



FROM THE PASTORS PEN



"Handicaps." Talk "handicaps" and humans pop into mind with wheelchairs, canes, and walkers. But "handicaps" happen to animals too. Maggie is a small dark haired, multiple handicapped poodle. The poor thing can't see or hear and she walks slowly throughout the Catholic Rectory of my ol'time friend, Father Murphy, as his poor dog gently taps her head into chairs, cabinets, and table legs, and even into my leg.

Like one of those toy fire-trucks that bangs into things, then backs up and goes forward until the batteries wear out. Maggie does this all day, every day. And when my eyes spotted her, my spirit sunk for Father Murphy's pet with eyes that resemble white-marbles.

Walking past me she softly banged into the wall and I fell in love. Kneeling, I pulled her to me and placed my head next to hers. Know what? Though a stranger, she cuddled into my petting embrace like a docile lamb. She can't see or hear, but her feelings are fine. Snuggling next to me, the romance blossomed as Father watched.

"She's been with me for fourteen years now," he said. "Some have told me to put her to sleep" but I can't. She's my only company. Though encumbered with serious impediments, she isn't in pain, enjoys to eat, and she loves me and I could love her. And as I continued to embrace her, I could see joy in Father's face.

What do you do with a dog less than perfect? Do you put it to sleep, out of its misery. Some do it, the choice is painful and we

respect it. But Father Murphy can't do that. "How do I take a friend to the vet and tell him that? She's given so much and now it's time for me to return the favor?" he spelled out.

Dinner. Father took her food out the can, carefully cutting large pieces into bite-size bits. He slammed the plate on the kitchen floor and Maggie, feeling the vibrations, ambled toward her meal.

And though she can't hear Father Murphy's voice nor see his features, Maggie knows she is loved. And this "feeling of being loved" is one of the hallmarks of this season of Lent.

Rev Mike Shambora



ROAST BEEF DINNER

TAKE OUT ONLY, on Sat., April 18th, from 3:30 to 5:30PM. Cakes and help will be needed for this dinner. See Bonny 489-6093 or Bob Elvidge 903-3108 for tickets @ \$12. per dinner. Please call Fran if you are able to bake. 489-0301

PUMC ON THE WEB!

www.peckvilleumc.org can keep you up to date on what is going on in the Peckville and Bradley United Methodist Churches.

DRINKING FROM THE SAUCER

I've never made a fortune,
And I'll never make one now
But it really doesn't matter
'Cause I'm happy anyhow

As I go along my journey
I'm reaping better than I've sowed
I'm drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed

I don't have a lot of riches,
And sometimes the going's tough
But with kin and friends to love me
I think I'm rich enough

I thank God for the blessings
That His mercy has bestowed
I'm drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed

He gives me strength and courage
When the way grows steep and rough
I'll not ask for other blessings for
I'm already blessed enough

May we never be too busy
To help bear another's load
Then we'll all be drinking from the saucer
When our cups have overflowed!

Blessings, Marla



Dear Friends,

After a long and cold snowy winter we are finally getting some temperatures reaching to 50 to 55°. It seemed like the cold weather wouldn't stop. Easter is now upon us and the church will be having extra services. Holy

Thursday Communion Service will be held at our church at 7pm and Good Friday Service at Blakely Baptist at Noon and Bradley Memorial UMC at 7pm. It truly is a special time in the churches with Christ's crucifixion on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The choir will be singing several anthems and organ music is always pleasing. After having worship services in the Fellowship Hall for two months, it's great to be back in our beautiful sanctuary. The stained glass windows are so beautiful in the sun and each window holds a history of families that gave them in memory of loved ones.

Our church building has had several Improvements in the last year or two. The Sunday school roof was renewed, the parking lot cracks were sealed, the sanctuary roof was sealed and shingled where needed. A new restroom was finished last Fall on the sanctuary level, next to the elevator and the two heating furnaces were renewed and updated. Some repairs will be made to the sanctuary walls and painted where needed.

The next project is refinishing the front steps of our church. The work will start after Easter and will be a great improvement for the safety of members and visitors. The fundraisers of Roast Beef Dinners, Welsh Cookies Sales and Hoagie Sales along with your gifts all make these improvements possible. Easter and other holidays are a good time to give a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one. Gifts also can be made to the Memorial Fund or to the Renovation Fund. Our church has a beautiful sanctuary. Please put the church on your schedule for Sunday Worship year round.

God bless,
Bob Elvidge
Finance Chairperson



EASTER MEMORIALS

Peckville's Easter Memorials and honorariums should be in by Sunday (Palm Sunday). Gifts and information should be given to the Bob Elvidge 903-3108, for the organ and renovation fund, please call Bob and he can forward the information.



GRADUATES: Please contact Marla if there is someone graduating this year.
362-4260, secretary @peckvilleumc.org



Spring is just around the corner. In need for a new broom? The PUMC choir has brooms for sale for \$12. **Please help support your choir.**



Thursday evening service is downstairs in the fellowship room at the Peckville UMC at 7pm



Good Friday Service
Bradley Memorial United
Methodist Church
7PM



The Red Door Café has been a blessing for those not only in need a meal, but for those who can use some companionship and conversation. It takes place on the 4th Saturday of each month at Peckville United Methodist Church at noon, ending at 1pm. Please spread the word to your family and friends so they may forward this message to others. It is of NO COST to anyone.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE



When I was a child you had to go to church. Our parents would say, "As long as you live under our roof, you will abide by our rules". You may have heard that too. When we grew up we didn't have to go anymore, so we didn't. Our children didn't have to go either.

Our church attendance is becoming very low. I was guilty of not going to church for many years nor did I take my kids once they were too old for Sunday school. I did however, always attend church on Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and Easter.

Once I became an "empty nester" in the summer of 2011, there were no activities holding me back from attending church on Sunday. I could awake without having to wait for the bathroom to shower and get ready. I could wake earlier because I would not be up waiting for the my kids to come home late on Saturday night, and many other excuses.

I started to attend when I heard we had a new minister and I did want to come to meet him and let him know that I was a member of

the church. All it took was that "one Sunday", I liked what he had preached, he was very upbeat and most of all he threw a lot of wit from out of nowhere which kept everyone awake and aware of his preaching. The reason I am writing this is because our attendance is at an all time low and I feel Rev. Mike Shambora has something for everyone on Sunday. It makes for a great week. Attending church made me realize I need God's influence in my life and without praying and reading the bible we have no contact with God. If I did not stop in on that September morning, I like many others, would not have met him until Christmas Eve.

Then my mind goes in deep thought as attendance has become less and less to the "what ifs" _ if we no longer had our church. I have been at Peckville United Methodist Church from a tot' til today, and I can't imagine the thought of it not being there even if I were still the "Holiday Attendee" like so many of my generation are.

Please consider coming back to church and making a commitment to our congregation so that our fellowship may flourish for years to come. What if your heartfelt "church home" was not there for the future holidays, weddings, or no personal preacher for your time of need. We live in a time where you can wear casual clothes, even jeans. Please attend,! Come back to church!

Thank you, Marla.



If you have not already done so, please join our email list. We do mail out quite a few of the newsletters, so if you prefer to have your newsletter sooner or would like to see the church save on postage, won't you please consider the church reaching you by email. Please remember that your email will be used

only for church. Forward your email address to secretary@peckvilleumc.org



FACEBOOK

Please **LIKE** our page so can see photos and church activities as they arise.

Because hospitals no longer call the Pastor as it interferes with patient privacy, the Pastor asks the family of anyone in the hospital to please call him.

Rev. Shambora may be reached at

570-371-8123



Please send an email or call with a message to Marla as to anyone who may need to be in our community of prayer and for announcements needed for the bulletin by Wednesday evening each week. Thank you. (Share your good news in the bulletin. If anyone has some joy to spread. wellness, weddings, graduations, upcoming births, b-days, etc.)

Email-secretary@peckvilleumc.org

Phone: 876-5357
362-4260



Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.

- Max Lucado

To replace just the sanctuary portion of the church as it is in 2015 dollars would take approximately \$1,900,000. That is not just with inflation but when factors like the premium on little used skills as stained glass work, a real pipe organ, yellow pine bead board ceiling, and the replacement of a Steinway piano.

In searching for the article about the Peckville church dedication and some other local historical events, I was struck with how violent the times were locally. Almost without exception and only reading the page that contained what I was search for, there were reports of beatings, murder, rape and incest, also of embezzlement, theft traitors, and unscrupulous businessmen. How could this be weren't they the good old days? Wasn't this the time that everyone went to church, sipped lemonade, on their front porch in summer and skated and sledded in winter, fall harvest festivals , and spring concerts. A time when moms stayed at home washing, cleaning, ironing, and raising kids and in a time when dads worked six days a week in dangerous

conditions. I hear people talk about lack of privacy today, but read a paper from 100 to 150 years ago. They mention maybe that Mr. and Mrs. Herman Van Wert have returned to Peckville from visiting the Male's and the Reining's in Wayne County. I kid you not; each paper is full of such social and personal comings and goings.

Now I admit that I didn't read a newspaper page from every day between 1856 and 1917. But I did read the pages that contained the subject of my search. My grandfather "Pop" born in 1909 used to very often say; "the good old days? They weren't so good". Maybe things are just rearranged today than from in the past but all the components are still there. Today is going to be someone's "good old days". Maybe if we remembered without rose colored filters over our eyes we could see that the old days-they weren't as good as we remember and that would make today not as bad as we thought. Human beings are human beings and we have a bent for doing what we should not do and not doing as we should do. So I guess we just need to make a choice to make now the best now for others and ourselves.

Tom G. Taylor



On the last page there is a very good read about our church. It may be blurry but try read it. It is very interesting.

PROGRESS OF METHODISM

First Methodist Episcopal Church, of Peckville, Dedicated to God.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH

Crowded Congregations Filled the Beautiful Edifice Yesterday—Speeches Delivered by Many Former Pastors. Brief Resume of Local Work.

Peckville was astir yesterday upon the occasion of the dedication of the newly-erected Methodist Episcopal church, which will replace the old church dedicated July 4, 1868.

That village has reason to be proud of the latest addition to its churches, which is complete in every respect and detail. The external appearance is massive without being pretentious, and internally nothing has been spared to erect "a worthy temple" and to insure the comfort of the worshippers.

A leading feature is the style of the stained-glass windows, each of which has been presented by various friends. The large front window bears the inscription: "Presented by the members of the Junior Epworth League," and represents the Savior blessing little children. Next to it is a beautiful window presented by members of the Masonic bodies. On the right hand side are windows of the same style presented by Pastor and Mrs. F. P. Doty, and is side-by-side with a window given in memorium of Rev. John F. Wilbur, a former pastor of the church. The family of Mrs. Mary A. Mott have also given a window in her memory. She was a faithful and zealous member of the church. Individual members of the Odd Fellows' order presented a window describing the teachings of their orders inscribed with their motto: "Friendship, Love and Truth." The Ladies' Aid society is also represented by their window, which bears their motto: "All Work for the Master is Sweet." J. W. Peck also contributed a beautiful window to the memory of his daughter, the late Miss Lillian Peck.

Work of the Young People.

Great credit is due to the Young People's society, who have borne the great expense of supplying the well-finished oak pews, the electric chandelier, and all the carpeting of the church. The choir is in a neat alcove erected in the corner of the church behind the pulpit and in front of the entire congregation.

former pastor of the church. The family of Mrs. Mary A. Mott have also given a window in her memory. She was a faithful and zealous member of the church. Individual members of the Odd Fellows' order presented a window describing the teachings of their orders inscribed with their motto: "Friendship, Love and Truth." The Ladies' Aid society is also represented by their window, which bears their motto: "All Work for the Master is Sweet." J. W. Peck also contributed a beautiful window to the memory of his daughter, the late Miss Lillian Peck.

Work of the Young People.

Great credit is due to the Young People's society, who have borne the great expense of supplying the well-finished oak pews, the electric chandelier, and all the carpeting of the church. The choir is in a neat alcove erected in the corner of the church behind the pulpit and in front of the entire congregation.

E. A. Barber, the contractor, who contributed the circular window, is warmly congratulated upon the splendid manner in which he has completed the building. So far the total cost is \$6,850, a large portion of which has been paid and the work of organizing a fund and making the necessary arrangements was entrusted to a committee comprising Rev. F. P. Doty, J. D. Peck, J. J. Bell, John English, Henry Chapman and A. A. Thorpe.

The first pastor of the Peckville Methodist church was Rev. David Williams, who has been succeeded by the following ministers: Revs. James O. Woodruff, Ira T. Walker, Edward H. Hynson,

S. F. Wright, Gilbert M. Chamberlain, J. F. Wilbur, Jonas Underwood, W. J. Hill, Francis Gendall, E. P. Elbridge, Richard Horns, J. B. Sweet, W. B. Westlake and the present pastor, Rev. F. P. Doty.

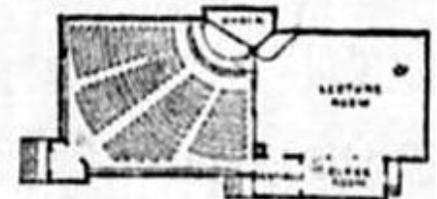
Seven members was the size of the congregation thirty years ago; now the church has over 240 members full of zeal and enthusiasm for the good work in which they are engaged and full of loyalty to the mother church.

Yesterday's services began at 10.30 a. m., when Rev. B. I. Ives, of Auburn, N. Y., preached to a large congregation. At 2 p. m. the following former pastors delivered addresses, brimful of reminiscences of their old associations with the neighborhood: Rev. F. Gendall, of Jermy; Rev. R. Horns, of Scranton, and Rev. W. B. Westlake, of Dallas. Rev. B. I. Ives and Rev. W. L. Thorpe, presiding elder of the Honesdale district, also delivered addresses in which they eulogized the work of the members of the church and warmly advocated the training of the young to contribute to the work.

Church Formally Dedicated.

In the evening Presiding Elder Thorpe preached a powerful sermon, after which he formally dedicated the church to the worship of God.

Special mention should be made of the excellent music provided by the choir under the directorship of George S. Shay, accompanied by the organist, Miss Cora Savage.



FIRST M. E. CHURCH, PECKVILLE.

Dedicated Yesterday by Presiding Elder W. L. Thorpe, of Honesdale District.