

# The Old Apple Tree



Volume 22, Issue 3

East Ohio Conference Retirees Association

Winter 2017

## A Season of Repentance and Self-Examination

By James E. Magaw, Sr.

### I. Ash Wednesday, Imposition of Ashes

You are *dust . . . . To dust you shall return.*

I am dust but I am not worthless.

I shall return to dust but I am not hopeless.

*Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.*

I am a sinner saved by grace, neither more nor less.

I shall, with God's help, be faithful to the Gospel.

### II. A Lenten Alleluia

We speak of unconditional love as if it were an easy thing.

We judge and prejudge and slam doors.

These are days to look within, if we will; days to look, fearfully, yet courageously.

In that inside place lie cold and darkness, with possibilities of goodness and joy.

There is unconditional love, *agape* love, God's undeserved love, poured over us, into us, around us, never-to-leave us.

Even in Lent we cry, "Alleluia!"\*

*\* The Lenten season is spread over a 46 day period of time, but is a season of only 40 days. We don't count Sundays. They are "Little Easters."*

## A Batch of 'Resurrection Rolls'

For the coffee time following the sunrise service at the Dover (DE) United Methodist Church, one creative church lady brought in a batch of her "Resurrection Rolls" she had baked.

Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft asked her why she called them "Resurrection Rolls," and she simply told him to take a bite and find out.

The roll was an ordinary-looking pastry baked to a golden-brown, with no topping or frosting.

When Rev. Kraft bit into the roll, he discovered that the center was completely empty. "I get it," he said. "It represents Jesus' empty tomb, right?"

She said he was correct, but there was more. She then explained that the recipe begins with

taking a marshmallow and rolling it in sugar and cinnamon. This represents the process that was done to prepare a body for burial in biblical times.

The marshmallow is then wrapped in dough, which represents the cloth in which Jesus' body was wrapped prior to being placed in the tomb. When the rolls are baked, she explained, they are "essentially placed in the tomb." During the baking process, the marshmallow disappears into the dough, leaving the empty space in the center of the finished roll — a reminder of Jesus leaving the tomb empty on Easter morning.

*from Joyful Noiseletter, Vol. 32 #2  
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## Editor Email Address Change

Please note that *The Old Apple Tree* editor's email address is changed to [afisher1023@att.net](mailto:afisher1023@att.net). If her email address is in your email address book, please update your address book.

# CONNECTIONS

We tell each other our hobbies, new ventures, and various ways of serving Christ within and beyond “appointment” ministries. We may be retired, but we are still alive in Christ and active in the church and in the world. We also ask for prayer in the challenges of elder years.

## Copeland Oaks Cluster

by Sandy & John McLachlan

Again, we say good-bye to old friends who were here at Copeland. **Jim Herbst** left us on October 14 and **Alice Dumm** on October 30. Both had lived here for many years and leave behind fond memories.

**Jane Beck** writes: “Christmas at Copeland Oaks is always a special time with all the wonderful decorations everywhere, inside and outside on our campus. We also have various musical programs including our own Chorale made up of about 50 folks. I enjoy being a part of it. We performed our Christmas program four times! My family were all here, some for a day or two, and two families were here for five days. It was a great time!”

**Paul Whipple** will be celebrating his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17. He is

flying to New York City for four days to celebrate with his daughter **Patti** and her husband, **Paul**, and he expects to take in some Broadway shows while he is there. He is especially pleased because he was able to use his points from his VISA card to pay for the air fare, and still have some points left over!

## Lakeside/Otterbein/ Firelands Cluster

By Clarke & Pat Hogue

**Barbara Stevens-Rich** had an incredible January week in the Canadian Rockies (Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise) where she got to snow shoe, ride a dog sled, cross-country ski a little, have a horse drawn sleigh ride, and see all in the incredible mountain scenery of the Rockies. It was all simply wonderful – she felt so lucky to be there. She is staying put at home for the month of February but then will be embarking on a major trip to New Zealand with a few days extension in Sydney, Australia. She is looking forward to that adventure.

**Gary Olin and Sally Nelson-Olin** are having an active winter even as they stay close at home in Kendal at Oberlin. Gary is enjoying being a part of a community choir, the Musical Union of Oberlin, made up of community people and students from Oberlin College and Conservatory. Sally is active in the Kendal at Oberlin Residents Association where she is secretary. She is also a “go to” person for Kendal friends who have

Apple computer challenges. They celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November while they were visiting family in Massachusetts for Thanksgiving.

**Bill and Marty McFadden** enjoyed an Educational Opportunities Caribbean Cruise from Fort Lauderdale with stops at Grand Cayman, Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica and Cozumel. (Also see Dan Drew’s news in “We Get Mail” on page 5). Bill is currently trying to arrange a series of parties to celebrate Africa University’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding – let him know if you would like to attend one.

**Bruce and Dawn Kent** decided to stay in Port Clinton for the winter since the forecasts were calling for mild weather. They are enjoying sitting in the pews again like the “good old days.” Both feel pretty good, all things considered. God has given them good health, and the UMC has provided them with a wonderful retirement. They are looking forward to some trips in the spring and summer. Bruce’s family is planning a reunion later in the year. His brother and sister are not doing well and would like to get everyone together again. Dawn’s brother and sister-in-law have retired to Costa Rica. They will be home this spring, so Dawn and Bruce hope to be able to go see them.

**Clarke and Pat Hogue** have seen the inside of too many emergency rooms since the end of November – twice for his 93-year-old mother and once for each of them

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff and Bil Keane



“...and just so you know, I had a very good day today, so I’d like more of the same tomorrow.”

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

related to “falling!” Thankfully, brain scans for all three of them have proven negative. Clarke continues to be active in tutoring, overseeing Chess Club, and attending most basketball games at his alma mater near Wakeman, as well as working with children and youth at Collins UMC. Pat has added some extra caregiving to her busy schedule besides multiple activities at Collins and Henrietta UM Churches, and serving on the Firelands District Superintendent's Committee.

### Canal/Akron Cluster

by Martha Baillis

In October, **Jim** and **Mary Wolf** came to our meeting full of tales about their American Rail Tour that started in Chicago, went to Minneapolis, then took a cruise ship down the Mississippi River to St. Louis where they took a train back to Chicago. Because of high water the boat couldn't get under the bridges so the tour was shortened. Back home they replaced one basement wall and their cement driveway. Now Jim and Mary have settled into winter schedules after the past months of family bonding during holiday gatherings which included only a 27-hour movie marathon this year. Now they're back to walking the track at the Natatorium, participating in a weekly Bible study group, and, of course, going to doctor appointments. Soon it will be time to plant and grow early spring seeds under basement lights. The Wolfs hold you up in prayer and ask that God's love surround you. You are awesome treasures.

**Anne Fisher** and her sister, **Lisa**, instead of a four day trip around northeast Ohio (maybe next year), went on a few one-day trips in Ohio. Historic Roscoe Village was delightful with a wonderful tour and guide. The farmers

market at Howe Meadows was new to Anne, and the afternoon drive to Chagrin Falls landed them at the square during the October Fest – scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin painting, and a tuba concert by a 5 or 6 piece tuba band. A few months earlier, Anne drove to Connecticut for a visit with her brother and his family. A good trip with good (reconciling) brother-sister talks.

As all retirees know or soon learn, there comes the time for downsizing. **Paul** and **Linda Beal** now live in a first-floor apartment in Highland Square in Akron. They enjoy the easy access and just the right amount of space in their apartment. They are hunkered down in their apartment for the winter – no Florida this year; but they are looking forward to a trip to Milwaukee in April to see 13-year-old granddaughter, **Ryan**, play Mrs. Potts in “Beauty and the Beast.”

This past summer, **Phil** and **Allyson Raynes** built a deck behind their home next to the sunroom. Now **Phil** has finally started work on his train layout after remodeling the basement last winter. He also took multiple trips to Hampton, TN, to work on a Christian camp, which has a railroad that he has been helping to rebuild. He says you can see photos in his Facebook albums.

**Martha Baillis** made two more trips to daughter **Ellen's** home in Illinois for the holidays. Son, **Andrew**, was the driver when she and his family went for Thanksgiving. There was lots of turkey, shopping on Black Friday, and a fun trip to Santa Claus, IN, on Saturday to see the lights, visit Santa and have a “frozen hot chocolate.” On Christmas Day, Martha celebrated with Andrew's family and then left on the day after to go and celebrate with Ellen's family staying through

New Year's Day. She counted the trips to Ellen's last year – six in all. That's a lot of travel to southeastern Illinois.

**Stan** and **Carol Wallace** wrote: Christmas was different this year. Since moving to Cincinnati, daughter **Beth** and her family came up to Grandma and Grandpa's house for her birthday (Christmas Eve) and Christmas Day. Then Stan and Carol left the next day for Seattle to celebrate with their son, fiancé and 9-year-old twins. The highlight of the week was a stage play of “The Little Mermaid.” The week also included planning for son and fiancé's wedding on San Juan Island on April 1 (no joke). Stan started a beard the day after Thanksgiving, but it came off on New Year's Eve.

### Mahoning Valley Cluster

By Ken Kubichek

Present for the December gathering of the Mahoning Valley retirees were **Donna** and **Karl Bucey**, **Tom** and **Jean McFarren**, **George Lee**, **David Hill** and **Ken Kubichek**. David Hill reviewed a

### The Old Apple Tree

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**Spring issue deadline: April 15**  
Summer issue deadline: July 15

book by Mitch Albom entitled *Have a Little Faith*. It was about Albom being asked to offer the eulogy of a rabbi who had been 60

years at one synagogue and about a drug addict/ex-con who was saved and then founded a shelter in Detroit.

## Three Rivers Cluster

by Martha Stuller

Our Three Rivers retirees group was hosted by **Dick and Alice Hoover** at the Roscoe UMC in December. Dick presented one of his programs, "Traditions of Christmas." He displayed many Christmas cards, small Christmas trees and various ornaments, giving us a history of many Christmas traditions from the past. We skipped meeting for lunch in January, and plan to meet at Southside Diner in Mt. Vernon in the month of February.

We are sorry to report the death of **Trudy Bush** in December, wife of **Elliot Bush** who lives in Upper Arlington. They joined our group whenever they could.

### Bloopers that gnash the teeth

A religion major student at a college submitted a paper with this observation: "Jesus' body was taken from the cross by Joseph of Aromatherapy."

—via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft  
Dover, DE

from *Joyful Noiseletter*, Vol. 31, #2  
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## Senior version of kid's hymn

**L**owell Yoder of Holland, OH, passed on this senior version of the children's hymn "Jesus Loves Me."

*Jesus loves me, this I know  
Though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.*

*(Chorus)*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.*

*Though my steps are oh so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go.  
On through life let come what  
may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.*

*(Chorus)*

*Though I am no longer young,  
I have much which He's begun.  
Let me serve Christ with a smile,  
Go with others the extra mile.*

*(Chorus)*

*When the nights are dark and  
long,  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."*

*(Chorus)*

*When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.*

*(Chorus)*

*I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.*

*(Chorus)*

*Yes, I love Jesus,  
Yes, I love Jesus,  
Yes, I love Jesus,  
I tell Him when I pray.*

From *Joyful Noiseletter*, Vol. 31, #1  
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**Chuck Ready** was not present in order to get his knee checked, because it had previously gone out from under him. During our meeting, **Joanie** texted us that Chuck did not need knee surgery.

**George Lee** also shared about a difficult church move he once made and how it nevertheless turned out quite well.

The group decided to skip meeting in January. Our next gathering will be for lunch at noon at Perkins in Austintown on Feb. 22. Just a side note, Perkins nationwide offers a free grand slam on the date of your birthday; simply show proof of the date to receive the free meal.

"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget for one moment the joy of Christ risen."

Mother Teresa

from *Joyful Noiseletter*, Vol. 31, #2  
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## The Old Apple Tree needs an editor starting January 2018

**Anne Fisher**, the current editor, will be completing her fifth year as editor at the end of 2017. In December, she wrote to the President of the East Ohio Conference Retirees Association (EOCRA), John Wolfe, that "... my heart just isn't in the work of being the editor."

It is Anne's opinion that the editor should be someone who is meticulous about detail. It would also be valuable, she thinks, to find someone who has the heart of a pastor who connects with the retirees. "I'm pretty good at taking care of the details," Anne said, "but I really haven't made an effort to connect with the retirees." Anne will do what she can to help orient the new editor. In order to assure a quality publication, the editor submits a Microsoft Office Publisher file to the Area Center Communications office for proofreading. Errors are then corrected for the final version.

Persons who are interested in serving as the editor should contact an EOCRA board member and/or the board president, **John Wolfe**, 8384 Nichols Rd., Windham, OH 44288, [johnwolfe49@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwolfe49@yahoo.com), (330)-527-7179. The retirees association board of directors will make the final decision about the next editor.

## Tuscarawas Cluster

by Melvin & Louise Lindberg

Reported in December: **Carl Beighley** was preparing to move to Michigan .

**Wesleyan Village Senior Living/Elyria, Canal/Wooster, Mid-Ohio, North Coast, Southern Hills/Caldwell and Western Reserve Clusters**

No news.



**Allan Colgan:** After reading of all the travels of friends in the recent edition of *The Old Apple Tree*, I would like to say that my RV has been getting a workout these last two years. In 2015, I traveled for twelve weeks in it, with six of those weeks to Colorado, New Mexico, and Kansas, including a week at a horse ranch near Livermore, CO. That was an experience that I still cherish and would like to do it again.

In 2016, I traveled another twelve weeks over the course of the spring and summer to include a two week trip to the Hudson River Valley in New York to see the sights and to attend the wedding of my son, **Christian**, to **Ashley**, and see my two grandkids.

Then it was a week to that state up north to visit a town that first attracted my attention when I read an article in the paper that said it froze over. Yes, Hell, MI, was the town, but it is really only three buildings, and I almost missed it. Then it was off for a six week trip to see the Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, NM, for ten days with

sightseeing to places like White Sands, NM, and Carlsbad Caverns, and then a trip across Texas to finally arrive at home.

In February, I will be going to spend two weeks with a group of friends at Mardi Gras in New Orleans, but the whole trip will be a total of six weeks. Then, for the rest of the year it will be mostly camping with my camping group of Good Sams, of which I am the VP of our chapter. We do a lot of camping every month all over the state of Ohio.

God has blessed me with good health so that allows me to travel and see our beautiful country up close and personal.

Allan Colgan, 2200 Waldorf Road, Columbus, OH 43229, 614-478-0647 [ompy1944@usa.net](mailto:ompy1944@usa.net)

From Dan Drew and Educational Opportunities: In January, ten retirees from East Ohio Conference enjoyed a wonderful Educational Opportunities Cruise in the western Caribbean. Taking part in this fellowship were **Dan and Debbie Drew, Gary and Peggy Streiff, Larry and Cheryl Morrison, Clark and Linda Kandel, Bill and Marty McFadden.** The group was also joined by our newly retired **Bishop John and Elaine Hopkins.** Dan writes, "it was so good to be in the warm sunshine,

see the vastness of the sea, photograph flowers blooming in January, and witness the greatness of God's creation." The retirees traveled with 273 in the Educational Opportunities group, many of whom are from the greater United Methodist family. They enjoyed inspirational speakers **Becca Stevens**, founder of Thistle Farms, and author **Jim Hamish**, both of whom are clergy. Worship was led by **Bishop Robert Fannin** and singing was led by award-winning song writer **Marcus Hummon.**

**Bill and Peggy Pierce:** As of March, Peggy and I have moved to Phoenix to be closer to our son and grandson. When we moved to Cottonwood, AZ, in May of 2014, we thought it would be our forever retirement home. Fortunately, our son **Shawn** adopted **Alex**, our new grandson, a month after we moved from Rocky River to Cottonwood. This changed everything and we are now only eleven miles from them with a grandson magnet in our backyard – a pool! We will certainly miss the beautiful mountains that surrounded us in the Cottonwood/Sedona area, but family comes first. Our new address is 3925 East Tierra Buena Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85032. We send our warmest greetings to everyone there.



Allan Colgan's RV at the Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, NM

# The Old Apple Tree

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Andy Rooney's words

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"I've learned that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with."

"I've learned that love, not time, heals all wounds."

"I've learned that when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere."

**"I've learned that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks."**

"I've learned that being kind is more important than being right."

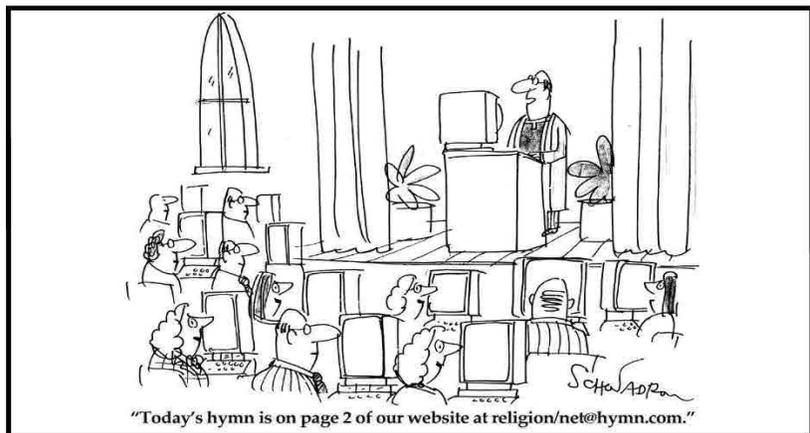
*"I've learned that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person."*

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill and Jeff Keane



"...gonna find out who's naughty and nice - the Easter Bunny's comin' to town..."

from *Joyful Noiseletter* Vol. 32, #2  
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"Today's hymn is on page 2 of our website at [religion.net/hymn.com](http://religion.net/hymn.com)."

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