

# June 2004 Newsletter

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## Chuck Danner Becomes Zion's Visitation Assistant

During the Service of Installation on May 22-23, Pastor Sherwindt used the sermon to draw some connections between the Ascension of our Lord and Christ's gifts to the Church. Each one of us, every "membrane" in the Body of Christ, has been given a particular gift for serving, which, when shared with the community, contributes to the good of all. Here are some excerpts from that sermon. "Some say that 'necessity is the mother of invention.' Paul said it differently. 'Each of us is given a particular gift to serve the good of all.' [1st Corin-thians 4:7] God has provided what the church needs in the gifts He has given to its members. That's the key to Paul's understanding of the gifts of the Spirit and the life of the church. We may not get what we want when it comes to church staffing, but we have what we need.

"Chuck Danner is pointing the way to our faith in the promise that God provides, always. A single, called Pastor cannot do all that is expected and required for Zion to flourish in its life of love and service. We could say, as a matter of worldly realism, that 'necessity is the mother of invention', and then thank Chuck for his willingness to help us add to our staff in a cost-free way. But the Scriptures tell us that in addition to Mother Necessity, God our Father wants us to know that there is more method than madness in the biblical vision that the church is more than the ministry of an ordained pastor: we are a 'priesthood of all believers'. Claiming the gifts of each member is more than making the most of necessity. It is tapping into the wisdom of our Redeemer. When we tap the gifts of each membrane, we are learning how to be the Body of Christ; we are becoming what God intended. Churches that tap the volunteer resources of their members not only benefit from having a cheaper staff, they reap the harvest of the Spirit's power in growing the life of the Church.

"Chuck Danner is the first among us to step forward in being vested by our congregation with the call to serve. Chuck is a great model, because he is so dedicated in cultivating his gifts and so generous in sharing them. But he is not alone in being gifted and called. There are many more among us who are already sharing their gifts by giving their time and talents to build up the church of Christ. We have got to learn how to unlock the doors to the storehouse of God's grace. We have got to learn how to unleash the power of the Spirit. That is the key to taking up the call God issues and taking in the life God gives. That is the key to living the mission and enjoying the life that is ours in this part of the Body of Christ, which we know and love as Zion Lutheran Church."

Chuck begins his call to service as Zion's Visitation Assistant with a bold commitment to work with the Pastor, with our Church Council, and with the various ministries and committees that have an interest in seeing to it that we reach out to visitors and reach in to members who will benefit from this ministry of visitation. Chuck is working with the Evangelism Ministry to develop an effective strategy for welcoming and following up on visitors. He is working with the Fellowship Ministry in visiting the home-bound and hospitalized. We look forward to the good work that Chuck will initiate and organize. There is much that we can do, and much that we will do, as we lay hold of the riches God has given us through the many gifts that our members embody and are willing to share.

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## Church Council News

Steve Porter opened our May Meeting with an interesting devotional story. It is worth sharing with all of us.

**"An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife, employing his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.**

**"The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.**

**"When the carpenter finished his work the employer came to inspect the house. He handed the front door key to the carpenter. 'This is your house,' he said, 'my gift to you.'**

**The carpenter was shocked! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.**

**So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then with a shock, we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over, we'd do it much differently. But we cannot go back.**

**You are the carpenter. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. 'Life is a do-it-yourself project,' someone has said. Your attitudes and the choices you make today build the 'house' you live in tomorrow. Build wisely!**

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## **Congregational News**

**An Item of Interest from Dean Yoder: We have two items available for sale with all funds received going to the Church treasury and to Zion Sunday School trust. Item #1: two niches at Forest Hill's McClain Memorial Mausoleum; item #2: four choice lots also at Forest Hill. These deeds are gifts from prior and current members, and all money received will be given to church needs. If anyone has a future need, or has someone who would be interested, please contact the Church Office (330-499-3909), or Dean Yoder at 330-499-4287.**

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## **June Anniversaries & Senior Birthdays**

### **ANNIVERSARIES FOR JUNE**

**June 6 Eddie & Mary John**

**June 10 John & Margaret Brokloff**

**June 14 Ray & Jennifer Elkins**

**June 18 Rick & Sharon Stout**

**June 20 Scott & Kathleen Gross**

**June 20 Gary & Shirley Horton**

**June 22 David & Cindy Bower**

**June 23 Walter & Cheryl Dietrich**

**June 24 Jim & Stella Smiley**

June 25 Blair & Marge Woodside

June 27 Leonard & Vickie Swartz

## SENIOR BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE

June 2 Hubert Roy

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## The Women of Zion(Reaching Out around the World)

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF update:

We would like the Women of Zion to know how much was accomplished for Lutheran World Relief nationally in the year 2003. One thousand six hundred and fifty-five tons of material resources worth more than \$13.8 million were gathered and sent where needed. Thousands of women, men, and children throughout 21 countries worldwide (from Afghanistan to Zambia and those in between) received gifts of comfort from Lutheran World Relief Parish Groups such as the women of our church. L.W.R. sent comforters, school kits, health kits, sewing kits, layettes, clothing, and soap to people who needed them most. We thank all the people in Zion Lutheran for their assistance in these projects. God Bless each of you!!

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## A Word from Zion's FOOD PANTRY:

Attention ladies! Do you need a break from your retired husband, or gentlemen? Do you need a break from the old ball-and-chain? If so, then why not volunteer at the pantry. Also, if you have a sense of fashion, or, quite frankly, are able to fold or place objects on hangers, then you are qualified to work in the clothing closet. I am sure Karen could find a position for you. Three to five helpers are needed in the pantry on any given Tuesday. The ages of our volunteers range from early twenties to senior citizens. We start around 9:15 a.m. and end the day at 2:15 p.m. Pick your own hours. The pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Zion's Food of the Month Club is moving along nicely. Join up and join in. *The item for June will be white granulated sugar.* Bless you for everything you do for Zion's friends and neighbors.

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## The Men of Zion (Building Up the Body of Christ)

Seventy-plus men involved, one hundred and ninety-three persons in Memorial Hall for the breakfast, one hundred and twenty roses distributed, two hundred and twenty-one at worship, seventeen families active in outreach: our Second Annual Mother's Day Breakfast expanded upon the success of our good beginning last year. We look forward to what next year will bring.

We also want to take another look at what this year brought. When we advertised our Mother's Day Breakfast as "baked and burnt" by the Men of Zion, apparently we weren't kidding! So, we will use our monthly meeting in June both to review what we did this year, and to reflect on how we can improve on our efforts next year.

Last month's meeting for the Men of Zion showed continued strength and interest in building up the Body of Christ, both among the men and throughout the congregation. Seventeen turned out for a delicious chicken dinner. with all the trimmings. We will meet next on Wednesday. June 9th. at

6:00 p.m. In addition to reviewing our successes with the Mother's Day Breakfast, we want to look ahead and think more about inviting a special speaker to join us in July or August.

We were very happy with the turnout for our efforts to beautify the grounds of Zion. Men and women, young and old, brought hard work and a good eye for color to our follow-up workday on May 22nd, which was intended to get the grounds of Zion ready for Memorial Day Weekend. Finally, what can we say about Zion's new softball team, except WOW! What a great turnout on May 23rd! We've still got a long season ahead. So, let's keep it going.

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## **THE NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT**

May 13-15, 2004, John S. Knight Convention Center, Akron, Ohio

The theme was *Marked with the Cross of Christ Forever*, and several presentations urged the assembly to begin at the cross of Christ as the central point of our faith, especially in light of what may be a divisive issue regarding the church's role in ministering to and with homosexuals. Following an opening Eucharist in a toasty warm yet beautiful St. Bernard's Catholic Church, three blocks from the Knight Center, Dr. Craig Nesson, associate professor of Contextual Theology at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, presented his first of two talks about the context of scriptures in discussions about sexual identity, stressing Christ as the center, "without which nothing else knows its correct location."

Bishop Miller's report focused on Romans 5:1-5, describing the synod's sense of the suffering it experiences in terms of being "hemmed in", which through faith produces endurance, then character, then hope, with everything marked with the cross of Christ. Reports by Dr. Y.T. Chiu (synod vice presi-dent), the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Larson (ELCA representative), and Beth Lewis (Augsburg Fortress Publishing CEO) highlighted the day's presentations. The assembly approved a budget, approved resolutions urging our unity in Christ be foremost in churchwide discussions on human sexuality and affirming the priority of globally influenced music in all synod worship experiences, while voting down a resolution regarding human rights abuses in Iraq. Zion's voting members in attendance at the Synod Assembly were Pastor Sherwindt, Carol Rossbach, and Chuck Danner.

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### **AND NOW A REPORT FROM CAROL ROSSBACH AND CHUCK DANNER:**

We thank the Zion congregation for selecting us as your lay representatives to the Synod Assembly. The assembly included 533 pastors, lay people, and visitors. We began on Thursday evening with an inspiring cele-bration of Word and Sacrament at St. Bernard's in Akron. Highlights for us throughout the three-day assembly included worship, fellowship and a growing awareness that we are marked with the cross of Christ within the ELCA.

In addition to voting on the aforementioned issues, we selected delegates to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly to be held in Florida next August. It is this ELCA National Assembly that will address the issue of the Church and homosexuality. In our study sessions during the Synod Assembly, we learned of two polarized views covering the traditional seven biblical passages cited as support [Genesis 19:1-9, Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13, Judges 19:22-25, Romans 1:18-32, 1st Corinthians 6:9, 1st Timothy 1:10].

Dr. Nesson explained very clearly each viewpoint and urged us to realize that the assertion of being right is not the most important thing; being charitable is. He cited St. Paul's declaration of love in 1st Corinthians 13 as our greatest gift, and further reinforced the belief that we are united through Christ and truly are marked with the cross of Christ forever, which gets us back to the theme of the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly, the center of our confessional heritage, the core belief of Lutheran doctrine, the sure foundation of our lives as faithful Christians.

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## **Zion's 2004 COED Softball League Schedule**

**The North Canton Ministerial Association congregations participating in the league are:**

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Zion United Church of Christ     | 5. Zion Lutheran Church                   |
| 2. Northminster Presbyterian Church | 6. Congregational United Church of Christ |
| 3. Trinity United Church of Christ  | 7. Trinity Baptist Church                 |
| 4. Community Christian Church       | 8. Grace United Methodist Church          |

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### **ZION'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE**

May 23, 2004	5:00 p.m., field #4	Zion vs. Community Christian Church
May 30, 2004	NO GAMES	
June 6, 2004	6:00 p.m., field #4	Zion vs. Zion United Church of Christ
June 13, 2004	5:00 p.m., field #4	Zion vs. Northminster Presbyterian
June 20, 2004	5:00 p.m., field #2	Zion vs. Trinity United Church of Christ
June 27, 2004	6:00 p.m., field #4	Zion vs. Trinity Baptist Church
July 4, 2004	NO GAMES	
July 11, 2004	6:00 p.m., field #2	Zion vs. Grace United Methodist Church
July 18, 2004	6:00 p.m., field #4	Zion vs. Congregational UCC
July 25, 2004	The Playoffs begin	
August 1, 2004	Playoffs continue	
August 8, 2004	Playoffs conclude	

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## **Zion wins its season opener!**

Thirty-three players were on hand, along with a great group of fans, as Zion juggled line-ups and ground balls on their way to an opening game victory. Coach Bob Lancashire was thrilled just to know the names of all our players, and to get almost all of them into the game; the victory was just icing on the cake. Team Zion held on to win 11-10 over Community Christian. In other games, Northminster Presbyterian was victorious over Trinity Baptist, 9-4. Zion UCC held off Grace United Methodist, 11-10.

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## **Our Fellowship Honoree for June: Ruth Storch**

When I first told Ruth Storch that I was to interview her for the *Honoree of the Month* she said, "Don't you know everything about me already?" The answer to that question is that in spite of what I already knew I learned a lot more about this lady who is the head of the Prayer Ministry for the church.

Ruth was born in Barberton on April 21, 1916 to Mr. and Mrs. William Francis. Her mother died when she was seven and she lived with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Petty who adopted her. Ruth had three sisters and two brothers. Ruth graduated from Louisville High School in 1934 and was married to Don Newbauer in 1936. by Pastor Emch at Zion on West Maple Street.

**During World War II Ruth worked at the Hoover Company and inspected fuses for bombs for the Navy from 1941 until 1946 when Don got out of the Navy. Later they moved to Sagamore Hills and Ruth worked in a Penney's Distribution Center. After Don's death in 1981 she returned to North Canton and has lived in her apartment on South Main since 1983.**

**She was Church Secretary for Zion from 1958 to 1965. On April 18, 1987 she married Harry "Bub" Storch and began a new phase of her life, though very short-lived because he died in July of 1988 following open-heart surgery. Ruth has been an important part of Zion's history, having been on Altar (now Chancel) Guild, a Sunday school teacher for children and later for adults, member of the choir, on the Building Committee for Zion on Lindy Lane, and, of course, now head of the prayer chain.**

**Ruth has a daughter, Jenny, a grandson, Michael, and a great-grandson, Brian. She also has 21 cousins on her mother's side of the family who meet once a month for lunch. She is related to the Danner family, the Snyder family and the Elsass families, and Gert Meyer is her sister-in-law. So don't say anything bad about any of them to her. Ruth loves to travel and took many trips with a friend on Fidelity Tours to Florida, Michigan, Toronto and Nashville. We decided that we would have traveled a lot together if we hadn't been a decade apart in age. I asked what had been the most exciting thing to happen in her life, and she said, "the letter that came from a lawyer to inform her that she had inherited \$15,000 from a former neighbor. What a great thing, and at just the right time, I needed a new car."**

**As we talked Ruth said, "Aren't you supposed to ask what my favorite hymn is?" OK, what is it? "All of the hymns are my favorites. I just love hymns. But my favorite piece of music is Ode to Joy." Ruth is again comfortably settled in her apartment after having to move out when the garage burned down last fall and damaged her apartment, which was attached to the garage. Luckily she could stay with her brother, Norman, while the repairs were being done. Take some time to talk with this lady or meet us at the intersection of the hallways after late church on Sunday to go out to lunch with us.**

**Joyce Gibeaut**

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