



Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past.
-Henry Ward Beecher

Take Out Dinner

Thursday, January 3rd

(and every 1st Thursday of the Month)

from 4 - 6 PM (or until Sold Out!)



**Baked Stuffed
Chicken Breast,
Mashed Potatoes
and Green Beans**
Cost is \$6.00

Take advantage of the drive-thru service. Just drive to the front of the church and someone will hand you an already prepared dinner, no need to pre-order or get out of your car!

**H A P P Y
BIRTHDAY TO
JEFF WALTON
WHO TURNS
100 YEARS
O L D O N
JANUARY 4TH!**



God's Grace

I pray that the holiday season was a delight for you. For many of us, the tables were bulging with food, and now it is our waistlines that are bulging. We are looking back at the year 2007, and the blessings that we have been given, as well as the hurts and heartaches we have endured. For us, this has been a year of change. It has been a time of leaving and coming. It has been a time of painful good-byes and caring, friendly hellos. Poland Church has made us feel at home. It is hard to believe that six months have gone by, and though I am still learning your names, I know that God has brought us to serve you, and we have been touched by your many acts of kindness.

January is always a time of new beginnings and fresh starts of new hope and promise. January is a time of focusing or recharging our energies. What will be your focus be throughout the next year? It is a time of searching our priorities and reordering those. What are you going to center your life around? It is a time of resolving to be different, to not stay in the same old ruts, or to change some pattern or style of living. What will be your New Year's Resolution?

For me, I am constantly learning about grace. I have been reading about it and I have had the privilege to have others live it before me. Some people have defined it as:

God's
Redemption
At
Christ's
Expense

It is getting something great, when you deserve something awful. It is like getting a hug when you deserve a spanking. In God's case, when we deserved death because of our sins, Jesus died on the cross for us to give us life. What an amazing God we serve.

I have struggled for years with how to receive grace. Sometimes I think of the cross and I feel so guilty. I feel overwhelmed by my unworthiness to receive such a gift, but lately the amazing part has been hitting me. I am unworthy and yet God has given redemption. Instead of guilt, I should give God my heart and praise. I have so much to learn.

Sometimes I have difficulty accepting the acts of love and grace from others. I never am really sure what to say or how to respond. Several years ago I went on an Emmaus Walk that taught me a lesson in grace. We talked about grace, but mostly they showed it. Time and time again, these people, who didn't know you from Adam, showed you unconditional love and acceptance. They were the hands and feet of Christ. Grace with skin on. At first it was awkward, then overwhelming, then life changing. I continue to be amazed by the grace of God. I have so much to learn, and I am so thankful that I serve such a wonderful teacher, who is Jesus Christ.

I hope to know and share the grace of God more fully with you in 2008. As time goes on I believe more and more that the amazing grace of God is what makes Christianity so special and what truly draws people to it. It is not rules, and rituals, it is unconditional love. When people see it lived out and shared, they want it and they want the source of all grace which is Christ. I pray that together we can reach out to a hurting world with the amazing grace of Christ, and that we will make a difference in our little corner of Ohio. I thank God for you all and pray that God grants you your heart's desire for 2008 and always.

Rev. Mike



Thank you to everyone who participated this year in the Salvation Army bell ringing campaign at Walgreens in Poland.

We had a great turnout. Here is the list of volunteers and ringers:

Beth Alexoff, Fred Andrews, Anne Beck, Dave Beck, Sheri Berlin, Jo Carter, Clydine Dickey, Robalee Dinopoulos, Jim Dinopoulos, Holly Grant, Mike Grant, Olga Hatmaker, A.J. Herdman, Bruce Kalmer, Debbie Long, Tom Long, Claude Meeker (twice), Debbie Melvin, Vern Ostovich, Jim Patterson, Jim Pearce, Blaise Prentiss, JoEllen Primavere, Spencer Reed, Harriet Reed, Katie Rubesa, JoAnn Russo, Kayleigh Sciulli, Pamm Shipsky, Tristan Ula, Brad Wagner, Tammy Wagner, and Weston Wagner.

Thanks for the great job. Hear you next year.

Bob Long

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, and are looking forward to a new year. In



December the Youth wrapped gifts for the Congregation, thank you to all the youth who participated. Your variety of interesting ways to wrap was definitely entertaining! Also the Youth had an Overnighter. We did a video scavenger hunt and then spent the rest of the evening playing games at the Church. Thank you to those folks who let us borrow cameras and helped drive.

In January the Youth will be participating in the District Sleepover at the Youngstown YMCA on Friday, the 11th. The event will begin at our Church at 9pm, and our Youth Praise Team, Eves of Eden, will be leading worship.

On Tuesday, the 22nd, we will have our first Vacation Bible School planning meeting at 7pm. We are going to create our own unique VBS this year. In order to make it as great as it can be, we are starting early. We want as much input as possible, so even if you have never been involved in VBS before, you are more than welcome to come and get involved.

Also beginning February 3rd, we will have a 12-week Adult Sunday School led by Rayna Antol on "The Power of a Praying Woman." This will be an awesome study, and I strongly encourage all the women in the Church to consider being involved.

Pamm

KIDS KLUB NEWS

Thanks to everyone for supporting our annual Spaghetti Dinner; we had about a \$300 profit. We want to thank everyone who made it a success.

Winter session of Kids Klub will begin January 9th with Backwards Night. If you would like to sign your children up, we would love to have them. If they are a little unsure, you are invited to join us for an evening to see what it's all about. Opening session begins at 4:30PM, and we dismiss at closing at 6:50 PM. And remember, if your child wants to be in the children's choirs, they are to come at 5:10 PM for practice on Wednesday night. They do not have to be a part of Kids Klub to be involved in choir.



Any adults interested in lending a helping hand, please let us know. We are always in need of a little help in the dining room or in crafts, etc., or even just someone to help with bathroom trips

during choir and dinner. You do not have to have children involved in Kids Klub to be a part of this ministry and you can also pick & choose the nights you want to participate. This is an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the children of our church. The children are always under adult supervision and are mostly in small groups, so it's not as hectic as you may think. We can give you more details if you are interested.

Exciting news is that we have new Bible curriculum from Group Publishers, and we really think the children will enjoy it. It's very kid friendly and it's called "Living Inside Out." It encourages the kids how to live their faith 24/7...they live what they learn. We think the kids will be very excited!

Kids Klub is now in it's 16th year, and we thank everyone for their time and their support.

God Bless,
Kitty and Jen



Holly and I would like to thank our church family for the many gracious gifts, cards, and well wishes during the Christmas season. It has meant a lot to us

that so many of you have reached out to make us feel welcome and touched us in so many special ways. Blessings.

Rev. Mike and Holly Grant

Dear Abigail Circle,
Thank you so much for the goodie box! I loved it! That was very nice and thoughtful of you all.
Thanks again!

Love Sarah Grabert

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia and bag of gifts from the United Methodist Women's group. I understand the bag was beautifully decorated by Kathleen Montgomery.
We are so thankful to be home this Christmas and thank our church family for your many prayers this year for Alan's recovery. Merry Christmas!

Alan and June Deeley



Henry and I would like to thank Pastor Mike and Pastor Dan for their prayers and visits while I was in the hospital and after I came home. Thanks to the women of our church for the delicious dinner, flowers, homemade noodles by Aggie Blake that were brought to our home by Peg Shirey. Thanks to all who sent "get well" cards and all of their prayers. What a wonderful church!

Henry and Janet Pusser

Thanks to my church family for coming to my surprise 80th party. My children and their families with God's help have been a blessing. I thank Him every day for His grace in my growing up in the church.

Jean Booher

Just a note: It has become necessary here at PUMC to initiate the usage of purchase orders for anything purchased for the church (usage of church funds) over \$200.00. Purchase orders are available in the church office.

UMW NEWS

Our 2008 United Methodist Women reading books are ready for your reading!

Education for Mission - **Ministers, Mothers and Muslims** - understanding other cultures.

Nurturing for Community - **Who's Raising Your Child** - a good book for the families with children.

Social Action- **What's Wrong With The Christian Right?** - a well researched examination of how those we call Christians Right have hijacked the word Christian and used it to try to make America in their own image.

Spiritual Growth - **And We Changed**- profiles the dynamic changes that occur when someone meets Jesus face to face.

Letters to Young Doubters - by William Sloan Coffin - for anyone who has ever entertained doubt.

Staff Parish Relations Committee News

Pastor Dan Yargo has recently accepted an appointment from the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church to be a local pastor of Hubbard United Methodist Church beginning January 1st. He will continue to be the local pastor of Marion Heights United Methodist Church as well. Dan has been with us for approximately 11 years and we will miss him, but we wish him well as he leaves PUMC and moves on to the next phase of his life. Please send him off warmly and pray for him and his family during this transition time.

We will be seeking to hire a part-time visitation pastor in 2008. Please pray for our church and Pastor Mike Grant and Youth Pastor Pamm Shipsky as they will have an increased work load until we can hire a visitation pastor. Please be considerate and patient during this time period if we are not able to visit members as frequently as we were able to visit previously.

Below you will see the profits, expenses and such concerning the Take Out Dinners from April to December. The Net Profit goes directly to our Missions Apportionment.

	Gross Profit	Expenses	Retainage	Net Profit
April	932.00	135.16	250.00	546.84
May				
June	1308.00	235.70	-----	1072.30
July	1256.00	45.90	-----	1210.10
Aug	1271.00	446.08	174.92	650.00
Sep	1657.00	350.87	-----	1306.13
Oct	1976.00	484.64	-----	1491.36
Nov	Turkey Dinner Month!			
Dec	1678.00	545.66	-----	1132.34
Totals	10078.00	2244.01	424.92	7409.07

Pastor Dan's Update

As I put these words to paper, the thoughts I have to share are far more than I can ever express. As the ministry that I have shared for over eleven years at Poland UMC comes to a close, there is a wave of emotion that ebbs and flows from sorrow to joy. Though this is not the manner that I would have chosen to leave the church, I am extremely grateful to this congregation for the love and support that you have shown to me and my family for the past eleven plus years. It is supposed to be the role of a minister to bring comfort, hope and encouragement to those under his leadership. What I have found in my years at Poland UMC is that our church family here has provided these things to me and my family in ways that we could have never imagined. We have encountered some of the most generous and caring people a family could ever ask for.

My memories of my seven years in youth ministry are fond beyond belief. The numerous JAM Sessions, overnighters, concerts, rallies and mission trips may have left me exhausted at the time, but now the memories of them provide me great joy and satisfaction. None of these memories would be possible if it were not for the dedicated volunteers, cooks, parents and young people that stood side by side with me in ministry. I dare not attempt to say thank you to everyone that has shared in this ministry with me, for there have been so many and I would

feel terrible if any were left unmentioned. Just know that for all who have been my partners in ministry that all of your efforts have been tremendously appreciated. You will forever remain in my thoughts and prayers.

To the young people who I have been blessed to know in my ministry here. Thank you for allowing me to see the fruit of the ministry I have engaged in. Of all the things I have been a part of at PUMC, the aspect of ministry that gives me the greatest satisfaction is the witness of the young people who have come through this ministry and are now living so strongly for the Lord. For the many that I know have come to personal faith in Jesus Christ through my ministry, I stand in humble adoration to God. I have always called you my kids and you will always have that place in my heart. Thank you for allowing me to know that the future of God's church is bright because of your devotion and commitment to Christ.

To those whom I have been in ministry to over these past four years as a Visitation Pastor, I thank you for the inspiration you have been to me. Standing by your side when ill, grieving and suffering through the pain of loved ones has been a challenge at times, but I have witnessed such tremendous faith and love in your lives that God has blessed me beyond measure through you. You have shown me the secrets of a long and happy marriage and the meaning of the words "for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part". Thank you for inspiring me and allowing me to be used by God in your times of need. You have made me a better person and minister.

Most of the staff that I have worked with has come and gone, but I appreciate the wonderful people I have worked with over the years and now. I have learned much from the pastors I have served under and have been blessed to work with so many gifted and diligent co-workers. May God continue to use you in wonderful ways. Pastor Mike and this staff will continue to be in our prayers.

Michael W. Smith recorded a song entitled "Friends". Some of the lyrics tell us "A friend's a friend forever if the Lord is the Lord of them". Please know that we will always feel that way about our friends at PUMC. I pray that we will be reunited soon, for Hubbard and Campbell are not too far away. Please stay in touch. We look forward to many more years of friendship. But, if our paths should never cross again in this life, please know that I look forward to seeing you on the day that we are our together with our Savior in eternity.

With Much Love,

Pastor Dan and the Yargo Family

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

1 Thessalonians 1:3

Poland UMC Leadership 2008

Church Council

Chairperson	Bob Long
Vice Chairperson	Howdy Friend
Secretary	
Administrative	
Enrichment Chairperson	Randy Alexoff
Finance Chairpersons	Chris Grabert, Tom Duncan
Trustee Chairperson	
Staff Parish Chairperson	Blaise Prentiss
Ministries	
Worship Committee Chairperson	Bev Kalmer
Child Care Board Representative	Tricia Romeo
Education Team Representative	
Evangelism Team Chairperson	Budd Barger
Mission Team Chairperson	Nick Peluso
UMW President	Anne Beck
Youth Ministry Representative	
Caring Ministry Representative	Ruth Metzger
Leadership	
Lay Leader	Alan Deeley (08), Blaise Prentiss (09)
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Robalee Dinopoulos
Senior Pastor	Michael Grant
Assistant Pastor	Dan Yargo
Youth and Christian Ed Director	Pamm Shipsky
Church Treasurer	Joy Ionese
At Large	
Class of 2008	Bob Ferrara
Class of 2009	Jerry Sandrock
Class of 2010	Janet Conrad

Enrichment

Chairperson	Randy Alexoff (2008)
Class of 2008 (2)	Randy Alexoff, Charlie Lasky, Karen Visingardi
Class of 2009 (2)	Steve Grabert, Larry Klimas
Class of 2010 (2)	Ray Gotthardt Jr., Bob Budinsky

Ministry Areas Child Care Board (6)

Education Representative	
Trustee Representative	
Church Council Representative	Tricia Romeo
<i>At large Members (3)</i>	
Class of 2008	Lisa Miller
Class of 2009	Sarah Long
Class of 2010	Eileen Grope
Senior Pastor- (ex-officio w/ out a vote)	
Michael Grant	

Education Team

Team Leader (<i>Chairperson</i>)	
Campus Ministries	Debbie Long
Camping Coordinator	Kitty Matteson
Children's Sermons	Debbie Long
VBS Coordinator	
Kid's Klub Coordinator	Jen Bowman
Adult Studies	Bev Kalmer
Sunday School, Jr. Church, Nursery	
Sandi Horvath	
Planning Team (<i>At Large</i>) (6)	
Class of 2008	Kayla Matteson, Patti Prentiss
Class of 2009	Kelsey Matteson, Tammy Wagner
Class of 2010	Holly Grant, Sandy Horvath

Evangelism Team

Team Leader (<i>Chairperson</i>)	
Budd Barger	
Planning Team (6)	
Class of 2008	Patti Prentiss, Pat Ventling
Class of 2009	Rick Horvath, Jen Bowman
Class of 2010	Bud Barger, Joyce Patterson

Funeral Dinner Committee (2)

Earline Gotthardt, & Peg Moore

Helping Hand Coordinator (1)

Shirley Gartner

Missions Team

Team Leader (<i>Chairperson</i>)	
Nick Peluso (2010)	
Interfaith Food Pantry	Shirley Gartner
Planning Team (6)	
Class of 2008	Jan Sharp, Britt Bowman
Class of 2009	Pat Ventling, Irene Slosser
Class of 2010	Nick Peluso, Debbie Lasky

Worship Team

Team Leader (Chairperson)	Bev Kalmer
Working Teams	
Altar Guild Representatives (2)	
	JoEllen Primavera, Joann Russo
Communion Stewards (2)	
Acolyte Team (1)	Janice Grich
Head Ushers – Praise /Traditional-	
	Marty Matteson,
Greeter Leader (1)	Bob Ferrara
Planning Team	
Senior Pastor	Michael Grant
Youth and Christian Education	Pamm Shipsky
Lay Leader	Alan Deeley, Blaise Prentiss
Praise Team Leader	Pam Gretsinger
Choir Director	Debbie Melvin
Organist	Chuck Szabo
Sound/Video Coordinator	Britt Bowman

Youth Ministry Team

Team Leader	
Working Teams	
Fundraising	Eileen Grope
Service	Jocelyn Buxman
Youth Group Activities	Marty Malenic
Outreach	Alexis Penrose
Youth Representatives	
Senior High Male& Female	Katie Lasky
Junior High Male& Female	Jeff Grope, Erika Prater

Finance

Chairpersons	Chris Grabert, Tom Duncan
Senior Pastor	Michael Grant
Lay Member To Annual Conference	Robalee Dinopoulos
Chairperson of the Church Council	Bob Long
SPRC Chairperson or representative	
Trustee Representative	
Lay Leader	Alan Deeley, Blaise Prentiss
Financial Secretary (Ex-officio w/out vote)	Ethel Richards
Treasurer (Ex-officio w/out vote)	Joy Ionese
Enrichment Chair	Randy Alexoff
At-Large Members (6)	

Class of 2008	Jim Hale, Tom Duncan
Class of 2009	Jim Patterson, Chris Grabert
Class of 2010	John Tullio, Denny Hawk

Memorials (3)

Chairperson	Bob Long
At Large Members (2)	Tom Duncan, Robalee Dinopoulos

Staff Parish Relations (9)

Cannot be re-elected to a second term

Chairperson	Blaise Prentiss (09)
Lay Member to Annual Conference	N/A
Lay Leader	Blaise Prentiss (09), Alan Deeley (08)
At Large Members (6)	
Class of 2008	Karen Wilson, Jim Dinopoulos
Class of 2009	Bob Kerr, Charlie Lasky
Class of 2010	Marty Matteson, Dave Wagner

Trustees

Chairperson	
Vice Chairperson	
Secretary	
At Large Members (9)	
Class of 2008	Bruce Kalmer, Don Zimmerman, Jim Jarvis
Class of 2009	Denise Wagner, Debbie Long, Tammy Wagner
Class of 2010	Larry Klimas, Russ Moser, Jason Smith

Committee on Lay Leadership

Chairperson- Senior Pastor	Michael Grant
Vice Chairperson	
Lay Leader	
At Large Members (6)	
Class of 2008	Kim Malenic, Barb Peluso
Class of 2009	Sandy Kerr, Dave Wagner
Class of 2010	Mary Dell Hale, Alan Deeley

Communications

Coordinator of Communications (1) Cyndi Duncan

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **Titus 2:14**



Youth Works Mission Trip To Rutland, Vermont

In June the church will be sponsoring a Mission trip to Rutland, Vermont. We will probably leave Saturday, June 21st, and return Saturday, June 28th, 2008.

This is not set in stone, as we need to talk it over as a group and see what we want to do. It is my hope that we can take a little time either coming or going to do a little sightseeing.

The cost per person is \$238.00. This covers the food and the materials while we are in Rutland. **There is a \$25.00 deposit that will be due by January 13th to Pamm Shipsky in order to reserve your place on the trip.** This trip is open to youth going into the 8th grade or higher, to young adults, and to adult chaperones. For the youth going, you can work to pay for your trip by helping with the fundraisers (some youth have much of the trip paid for already) or you can pay the registration fee outright. You are responsible for the difference between what you earn and the \$238.00. I would not want to leave a youth behind for financial reasons if they have worked hard to support the trip. Please see me or Pamm if there is a financial need, and we will do our best to work with you.

We will arrive in Rutland on Sunday evening. We will work Monday through Thursday. Two of the days we will do Kid's Club with area children and the other two days we will have a work project to do. Every evening there will be an activity and a devotion time, followed by time with your church group. There will be the opportunity to get to know and work with youth from other churches. This is a great chance to meet some new people and do some great work for the Lord. It will also be a lot of fun.

Please remember the January 13th deadline, and don't hesitate to talk to Pamm if you have any question.

Second Sunday Offering

Please do remember our special offering on the second Sunday of each month. Our next offering will be Sunday, January 13th. The money given in this offering goes to support our Mission Apportionment.

Hospital and Surgery

Please let us know if you are going into the Hospital or planning to have surgery. We try to be present with you during those difficult times, but we cannot support you if you don't let us know. Please call the office or write us a note so we can help share God's light on dark or difficult times.

Construction Update

The Elevator construction is complete. It was inspected on Christmas Eve, and is available for use. There are still some things that need to be done, but they are being finished and should be completed soon. There will be a Handicapped accessible door in the new elevator foyer, but it is not yet ready for use. We hope that the problem will be corrected soon. The handicapped door was paid for out of the New Horizons project. This is a great addition to the elevator project, and will be a help to many. Thank you for your continued patience and support of this wonderful project.

Thank You's

There are a number of people I would like to thank for their work in the last month. Everyone who decorated the Sanctuary or helped with the Advent wreath. The folks who helped with The Nativity Story, the Choir Cantata and Pot-Luck Dinner, and the special Kids Klub programs and everyone who attended the Church Conference and those who went Caroling.

New Horizons Update

At the time of this writing we are about \$25,000 short of our \$535,000 goal. We are very hopeful that we will reach our goal by the end of the year or soon thereafter. They have continued to improve the lighting around the church and are getting close to completing that project. The East door and the Choir room door have been installed. There was a mix-up about the Sanctuary door,s and they should come in sometime in January. The new storm windows have been installed on the outside of the Sanctuary. This will protect the stained glass and be much more energy efficient.

The handicapped door that was installed in the new foyer was paid for out of the New Horizons money.

The committee continues to work on bids for the painting of the Sanctuary. I do want to warn folks that when they start work on painting the Sanctuary, this will cause us to relocate our worship services to

the Fellowship Hall for a little while. It seems fitting that this will happen 50 years after you worshipped there during the completion of the Sanctuary. I hope I have my stories straight on that. I really appreciate the efforts of this group and I want to thank everyone for their continued faithfulness to this project

50th Anniversary of the Current Church Building

This year the church will be celebrating 50 years in this building. The Church Council is putting together a Task Force to make some plans towards celebrating this wonderful milestone in the life of the Poland United Methodist Church. We are also looking at ways to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the church in 2009. I am hoping they do not include having me on horseback through the streets of Poland. (Ask one of the older members about that.) Please keep these two celebrations in your prayers.

Offering Envelopes

We ordered offering envelopes for the people who indicated that they would like them. Hopefully, these will have been available to be picked up in the Narthex, at the end of December or by the first week in January. If you have not received your new box yet, please use one of the pew envelopes until we can get them to you. If you would like to have a box of offering envelopes, but you didn't sign up for them, please call the church office. Please remember that this box holds the envelopes for a whole year, so you will want to put that someplace you will see it each week. Thanks for your patience as we make this change.

Lenten Study

Death and Resurrection of the Messiah

I will be leading a Lenten Study on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah. There is a short video each week and then a time of study and small group discussion. I will be starting the sessions on January 23rd. We are not going to provide a meal this time, so please plan to eat before you come. The class will start at 6:30PM and go until 8 or 8:30PM. The cost for the book is \$6.00 and we will be asking for folks to sign-up to bring a snack for one of the evenings. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex and in the office if you are interested in the study.

Apportionments in Full

It is a wonderful thing that we will be paying our Apportionments in full this year. We will be paying 100% of our World Service and Conference Benevolence (Mission) due largely to the work of the Take-Out Dinners and the special collections. We will be finishing out the final payments to the Conference and the District with the help of the Enrichment Funds. As a part of a Connectional church, we believe that we can do things together that we could not do alone. Our giving changes lives all over the world and does make a difference. It is a wonderful step to be current with the Conference and I want to thank you all for your willingness to step up to the challenge. Thanks!

There will be a **Sound and Video Training Session** following the 11:00 service on **January 20th**. We will enjoy a short lunch together in the auxiliary dining room (lunch provided) and then head up to the balcony to learn or be refreshed on the operation of the sound and video systems. Anyone interested in helping with the systems during church services or being a substitute should attend. This is a great opportunity for youth and adults to serve and learn a new skill!!!

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

~Edith Lovejoy Pierce

I love Christmas time and the joyful thought of a new year, fresh with all the hope of a new beginning - at least with some things! I love to watch old movies like "Meet Me In St. Louis" with Judy Garland and "It's A Wonderful Life" with George Bailey (who my daughter was named after - I'll tell you about it sometime) and they sing that precious song "Auld Lang Syne." Harry Bailey comes in and announces that George is the richest man in town.

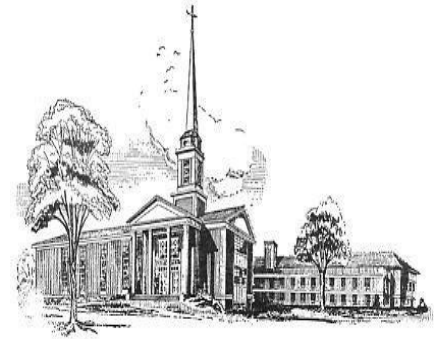
"Always remember no man is a failure who has friends" - that was written by Clarence the angel that straightens George out and shows him what an impact he has had. George thought he had no hope - but there is always hope with God. He renews my strength each morning and gives me just enough to get through each day! I'm so thankful for each friend I have made here. Thank you for your gift this Christmas - I wish all of you a very Happy New Year!

Poland United Methodist Church
1940 Boardman Poland Rd.
Poland, OH 44514
330-757-1553

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 522
Youngstown, Ohio

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Michael D. Grant, Pastor
Pamm Shipsky, Youth/Christian Ed Director



Dear Friends,

Thank You!

Patty and I would like to say thank you (a thousand times if we could) for the very generous gift given to us at my Farewell Celebration. This church has been good to us for many years, but we did not expect such a demonstration of generosity. There is no way for me to know just who gave, but I know that there were many. Please receive this as a personal thanks to each of one of you. The gift will certainly go to good use. With Eleni going to college next year and three more kids behind her, there will be plenty of opportunities to use these funds. You have been a blessing to us in our time here and now a great blessing to us as we say farewell. Please know that you will always have the fondest place in our thoughts and prayers.

With Love,

Dan, Patty and the Yargo Family