

**Peckville and Bradley Memorial United Methodist Charge
EASTER 2013 Newsletter**

From the Pastor's pen

Eccentric British film-maker Alfred Hitchcock is considered one of the great movie directors in the history of American cinematography.

Born Aug 13, 1899 in England, he started, literally, at the bottom, writing subtitles to silent films. And from that inauspicious start, he became a voracious student of film and climbed up through the ranks of ordinary directors. As an extraordinary director, he squeezed every drop out of his actors, patiently.

While he was making the classic film *Notorious* (RKO films 1946) he had a trinity of stars: Cary Grant, Ingrid Bergman, Claude Rains. The velvety-smooth film was an award winner, but, the pressure to succeed was enormous.

One morning the script called for a scene crammed with tangled dialogue. Cary Grant was doing well but Ingrid Bergman wasn't. She was struggling. She was, as seasoned actors say, "Just not there." Hitchcock saw she was straight-jacketed too, but made no comment. But, then, slowly, after some hours, things began to turn around.

Cary Grant said, "I could see Ingrid was coming back. I could see it in her eyes." But just as that was happening Hitchcock yelled, "Cut!" stopping the scene and camera crew.

He immediately lifted his large fram from the director's chair, cigar in hand, and walked to Miss Bergman. Looking her in the face he sighed, in low voice, "Good Morning Ingrid." Interpreted: Hitchcock was saying, "Now let's continue making a first-class film!"

This event encapsulates, at least for me, what Hitchcock was about. He knew what he wanted and he knew how to get the best out of his actors. And as a supreme film technician – he did this with patience.

Listen. Ingrid Bergman wasn't asleep in the sense of sheets, blankets, mattress, pillows, dreams. She was asleep in the sense of being unfocused, preoccupied, far-away, lost. And that kind of asleep can't be argued or shouted away.

Self-awakening takes time. But when sufficiently aroused, Bergman gave an inspired performance. But what kindled her? What brought her around? While the lights, dialogue, stage-crew, and Cary Grant's famous profile helped, Ingrid did it herself. Something inside her hounded, "Ingrid This isn't your best!"

We can, with God's help do the same. If we find ourselves on the eve of Easter 2013, repeatedly misfiring, we can stop that. We can, as the Bible suggests, "arise and wake from stupor." But waking isn't easy. It takes time. Sometimes, like Bergman, we stumble, bumble, and maybe dimwit our way on life's stage. But then we wake-up, as did this remarkable actress—and life is good again. Can this be defined as some manner of minor spiritual resurrection? I Think So. – Rev. Michael Shambora

Lent

As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. The forty days of

Lent recall the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). It is a time of simplicity and preparation.

2013 Ecumenical Lenten Services
Sponsored by the Mid-Valley Ministerium
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
Fellowship after service

March 13 – SS. James and George Episcopal Church, 398 Washington Ave, Jermyn

March 20 – First United Presbyterian Church of Lackawanna Valley, 1557 Main St. Peckville

A word from the Peckville Finance Chairperson

Dear Friends,

Once again we are in the midst of the Lenten season. The churches in the ministerium are conducting joint services every Wednesday. The offerings go to the Mid-Valley Bread Basket to aid the needy. Lent is a time for reflection and renewal, and to remember the journey that Christ made and ended with the crucifixion and His resurrection on Easter Sunday. We have returned upstairs to our sanctuary on March 3rd, after holding worship services downstairs during January and February. It does save a considerable amount of money. Most of us do miss the beauty of our sanctuary and especially the stained glass windows.

Let us always be mindful of the many blessings we have and to be mindful of the needs of others. In the next few months we will be installing a new gas furnace to heat part of our church. We continue to appreciate your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Respectfully yours, Bob Elvidge – Finance Chairperson

Our Lenten Gift to our Church

Please remember we no longer have Lenten calendars or envelopes to cut down on our expenses, but we still need your gift in order to do the work of

the Church. You may put it in your regular weekly envelope and put in the spot that says other Lenten gift, or please feel free to put it in a separate envelope and mark it with your name and Lenten gift to my church. Thank You.

Easter Sunrise Service

We will be holding a joint sunrise service with our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Presbyterian church at 6:30am with breakfast to follow at the Presbyterian church.

Church History: Know Why We Do What We Do

Question: If we Methodist's are a Church descended from The Church of England and the Church of England descended from (broke away) from the Roman Catholic Church then why don't we have weekly Holy Communion like they do? What did John Wesley say about Holy Communion?

Answer: There can be no mistake as to how John Wesley felt about Holy Communion. Here is a quote from the fourth paragraph of the first section of his sermon titled "The Duty of Constant Communion".
"Let everyone, therefore, who has either any desire to please God, or any love of his own soul, obey God, and consult the good of his own soul, by communicating every time he can; like the first Christians, with whom the Christian sacrifice was a constant part of the Lord's day service. And for several centuries they received it almost every day: Four times a week always, and every saint's day beside. Accordingly, those that joined in the prayers of the faithful never failed to partake of the Blessed Sacrament.

So why do most United Methodist Churches only have Holy Communion once per month, or as forty years ago once every three months?

The short answer is the American Revolution. I'll explain. In the years from 1760 leading up to the American Revolution, we were able to receive the sacraments via the Anglican churches to which the Methodists belong since most of the preachers Wesley had in America were lay people. This was fine until tensions grew between Patriots and Loyalists. Since the Head of the Anglican Church – The Church of England was King George and many of Anglican priests went back to England and of those that stayed, they usually refused to administer the sacraments to anyone siding against the Crown. Wesley's sent clergy and ordained many American laymen who were deemed knowledgeable enough be ordained. But the Ordained Methodists were few and far between. You

are probably familiar with the “circuit riding preacher”. Ordained preachers were assigned to a “circuit”. In theory the preacher was charged with completing the circuit in three months. This is when the Liturgy, and the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion would be offered.

Maybe this is why as late as the 1960’s many Methodist churches only had Holy Communion once every quarter even though they may have had ordained pastors appointed for over 100 years prior. It seems like we kept only occasional communion because we thought “we have always done it this way”. Methodist have now moved to monthly or bimonthly communion and in several Scranton area United Methodist churches, communion is offered every week.

In conclusion it seems that we Methodists come from a rich sacramental heritage, one that we have failed to reclaim. This liturgical and sacramental heritage combined with our Protestant primacy of Scripture may be what the United Methodist Church need to distinguish itself from the rest of the Protestant flock and become a growing church again. I guess my next **Know Why We Do What We Do** segment as Peckville’s church historian should be “The roots of the Methodist family tree”. It may not be what you think.

Tom G Taylor Peckville UMC Historian

Lent and Easter

Connecting Worship and Daily Living in Lent By Rev. Daniel Benedict

Lent is a time of preparation for the initiation of people into the Christian life in baptism. It is also a time for the church to journey together toward Easter and the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. Lent is not about being miserable, sad, and funereal in anticipation of Good Friday. The Sundays of Lent are not part of the forty days of Lent and so remain "little Easters," as are all Sundays. Fasting and giving up something can be part of Lenten disciplines, but so can taking on some things. Taken from umc.org

Holy Thursday and Good Friday Services Holy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae service at Peckville UMC , March 28 at 7:00pm.

Good Friday services will be held at the Blakely Baptist church on Friday March 29 from 12:00 noon to 3:00pm and at the Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church at 7:00pm.

GRADUATES

If anyone knows of college or high school students who will be graduating in the spring, please let Rev Mike or Paul Lucas know. Thank You.

EASTER MEMORIALS

Peckville’s Easter Memorials and honoriums should be in by Sunday March 24(Palm Sunday). Gifts and information should be given to the following people.

Memorial Fund – Bill Llewellyn

Organ & Renovation – Sue Lucas or Sue Snyder

Warring-Fendick Scholarship Fund – Sue Lucas or Sue Snyder

Music Fund – Bonny Taylor

Flowers – Bob Elvidge

(To insure your memorial or honoriums will be in the booklet please have them in by March 26. This will be a great help for the secretary. Thank you.)

Please see Bob Elvidge for Easter Flower orders. Price of plants are \$10 each, flowers available are Lilies, Tulips (red, pink, yellow, white) Hyacinths (pink, white, blue). Orders in by March 10.

Here I sit at three thirty on a Saturday morning writing for the church newsletter. Odd things keep me from sleep on any given night. Thoughts of my job in wondering if the work I have signed off on is going well and not causing a problem. Thoughts of the fire department as an officer in these days of reduced volunteerism will enough fire fighters show up if we get a fire tonight. But this morning added to those things is the church and my/our response to the Good News. Am I doing enough to fulfill the mission of the church that I am a member of. The United Methodist Church’s mission is “Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of

the world”, as a member this needs to be my mission.

John Wesley had three simple rules:

1. Do no harm. 2. Do good. 3. Attend upon all of the ordinances of God.

The third rule has been shortened in modern time to read “Stay in love with God”. Wesley’s meaning of the third rule was this.

The public worship of God.

The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded.

The Supper of the Lord (Holy Communion).

Family and private prayer.

Searching the Scriptures.

Fasting or abstinence.

Notice the order of these rules.

First is to “do no harm”. The obvious is meaning don’t kill, maim, or otherwise hurt. Could it also mean no negative thinking about me and others? Do I complain about others? “If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.” (Galatians 5.15)

Second is to “do good”. “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” — Mother Teresa. John Wesley would have loved Mother Teresa. Many small things make a big thing. If you can’t organize a dinner offer to help. If you can sing, sing in the choir, offer to read Scripture. If you can’t witness be kind, smile and say hello. Notice that this rule comes before worship, Scripture study and even ministry. As in many of John Wesley’s themes I don’t think the rules are in order of importance but rather in a logical order. That is if you don’t practice the earlier rule the following rules are empty gestures. That is not to say that if you have done harm in the past not to bother following the other two rules for we are made new in Christ and since we are not perfect some of us need to be made new every single day.

Third is to “Attend upon all of the ordinances of God”, or to “Stay in love with God”. Imagine how we would pursue, the public worship of God, the ministry of the Word, either read or expounded, the Supper of the Lord (Holy Communion), family and private prayer, searching the Scriptures, fasting or abstinence, if we followed the first two rules. We would be a congregation led and fed by the Holy Spirit.

Here is something to think about. If our local church were to close its doors and dissolve would it be missed by anyone other than those who attend? If not then are we fulfilling our local church mission statement of: “To Glorify God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nurturing disciples, and reaching out to a world in need”?

Tom Taylor – Associate Lay Leader/Peckville

Choir Brooms

Spring is just around the corner. The Peckville UMC Choir has brooms available for \$12.00. Please support your choir.

In One of our Bible Studies there was a story about a church whose mission statement was: “Our Church is a Christ centered servant church where every member has a ministry.”

A young girl read it and asked her father how many members belonged to their church. He said probably 7,500 members. The young girl said that the mission statement means that we have 7,500 ministers!

That is also true of a small church like ours. We should all see ourselves as servants. There is a ministry here for everyone. To survive our church needs each of us to find our “ministry” as a servant of God. There are all kinds of jobs to be done. As the writer, James W. Moore says, most of the jobs require only willing hearts and willing hands. We want the Spirit of Christ to be alive in our church and community as long as someone else does the job.

There is much to be done within and outside the walls of our church. Have you found your “ministry” yet? If not, pray about it, but be ready to follow where God leads you!

Bonny Taylor

“The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve”
Dr Albert Schweitzer

Looking ahead:

Although it is almost a year away, Mark your calendars now for our annual Sky Lake retreat. Dates for 2014 are January 31 through February 2.

Calendar of events

**Bible study, Tuesday evenings at Peckville UMC,
7:00p.m. All are invited.**

Peckville Choir meets on Thursday's at 6:45p.m.

All are invited.

3/7,8,9 – Welsh cookies made at Bradley Memorial

3/11 – cookies made at Peckville UMC

**3/28 – Holy Thursday service, 7:00pm Peckville
UMC**

**3/29 – Good Friday services at Blakely Baptist
church 12:00 noon until 3:00pm**

**3/29 – Good Friday service at Bradley Memorial at
7:00pm**

**Because the hospitals no longer call a pastor
because it interferes with the patient's right to
privacy, the pastor asks that the family of anyone in
the hospital please call her. It will be the only way
she will know. Thank You.**

**Rev Shambora can be reached
any time at 371-8123.**

**You may reach the charge secretary (Beth Taylor)
at 383-2119, edt1157@yahoo.com**

**The Peckville United Methodist Church is
now on the World Wide Web at
www.peckvilleumc.org and Facebook.**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,

The lamb upon his throne.

*Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music
but its own.*

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,

*And hail him as thy matchless King through all
eternity.*

**The mission statement of the
Peckville and Bradley Memorial Churches:
To Glorify God by sharing
The Gospel of Jesus Christ,
Nurturing disciples,
And reaching out to a world in need.**