

# From the Mountaintop



*“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.”*  
~ Colossians 3:12-15

## **March Gathering**

**Sunday  
March 16, 2014  
6:00pm**

**Board of Servants  
Meeting: 4:00pm**

Fairgreen  
3220 W. Laskey Rd  
Toledo, OH 43613  
Phn: 419-475-4436

**Food is always Welcome**

Please call ahead for childcare  
which will gladly be provided  
Crystal Cooper: 419-855-4949



### **CALLING ALL SINGERS & MUSICIANS**



The praise team will have our first practice for the upcoming Banquet weekend on Sunday, March 16, prior to the Gathering. Musicians, please arrive at 4:00 for setup, and sound check. Singers, please be ready to sing at 4:30. We will practice until the Gathering starts at 6:00, at which time we will share the meal, and then perform songs for the worship hour.

*“Shout joyfully to the LORD,  
all the earth; Break forth  
and sing for joy and  
sing praises.”*  
*Psalm 98:4 (NASB)*



**Very Important**

**PLEASE MAKE NOTE:**

**\*NO GATHERING IN APRIL\*  
THIS YEAR  
That is Easter Sunday**



**Men's GB #57 – June 5 - 8, 2014**

**Lay Director: CRAIG THISTLETHWAITE**

**Women's GB #58 – June 12 - 15, 2014**

**Lay Director: LAURIE HOFFMAN**

**TEAM MEETINGS:**

April 26<sup>th</sup> -> 9am - 12:30pm

May 3<sup>rd</sup> -> 9am - 12:30pm

May 10<sup>th</sup> -> 9am - 12:30pm

May 17<sup>th</sup> -> 9am - 12:30pm

May 31<sup>st</sup> -> 9am - 12:30pm

*1<sup>st</sup> Timer/New Team Member Meeting: **Sat. April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
(Right AFTER the 1<sup>st</sup> team meeting, so plan on staying)*

**A Note from one of the June Lay Directors**

To my sisters and brothers in Christ,

God is good....all the time! He never ceases to amaze me! The team He is bringing together for His purpose is almost complete. I am so excited and blessed to have been asked to be the Lay Director for #58. It is amazing to watch this whole process from the "inside" as I continue to pray and discern over my sisters in Christ. This is a time of tremendous growth for me as well in my faith journey.

I would like to propose a challenge to all of you who are in our community for this upcoming Lenten Season. To begin with, 40 days and 40 nights of at least ½ hour of committed prayer time each day. Our Lord deserves our undivided attention and praise. Pray without ceasing! I am also challenging myself and combining mine with prayerful fasting as I follow Jesus through this desert time. I could never come close to the total fasting and sacrifices our Lord suffered for us but by sacrificing the overabundance, the choices and libations that are so tempting and readily available, I feel that this will help me focus on Him continuously. I encourage you to pick up a new Christian book and read it during the 40 days of Lent. I am currently reading, "The Way-Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus," by Adam Hamilton. I am discussing this with a small group of fellow Presbyterians on Wednesday nights before Lenten services. This is another way to deliberately and intentionally stay connected to our Savior.

Did you know that there is an international Vigil Prayer Site set up for all walks and banquets? I didn't until I recently received an E-mail requesting prayers to help fill an empty prayer chart in Ft. Meyers, Florida. Wow! What a motivator! You have to commit for a ½ hour! I know that prayer is powerful and praying for others and lifting them up during their journey is exactly what we should be doing.

<http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetComm.phtml>.

So... As we prepare for the upcoming Banquets, let us remind ourselves to pray today, pray tomorrow, and continue to pray more than we did yesterday.



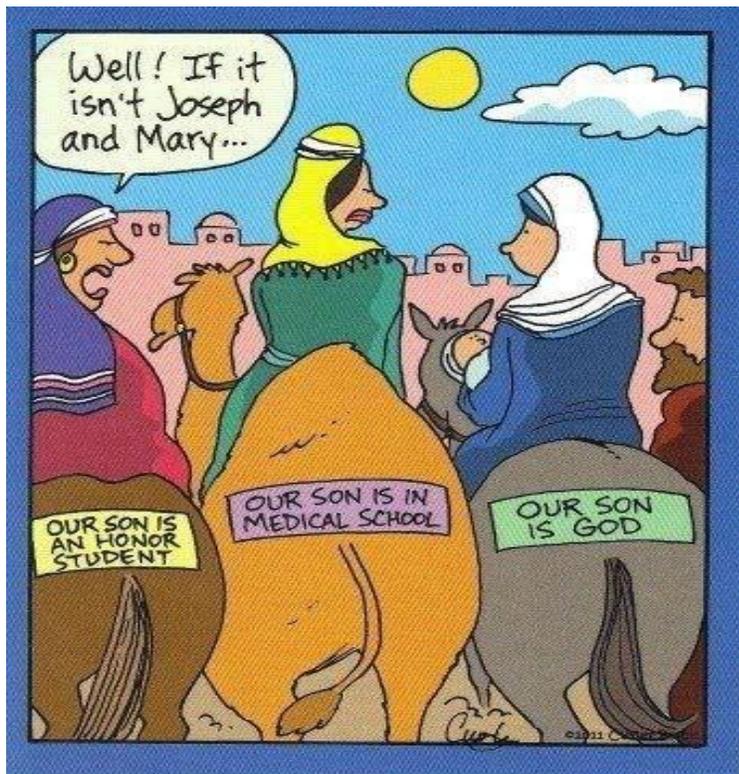
## Laughs & Giggles:

**God:** "Whew! I just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth."

**Angel:** "What are you going to do now?"

**God:** "Call it a day."

If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is April 1, 2014. Submit to email: [coopermtgtoledo@gmail.com](mailto:coopermtgtoledo@gmail.com)



## HOW TO MAKE A BANNER

**1-Pick an inspirational topic or phrase:** Use a short Bible verse. Use a phrase that particularly caught your attention on a piece of agape. Use the title or a phrase from a praise song or hymn that speaks to you. Be creative and write your own

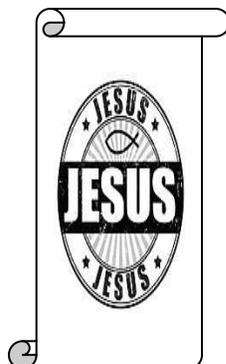
**2-Decide on appropriate decorative illustrations:** Flowers, stars, a cross, a Bible ...you get the "picture."

**3-Plan the layout:** Make paper templates as needed

**4- Procure the necessary items to make the banner:** Visit a craft or fabric store. You will need:

- Background material - needs to be heavyweight fabric - banners should be about 3 feet wide by about 5 feet long (this is flexible) - allow for a rod pocket.
- A dowel or round curtain rod to hang the banner from
- Felt or similar material
- Other items to make letters and decorations

**5-Make your banner**



- Make a pocket at the top of the banner in which to insert the dowel to hang it
- Sew or glue the letters and decorations to the background material.
- Note that sewing the letters and decorations to the banner will make a banner that will hold up best. If you use glue, be sure to use a high quality fabric glue - you can get this at a fabric or craft store.
- Prepare a short note of encouragement or inspiration to accompany your banner and attach it to the back of your banner.

### New Banners Needed for Banquet Weekends

We would like to replace some of the aging banners we have used for many years at the banquet weekends. If you or your share group would like to help that would be great.

There are some banner making materials available but they are limited. If you want to see what we have, or if you have any questions, suggestions, & ideas for this project

contact Lillian Vogel  
[lvogel@ohiocpa.net](mailto:lvogel@ohiocpa.net)  
or 419-740-2743

## OUR SHEPHERD

It was again brought to my attention in a most powerful way that we are protected, whether in the valley or on the mountain (as the case may be). Many of us don't like to talk about it but I was also reminded that the Devil is alive and also very powerful. I told this experience to a friend and she said she would be waiting to hear more of the story. Since then it has been on my heart to share this with others as it is another testimony of the power and the faithfulness of our God and that no matter what He will protect us.

I was on my last day of vacation and enjoying a beautiful day experiencing the beauty of God on this earth. I saw the vast desolation of the desert and the refreshment of oases in the midst of it. The glory of our Father could not have been more evident. The Almighty Creator can make anything happen.

I decided to take a more scenic route back to our condo so headed for the San Bernadino mountains. What a climb! In no time at all, in spite of a narrow snake-like winding road where driving 20 mph was probably too fast, I was over 6000 feet high and experiencing a whole different ecosystem than the parched desert I had left behind. Not long after I had made the climb and was again enjoying the beauty of creation it hit me – a flu bug that I had up to that point avoided. It didn't just “hit” me – it clobbered me. It was certain that I was going to explode – I just didn't know from which end. Next thing I see is a sign for windy road next 28 MILES. It immediately became obvious that I wasn't going to be hiding under the covers of my bed any time soon. I took a few nervous gulps and prayed for help. Quite some time ago our Pastor suggested we say the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm on a daily basis and I have been doing that and have found much comfort in doing it. Some days I find myself reciting it numerous times in a day. Sometimes I am muttering it and sometimes I am shouting it but whatever my mood is at that particular time it never fails that I find comfort in it. On this particular afternoon it was basically a declaration. I was in the midst of a war. I was under attack. I was hurting. I was feverish. I was having trouble breathing. As I said – I was certain I was going to explode. It was also obvious that this wasn't going to be any quick skirmish. As I battled my way around each curve in the road, up and down, round and round, I declared the power of my Good Shepherd. In response I had a voice telling me that I wasn't going to make it. In fact “why don't you just end the struggle now? You could easily just let go and head off the mountain. It would all be over.” I found that not only was I fighting to not have the explosion from my stomach occur I was fighting for control of the steering wheel, and subsequently my life. Praise God that He has overcome the world and that He is faithful and keeps His promises! I continued with my declaration and that war raged for almost 3 hours before I finally was back down in the valley (and then another hour before I was actually back to where we were staying). The fact that I'm here and writing this testifies to the fact that once again His rod and His staff protected me. He does the same for you. **PRAISE GOD!**

*Phil Bohn, Via de Cristo, Northern Lights #1, Table of the Net Menders*



## Mountaintop Board of Servants

### Community Lay Director

Jeff Cooper  
419-855-4949  
[coopermtgbtoledo@gmail.com](mailto:coopermtgbtoledo@gmail.com)

### Information/Secretary

Crystal Cooper  
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### Reunion Groups

Jon Rhoades  
419-340-0071



### Assistant Community Lay Directors

- Linda Hoover  
419-475-1200  
[lhoover15@aol.com](mailto:lhoover15@aol.com)
- Brian Hart  
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### Finance

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### Logistics

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### Community Spiritual Director

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### Agape

Lillian Vogel  
419-740-2743  
[lvogel@ohiocpa.net](mailto:lvogel@ohiocpa.net)

### Worship/Music

- Dale Buchko  
810-588-44470  
[dabuck5959@aol.com](mailto:dabuck5959@aol.com)
- Shannon Smith  
419-893-3426  
[cinshan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cinshan@sbcglobal.net)
- Andrea Bartson  
419-680-6417  
[dreal3mz@yahoo.com](mailto:dreal3mz@yahoo.com)

### Kitchen

Phyllis Wallace  
419-244-3235



## Mountaintop Calendar of Events

March 16, 2014	4:00 PM	GB Board Meeting
March 16, 2014	6:00 PM	Gathering
<b>* NO GATHERING IN APRIL *</b>		<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
April 26, 2014	9 AM - 12:30 PM	Team Meeting #1 for GB # 57 & 58
May 3, 2014	9 AM - 12:30 PM	Team Meeting #2 for GB # 57 & 58
May 10, 2014	9 AM - 12:30 PM	Team Meeting #3 for GB # 57 & 58
May 17, 2014	9 AM - 12:30 PM	Team Meeting #4 for GB # 57 & 58
May 18, 2014	4:00 PM	GB Board Meeting
May 18, 2014	6:00 PM	Gathering
May 31, 2014	9 AM - 12:30 PM	Team Meeting #5 for GB # 57 & 58
June 4, 2014	3:00 PM - ??	Set-up for GB #57
<b>June 5 - 8, 2014</b>		<b>Men's GB #57</b>
<b>June 12 - 15, 2014</b>		<b>Women's GB #58</b>
June 19, 2014	6:00 PM	4th Day Gathering

See the latest Mountaintop Great Banquet updates and information online by visiting:

<http://www.mountaintopgb.org>