How have you participated in the church?

I am not a committee person as such, but I have been a Trustee and an usher. Also I help where needed.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

My hope for this church is that we would regain some of the vitality and commitment that we once had. We need to increase our dwindling membership.

What do you want the next generation to know about our church?

I think it is important for the next generations to know that this church was built on faith, grew with faith and will continue 200 more years through faith. Our world and society changes, but God never will.

Barb Davis Interview

9/13/21

When did you start attending Clyde FUMC?

I started attending FUMC in 1963 when I moved to Clyde after my marriage to Tom Davis who was a member there. I joined in 1968.

What brought you to the church?

As I said my husband was a member of FUMC and his family. But truly the witness and love of one of our dear past members, Betty Rader, encouraged us to active membership.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

Rev. George was pastor when I joined, so that is a bond with him. I worked most closely with Kim Anderson and Ray Kovach, and enjoy a special relationship with both of them.

What is your favorite memory?

There are many memories over 50+ years. I'd say attending East Ohio Conference at Lakeside as Lay Delegate rates pretty high, along with several activities in the Sisters Study Group.

How have you participated in the church?

Unlike my husband, I am a committee person and have served on almost all of them! My favorite group, of course, is Sisters, which I began leading in 2008, and still continue to do so. Over 60 women have been a part of this group over the years and we continue with a core group of about 20. So many projects and activities. What a blessing they have been to our church.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

Obviously we need to grow, not only in numbers but spiritually. Our society in 2021 is teaching us that we do not need God, but we do! We need renewed commitment, Revival!

What do you want the next generation to know about our church?

Naturally, I want generations to know that we made a difference in the lives of those who attended here. That they bore witness to Jesus Christ and that they made a positive impact on the lives of those around them.

Sue Chidley Interview

9/14/21

When did you start attending Clyde FUMC?

I was born into the church in December 1958 and baptized on June 28, 1959, by Rev. Avery Butler.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

Rev. L. Mark George, who confirmed me and planted the seeds for ordained ministry.

What is your favorite memory?

I have so many wonderful memories of my home church! Our family enjoyed several activities and worship experiences, each bringing our family and our church family closer together.

How have you participated in the church?

Faithfully attending Sunday School and worship, I also participated in MYF, sang in the children and adult choirs, and played piano solos during worship. At one time, I took organ lessons from Sue Shellhammer! Music, music, music!!

What is your hope for the future of the church?

I pray that Clyde FUMC will continue to follow the call of God in their ministry. May this congregation always support their pastor, working together as a body of Christ to make a difference in Clyde and the surrounding area.

What do you want the next generation to know about our church?

Our church has a rich heritage, for which we are blessed. However, Clyde FUMC is not living in the past! They are moving forward, excited about what God has in store! Who would want to miss that!

I love this church!

Dean and Sandy Scheerer Interview

9/16/21

Sandy and Dean joined the church when Mark George was pastor. They chose the First United Methodist Church because the tenets more closely expressed those of their former churches. The Scheerers especially enjoyed the sermons of Reverend George and the friendship of Denny Rinehart.

The memory that stands out for Sandy is the time the congregation pulled together to keep the church facilities clean during a financial crisis. The church's continued interest in the community by offering monthly meals, supporting the food pantry, and various projects is a favorite remembrance. Their hope is for a continuance of these endeavors.

Kathy Mathews Interview

9/18/21

Kathy first started attending the Methodist church when she was in seventh grade. She said that they used to go to church in Green Springs, but they wanted to go with kids that they knew. Her favorite pastor was Rev. Mark George. She has participated in the church as worship committee chairman, secretary for church council, taught Sunday school – first grade, head of youth group, in charge of acolytes, and flowers. She also attends Bible studies, retreats, and is a member of the Sisters group. Her hope for the church is unity!

Dick Babcock Interview

9/15/21

Dick became a member of the Buckeye St. church under Rev. Cordero. His mom made sure that he went to Sunday school. He enjoys the stained glass windows of the current church and his favorite is Christ holding the lamb. He has fond memories of Reverends Mark George, Avery Butler, Dennis Rinehart and others through the years. Dick and his wife were diligent in cleaning up around the pews after the church services were over. He has ushered and helped where needed throughout the years. He remembers making a template for the milk jug luminaries that would make them more consistent and sturdy, and cutting out many, many of them. He hopes to see more people attend church as that has dwindled quite a bit over the last few years.

Jeff Perry Interview

9/16/21

I came to this church in 1962 from the Vickery Methodist church. My parents felt that we would have more opportunity within the church at Clyde. Rev. Mark George was my favorite pastor. He seemed to have a great personality and people came to church to hear his sermons. Attendance was high during his years here. My favorite memory was having men's breakfast at our farm. We would have the breakfast in the garage and it was well attended. As a youth I was active in MYF. I have been on committees in the church, have ushered when asked to help, and did scripture when needed. My hope is that they are able to maintain our church during these troubled times. Our church family has some age so I hope that the family can be maintained. I would hope that the next generation can keep our heritage intact; that they will be able to continue the legacy that has been provided to them

Nancy Greenslade Interview

9/20/21

When did you start attending Clyde FUMC?

I have attended the church since my birth.

What brought you to the church?

My parents attended the church.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

Having worked closely with eight of our pastors, I'll pass on this question!

What is your favorite memory?

My favorite memories involve family. All four of my children were married in the church, all ten grandchildren were baptized there, and we have gone from needing one pew to using three when we are all in attendance. On a more humorous note, the most memorable to me, and to many others, is when right in the middle of the children's Christmas program one year, our granddaughter pushed her twin sister down the chancel steps.

How have you participated in the church?

I have served on Church Council, Finance, Worship, been a member of the choir and bell choir, served as Financial Secretary, and attend Sisters study group. Being involved in cooking church dinners has been a real blessing. Many long-lasting friendships started in the church kitchen.

What is your hope for the future of this church?

I would love to see a revitalization of the church, a renewed spirit of commitment and purpose.

What do you want the next generation to know about the church?

My hope is that the past generations have made such a positive difference well beyond our church walls, that it will encourage future generations to continue.

Jim Greenslade Interview

9/20/21

When did you start attending Clyde FUMC?

I have attended the church since my birth in 1948.

What brought you to the church?

It was the church my parents attended.

Do you have a favorite pastor?

I don't have a favorite pastor. I have memories of many. My earliest memories are of Rev. Avery Butler as he was the pastor I remember from my youth.

What is your favorite memory?

I loved Vacation Bible School as a child.

How have you participated in the church?

I was an acolyte and member of UMYF. I have served as an usher, kitchen help, member of Parsonage Committee, United Methodist Men, Finance, Church Council, and Trustees.

What is your hope for the future of the church?

I hope that we are able to survive.

What do you want the next generation to know about our church?

We all need to have a strong faith-based foundation to not only benefit ourselves but to reach out in service to those around us. Our church has provided that for many in the past and can do the same for future generations.

John Rader Interview

9/14/21

John was raised in the church and began coming in 1951, the year of his birth. He remembers the Buckeye Street church where he felt so blessed when at about seven or eight, he was allowed to ring the bell for services. He remembers the big rope and the ride he took as he hung on as he had been directed. His favorite minister was Mark George. One of his special memories was Christmas in fellowship hall where the treats were slices of ice cream with trees, stockings, and Santa imprinted on each slice. He hopes for growth for the church and hopes we can encourage youth to attend. John has served on many committees including, History and Records, Men's Club and others.

Carol Winke Interview

9/15/21

Carol came to the Buckeye St. church as a little girl, brought by her parents. She enjoyed junior church there, which was led by Rev. Olinger and his wife. A favorite memory for her is her marriage to Ken (50 years ago) which was officiated by Rev. Olinger at the Buckeye St. church. Reverends Mark George and Kim Anderson have been favorites of hers. Carol has been involved in the church as a greeter and usher. She attended Sunday school and helped in the nursery. She also lends a helping hand with funeral luncheons and other areas when there is a need. She hopes that younger kids attend church to help build the enrollment back up.

Debbie Overmyer Interview

9/18/21

Debbie first attended the Methodist Church in 5th grade. Like her sister, Kathy, she wanted to go to church with other kids they knew. While growing up, her favorite pastor was Rev. Mark George. Debbie has been worship committee chairman, head of youth group, taught Sunday school, and has been a member of various committees. She participates in Bible studies and the Sisters group. Debbie's hope for the future of our church is for us to survive and to continue to thrive.

LaMar Baker Interview

9/18/21

My parents introduced and took me to the Methodist church as a child. The pastor that I knew best was Rev. Avery Butler. He married Joyce (Davis) Baker and me on February 19, 1955. We also held the reception at the church. I remember that with the help of men working for the Davis Fruit Farm, we cleaned the lot at the corner of Maple and Race, where the sanctuary now stands. In preparation for the new sanctuary at Maple and Race, I cut down the old mulberry tree that had stood there for generations. I remember helping Rev. Olinger carry the old organ down the winding staircase at the Buckeye St. church. I've been involved with the church by attending Sunday school and church, by helping with church dinners, through giving, ushering and greeting. My hope for the future of our church is that we would grow the congregation; that we would grow in Sunday school attendance; that we would continue to be a church that would attract new members. This is what I would like the next generation to know about our church: to learn the history of our church; to know that we are friendly and caring; that it is important to attend church; that we reach out in our community in many ways; that we have many activities for all ages; spiritual growth is important; God deserves the best we have to offer.

Wendy Brown Interview

9/14/21

I began attending this church with my dad in 1963 when it was moved to its Race and Maple St. location. Rev. George is my favorite because he was here when I was in junior high and high school, during youth group. I was best friends with his daughter, Janet, and we are still in touch. My favorite memories still go back to Rev. George, when I was in youth group, choir, Wednesday night Bible study and because Janet was in these groups with me. There were big groups of kids in Methodist Youth Fellowship, ages 11 – 17. Those were the days. The church was full.

Before becoming the regular organist in 1993, I had started as a substitute organist. I have been junior choir director, adult choir director, bell choir director, and praise band member. I've served on the worship committee and have been the youth group leader, when we took the youth on mission trips.

My hope is that we don't lose our church members. How do we fulfill our church's mission statement if we don't have people here? I'd like for future generations to know the history of Clyde FUMC. I'd like to keep the church's rich musical history alive. Our praise band offers contemporary music and it is important to still use sacred music, whether by choirs, solos, instrumentals, and hymns. I hope for our church to be one that gives, and stays true to what the Bible teaches, not follow man's ideas.

Harry Burroughs Interview

9/14/21

Harry began coming to the First United Methodist Church after he got back from the service. He had always gone to the Christian Church but a certain Connie changed that. Reverend George is one pastor that stands out in his mind as both were the same age, and had children about the same age. Reverend George was especially good with the youth and always shared their interests. Harry remembers a time that the Reverend received a broken nose during a football game he and some youth were enjoying. During Reverend George's time here, the Hi Y youth group visited a different church each Sunday which was interesting to the youth. Harry finds Mark George to be the most inspirational for him. Other memories included making a presentation one time in which he said that it was about time for George Huston to start to snore. That brought a laugh from all, including George. Harry has always been active in caring for the physical needs of the church. The boiler and air-conditioning was under his care as was the sound system, ringing outside bells and music. Our landscaping bushes are gone now but for 30 years they received the needed trim from Harry. (At many meetings I recall the answer to maintenance questions was to "ask Harry"). Change is inevitable but at his age, Harry says he is now able to "go with the flow."

Connie Burroughs Interview

9/16/21

Connie was baptized in the Clyde Methodist Church on Buckeye Street. She and her husband, Harry, attended together after their marriage. Her favorite memories include the stained glass windows at the Buckeye Street church and the once a month community meals at this location. She served on several committees and feels the church is doing the best it can in these times. Reverend George was a favorite minister and she remembers his ministry fondly.

Melanie Taylor Interview

9/14/21

I started coming to this Methodist Church around 1954 when it was on Buckeye Street. My parents had always gone to church and after moving here, we began to attend here. I loved the old sanctuary and the pipes that we saw as we sat in church. I remember that Reverend Butler seemed to me to be the tallest man in the whole world. Sunday School was held in the basement and the rooms were made by drawing curtains. Our confirmation class was held in the library across the street and we gave speeches during confirmation Sunday. What a scary time that was!

I taught Sunday School, was in charge of Sunday School teachers, Bible School, the Children's Christmas Program, went caroling at Christmas, and served on various committees.

My hope for the future of this church is for it to be a place where all are welcome, and everyone feels that they belong. I hope that we can offer what the community members need. I would like to see young people realize how important the church and its teachings are and can be a source of strength.

Melinda Auxter Interview

9/14/21

Melinda's introduction to the Clyde Methodist Church began at birth as her parents attended regularly. Always being late for the service, the family ended up in the front pews. That made it a must to behave and she quickly learned to do so. She has enjoyed each minister, but especially liked Reverends Kirk and Anderson. She attended Sunday School, taught Sunday School, helped serve for the Sandusky County Retired Teachers, served on Pastor/Parish, now SPRC, and continues to cook for funeral dinners. Melinda hopes the church continues to be a place where she can challenge herself to be a better person. Hopefully the youth can feel the need to participate in different aspects of church life and feel confident that their views are important.

Judy Stiger Interview

9/15/21

I've come to this church since the day I was born! I came to this church with my family and I have never wanted to leave! I've had many favorite pastors through the years, Rev. Avery Butler, Rev. Cordero, and Rev. George to name a few. We've never had a minister that I couldn't get along with. For as long as I can remember I have been in the choir, from Jr. High till the present. I have attended many Sunday school classes, served on committees - Worship most often, SPRC - and I especially enjoyed an annual event called Jitney night put on by the Women's groups - A social evening with games and refreshments.

I would like for our church to continue to grow, and want us to be less judgmental and worship God and spread His word. I would like younger generations to be aware of and learn the history of our church like we are doing now and to realize that even though the church has ups and downs, it still survives, Praise God!

Lenora Stiger Interview

9/18/21

I came to this church when I was born, 1955, because my family attended this church. Rev. George was a favorite minister of mine. He was so active with the youth of the church as well as the adults. As I look back now, I realize he showed me how much fun you could have in church and I learned so much about God and His love through all of that. Growing up in this church I have so many wonderful memories! Singing in all the choirs through the years, Youth Group, and helping out with Bible School. As I said above, singing, Bible school, the special dinners we've had, Sunday school - youth and adult - Sisters Group, and now as a member of Trustees, these are ways I have participated in our church.

For the future, I would love to see it grow into the family it was. I would like future generations to know that we all really care deeply about

each other. That our love and belief in Jesus is real and we want to share that with everybody. No one has ever been or ever will be a stranger and is always welcome. And that we love you and so does Jesus our Lord.

Jean Schmerbeck Interview

9/19/21

I was in grade school when I first started going to our “old” Methodist church on Buckeye St. As I grew I went to Sunday school. I remember once in one of the classes, we were in back behind the organ pipes. Our teacher was Mr. Huston. We sat on steps in the room, and he did too. Later, as we grew, we had different classes in different rooms. In High School I taught different classes. My family usually all went to church together and sat in the same pew – my Grandmother, Helen Antis, my mother, Betty Vladeff, my sisters and I, my Aunt Martha Russell and her children. We never did beat the Hintz family that sat in a few pews ahead of us. My Uncle LeMar Russell, was our piano player and organ player. On holidays we had a lot of music. Uncle LeMar played and I helped him turn the pages.

I also was the one, for a while, who took care of the kids when their parents went to church. Most people, when they came to church on Sunday, would come in the back entrance and walk up the steps to the sanctuary.

I also sang in the choir at different times.

I was married in that church in 1960 by Rev. Paul Olinger.

I have many, many more things I could write about. I will say this. I knew most of the people who went to that church and if someone needed help with something, they needed not to ask. Everyone helped everyone.

My favorite way to enter the church on Sundays was going up the front stairway either side. They curved; they were beautiful.

Acknowledgements

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This record represents many enjoyable hours of research and recording. We hope that in reading it, you will get much enjoyment and a sense of the rich heritage it represents. There may be omissions and errors but none were intentional and all are regrettable.

History & Records Committee; Mrs. Bonnie Cagle, Mrs. Edith Gray, Mrs. Jean Rader, Mr. John Rader and Mr. Norman Rogers

3rd Edition – 2010

This document was updated and reprinted by Phyllis Fiser and Edith Gray.

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This document was updated and reprinted by the 200th Anniversary Committee: Barb and Tom Davis, Jim and Nancy Greenslade, Bonnie Cagle, Melanie Taylor, Phyllis and John Fiser, Jeff Perry, Carolyn Gray, and Rev. Sheryl Seitz.