

On The Shoulders of Giants

RALPH AND ELSIE MURPHY

It was a great pleasure talking with Ralph and Elsie, such a wonderful spirit of love surrounds them. Not only of love for God and for the church but for each other, a wonderful spirit of caring, consideration and support.

Although they do not think of themselves as such, this couple is truly one of our giants. The list of work that they have done for us and for our church is like a to do list of jobs available in the church. They have always put God and the church first in their lives, doing whatever they could, and constantly praying for the needs of others.

Ralph has served as Treasurer, Building Committee chairman, in charge of Wednesday night service, Senior Choir Director, he is still a Church Trustee, he served on the Pastors Council, sang with several trios and quartets, was a general maintenance man, formed a softball league and the list goes on.

Elsie taught Sunday School for so many years she can't even remember, from 2-3 year olds to bible classes, she was church bookkeeper, played the piano under so many different Music Ministers she can't even remember them all, worked the nursing homes, and the list again is endless.

Ralph and Elsie met at the 7th and Chestnut Church of God which later became Princeton Pike. He remembers that he and Elsie's father, who was his best



friend, used to go squirrel hunting together. One day they spied two squirrels and agreed on which of the two they would each shoot, then counted to three. Two guns went off as one, two squirrels went down. When Ralph asked him if he could marry Elsie, he said, "My daughter could never find a guy as good as you." They eloped to Indiana on March 9, 1945, because her mother was against the marriage, and spent their wedding night with the pastor.

Ralph was hired by General Motors as a carpenter and moved up to foreman.

In 1962 they moved to Clayton Street Church of God and stayed. Because of Ralph's experience as a journeyman carpenter, he was asked to be the church maintenance man, Elsie became the church bookkeeper.

When Elsie was attending 7th and Chestnut, the regular piano player became ill and later died and she was asked to play. This began a long love of playing for the church and was one of the greatest joys of her life. She had to teach herself how to play the chords and read the notes,

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of our new monthly newsletter.

We walk on the shoulders of giants, people who have worked so hard in the past to make the church what it is now. In that spirit it has been a great burden of mine to see that these great couples who have done so much for us, not to just fade away and be forgotten, but honored and remembered. So, each month we will spotlight a couple in our church who has worked so tirelessly in the background. This month I am honored to feature Ralph and Elsie Murphy and there will be many others.

Also, in order to better inform you of our ministries we will be featuring an in depth article on one of them each month, as well as other news.

Suggestions are welcome. If there is something you would like to see in this newsletter let me know.

Hope you enjoy it!

Frank Perfetti

RALPH AND ELSIE MURPHY

learning all the songs. Ralph helped out by playing the guitar along with her. She also went to the nursing home and played and sang for them. On top of all this, she also taught Sunday School.

They formed and sang in various trios and quartets with Audrey being in one of them. They recorded three different records calling themselves the "Golden Tones." They sold the records in various stores and received royalties from the sales. Elsie even had a song entitled "Wonderful Joy" published in the Church of God convention book and sung in churches across the nation.

Ralph was appointed chairman of the Building Committee and helped build this church. He remembers one day walking into the trailer of Ray Helton, who was in charge of the building project. Ray was smoking a cigarette and Ralph told him, "You don't need that thing." The next day Ray told him that he had not wanted another cigarette since then. Ralph led him to the Lord and he started sitting with them in service until he died. Ralph was asked to pray at the funeral and Ray's two

sisters told him that Ray had said; "There is not another guy like Ralph, without him I wouldn't be where I am, he put the Lord in my life."

Ralph and Elsie are now retired and come to church every Sunday. They are very proud and grateful to the younger people who have picked up the torch from them and carry it onward.

When you see this couple in church make sure you shake their hand or hug their neck and thank them for all they have done for the church, for God and for you.



Ralph Murphy and the Clayton St. Softball League with State Championship Awards

ROCK ISLAND CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRESENTS THE CHRISTMAS COUNTY SPELLING BEE



On Sunday, December 14th, Carolyn Perfetti and Linda Ingham presented their Children's Christmas play on the many names of Jesus. The program was chosen in early fall and by October, our cast, soloists and choir were hard at work practicing. All that hard work really shined on Sunday evening. GREAT JOB!!!



RISEN WOMEN'S ENCOUNTER

God is calling us to arise! That is God's promise and He wants to take you from where you are and transform you into what He intends for you to become!

The Encounter Weekend is a pivotal part of a life-transforming process. This will be a powerful weekend of ministry as we get away to encounter the Lord in a fresh way. This weekend is designed to help you break free from any bondage and obstacles that have kept you from walking in the freedom, joy and fruitfulness the Father desires for you.

This is a weekend of personal and intense consecration. You will encounter three things: first,



A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE WITH GOD

yourself; second, the cross; and third, the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Encounter starts Friday, January 16th and goes to Sunday, January 18th. The cost is \$125.00 with a \$75.00 non-refundable deposit due with application. The balance will be due at registration. The location is Camp Swoneky, 605 Middleboro Road, Oregonia.

Please bring bed linen and pillow, toiletries, towels, casual clothes and shoes, bible, pen and notebook.

There will also be pre-encounter classes Tuesday, January 6 & 13 at 6:30 pm in room 303. Please see any Encounter leader.

MEN'S ENCOUNTER RETREAT



Encounter is a special weekend retreat which is a time set aside to have a personal life changing experience with God. This retreat allows time for Him to work in our lives, without the outside distractions of our daily routines, in an environment which has been bathed in fasting and prayer.

We are workaholics, rushaholics, and goaholics. We all need to spend some time on our

knees before we run on our feet. If the devil doesn't make us too bad, he can make us too busy – too busy to really settle the important



questions: For whom will I live, with what motives, purposes, and methods, and toward what end?"

This describes what an Encounter Retreat is designed for:

A NEW CREATION

to have a personal encounter with God Almighty in a powerful way. The only requirement of an Encounter Weekend is to go with an open and expectant heart, asking God to give you everything He has for you.

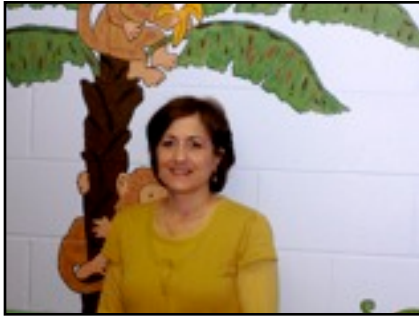
This retreat starts Friday, January 30th and goes to Sunday, February 01 and will be at Camp Swoneky, 605 Middleboro Road, Oregonia. The cost is \$60.00 non refundable deposit then \$65.00 due at check in, total cost \$125.00. You must bring bed linen, pillow, all toiletries, towels, casual cloths, bible, pen, notebook and 1 outfit for church service on Sunday. We only have 100 spaces available so please see David Anderson or any Encounter Leader.

Little Master Little Miss Fund Raiser For The Noah's Ministry

Vote on your favorite baby by dropping money in the appropriate box that will be displayed in the lobby. Little Master and Little Miss will be crowned Sunday Morning February 1st. All proceeds go to Noah's Ministry.

NOAH'S MINISTRY

HEADED BY VALERIE LUEBEE



Proverbs 22:6; Train a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not turn away from it.

In Noah's Ministry this is what Valerie and her staff of over 50 people do. She brings the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ to the children, starting at birth and going up through three years old. She strongly believes in what the Bible says and has seen the results of her labors of over 15 years working in the Nursery Ministry.

Her burden started at home where she ran a child care and continued at Solid Rock church when she noticed how much of a shambles the nursery was in. But instead of just complaining about it, she volunteered to work and started from the ground up rebuilding it into a teaching ministry; searching for a curriculum, setting up the various rooms and getting all the supplies she would need.

Valerie discovered and uses the Beverly Capps-Burgess curriculum for all her infant through one year old classes. This curriculum is especially designed for children of that age. The

author of this curriculum, Beverly Capps, has published 17 children's books and Sunday School curriculum for Babies and children through age 12 and has over 1 million books in print.

This curriculum is a highly structured and interactive course and as Valerie emphasizes, "We are not a babysitting service." This is confirmed in what she and her teachers do. The structure is in a set schedule that every teacher adheres to, for instance in the Standard Publishing Curriculum that she uses for the 2 & 3 year olds they get



20 minutes of interactive play time, 10 minutes prayer time; 15 minutes praise and worship; 10 minutes of the Jesus says game; and this includes time to care for the needs of

the child. The interactivity comes in that all play is supervised and bible based. The infants are taught on a one to one basis and will be read a scripture and shown the bible and shown how to praise, this is instilling the Word of God right from the start. The older children will be read a scripture and are taught with activities, coloring and visual aids, and there is also a praise time in which Valerie says can get pretty loud.

Valerie and her staff are deeply burdened and dedicated to get the Word of God to the children right from the start and there work shows it. If you believe in what Proverbs 22:6 says, then bring your child to Noah's Ministry.

Calendar

Saturday January 10

Drama Team at House of Rest.

Sunday January 11

Blood Pressures being taken

Baby Dedication

Monday January 12

Mary's Circle

Tuesday January 13

Room 303 Women's Encounter class

Friday January 16

Men's night out

Sunday January 18

Women's Encounter Luncheon

Monday January 19

MOPS

6:30-8:00 Passion Youth Choir

Saturday January 24

Men's Encounter Walkthrough

Sunday January 25

Baptizing

Friday January 16-Sunday January 18

Women's Encounter

Friday January 30-Sunday February 1

Men's Encounter

For The Funny Bone

TRUTH OR CARE

One Sunday morning Pastor Bob advised his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. In preparation for my message. I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday the reverend asked for a show of hands from those who had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. Pastor Bob smiled and announced, "Well, Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

From "Worlds Greatest Collection of Church Jokes" by Paul Miller



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MISSION STATEMENT

We will passionately embrace God, connect with one another, pursue discipleship into all the world through Jesus Christ!

The Church of God of Middletown, Ohio
Stratford Heights Church of God
4419 Nelson Road
Middletown, Ohio 45042

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAY

Early Morning Worship-8:30am
Sunday School-9:30am
Morning Worship-10:45am
Evening Worship-6:00pm

TUESDAY

Oasis-6:30pm

WEDNESDAY

Missionettes & Royal Rangers-7:00pm
Family Life Night-7:30pm

Noah's Ministry for children 0-3 years old
offered for all services except 8:30am.

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