

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**1842 - 2017**  
**Highwater Congregational**  
**United Church of Christ**  
1213 Dutch Lane Rd Newark, OH 43055



**We celebrate 175 years of Ministry on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017.**

We celebrate the Spirit that has Shined, and continues to Shine Bright at Highwater Church.  
We join together with church members and friends sharing in our history with Special Guests, Special Music,  
Worship, Song and Fellowship.

We remember, *“This is the day that the Lord has made, We will rejoice and be glad in it.”*



# Highwater Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Church Logo Adopted in 2016*

## **MISSION STATEMENT HIGHWATER CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*(Mission Statement Adopted in 2009)*

“Highwater Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will be an active family of faith in North Central Licking County, dedicated to building awareness of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through meaningful worship, diverse service, and genuine fellowship.”

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.

Amen.

## A Message from Pastor Scott Schieber

Today we gather together to celebrate what God has done here at Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ for 175 years. By instilling faith through his son, our Lord, Jesus the Christ, and inspiring through the Holy Spirit, we have brought praise and glory to God in worship, in education, in service, and in fellowship over these many decades.

Here, people have been baptized into new life in Christ. Here, we have nourished our faith by sharing communion bread and cup around God's vast table—countless number of times. Here, we have gathered on snowy Christmas Eves to sing Silent Night and usher the light of Christ into the dark world. Here, we have gathered and sang “Were You There?” and remembered Jesus' sacrifice of love on Good Fridays. Here, we have gathered in hope on glorious Easter mornings, sharing in Christ's joy and resurrection. Here, we have worshipped on countless Sundays in ordinary time, not expecting anything special to happen, only to engage the magnificent divine. Here, we have sang and prayed and laughed and eaten and given. Here, we have practiced and prepared and performed to God's glory. Here, we have gathered around and laid hands in prayer on beloved church members who have gotten a bad diagnosis. Here, we have dreamed and drawn up plans and built. Here, we have sat silently praying in a pew for sons and daughters serving our country, in the Civil War and in subsequent wars in far off lands. Here, we have had our breath taken away. Here, we have been moved to tears. Here, we have gathered and argued about the ways faith and world intersect. Here, we have welcomed seminary students and prepared them for their holy work. Here, we have met disappointment without giving up hope. Here, we have tried and failed and fought and quarreled but not lost hope. Here, we have found grace and reconciliation. Here, we have done our best. Here, we have cared. Here, we have honored God. Here, we have married. Here, we have buried. Here, we have lived. Here, we have loved, and we have been loved.



To the Living Spirit of God, we give a humble offering of praise for 175 years of guidance, provision, inspiration, and love. To the Living Spirit of God, we pray for many more years of devotion, faith, joy, and love. Here, we are God's people, forgiven, called, claimed, and loved.

*Peace,*

Pastor Scott

# Brief History of the Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ

- 1803 – Ohio became the 17<sup>th</sup> State on March 1, 1803
- 1808 - Licking County was separated from Fairfield County on January 30, 1808.
- 1818 - McKean Township, Licking County was organized.
- 1838 - The small village of Sylvania, now known as Highwater was laid out in 1838 by Jesse and Abraham Gosnell. The village of Sylvania extended west of the church; east beyond the Clark Schroer Cemetery; south to Lundy’s Lane; and north to the branch of the North Fork River. The village consisted of a sawmill, grocery, saloon, blacksmith shop, and post office. Peter Buzzard served as the first postmaster and was an original member of the Church of Christ at Sylvania. The post office was moved to Fredonia in 1857 because, unknown to the founders, there already existed a Sylvania, Ohio located in Lucas County.
- 1842 - The Church of Christ at Sylvania was founded on January 31, 1842. It was organized by Elders Benjamin Seever and Jessie Harris, the latter serving as the first minister. The first meetings were held in the homes of their members. The original members of the newly formed church were as follows (original spellings):

John Armstrong	Caroline Chilcote	Racheal Miller
William Boner	Mordica Chilcote	Artnett Myers
David Bowers	Fleetwood Clark	John Myers
Henry Bryant	Margaret Clark	Cassandra Stephens
Rebeca Bryant	Nancy Cooley	James Stephens
Eliza Buzzard	Titus H. Cooley	Rebeca Stephens
Magdalin Buzzard	Christena Crotinger	Ruel R. Stephens
Peter Buzzard	Cynthia Ann Louis	Sidney Whipple
	William G. Louis	

-March 29 William L. Smith, Margaret Boner and Sarah Snare became members.

-April 8 Susannah Crotinger became a member.

-February 19, 1842 – The “first fellowship” meeting was established and was to be held the third Saturday of each month. The following were appointed: S. Whipple, clerk and Peter Buzzard as deacon. Today these meetings are known as church council meetings.

-July 16, 1842 - Joseph Snare, John Myers, Fleetwood Clark were appointed as trustees of the “Christian Meeting House” in Sylvania.

- 1844 - The church began the process of purchasing land by an indenture between land owners, Robert and Naomi Cross and the trustees of the church, John Meyers, Fleetwood Clark and Joseph Snare.
- 1855 - A deed was conveyed formally to the trustees of the Christian Church on Oct 2, 1855. The construction date of the first church building is not known but it burnt. The second building was constructed after 1855 and used until 1918 when the current building was built.
- 1856 – Unknown factors led to decreased interest and membership and Bowman Rabb reorganized The Church of Christ at Sylvania on May 3, 1856. Joseph Snare, B.C. Mclain, and Peter Snare were chosen as the directors of said “meeting house”. B.C. Mclain and Peter Snare were also chosen to be the deacons.



- 1857 – The Church of Christ of Sylvania became a member of the Mt. Vernon Christian Conference. The name changed to The Christian Church of Sylvania at that time.



Rev. Enos Peters  
1887

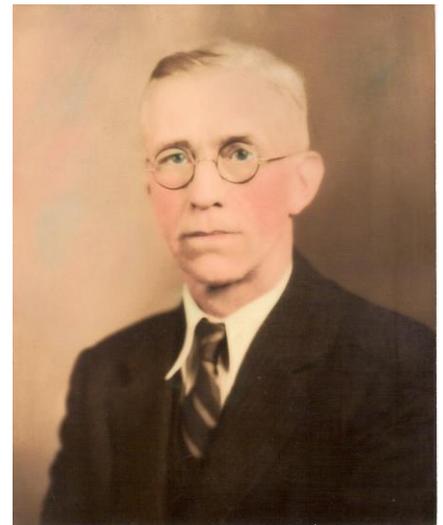
- 1872 – There was a Sunday School at this time but it lapsed.
- Abt. 1888- Elder Enos Peters organized a “Sabbath School”. The following officers were established: Jesse Gosnell, superintendent; Warner Bowers, assistant; Enos Peters, clerk; Archie Stinson, treasurer; George Saxton, librarian; Ella Cooper, organist; Allie Smith, assistant organist; G. Stinson, secretary. New members: Jacob and Sarah Oakleaf, Maggie Clark, Ezra Wimer, Warner and Angeline Bowers, Mary J. Bowers, Sarah Wolfe, Jesse Clark, Junior.
- 1897 – Ladies Aid was established and was a positive spiritual and financial influence. A celebration was held June 1967 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Ladies Aid by Women’s Fellowship. The 70th Anniversary Celebration consisted of a luncheon and attire of the 1890 era.

- 1898 – Mrs. Wenger, daughter of Absolom Clark and granddaughter of Fleetwood Clark, wrote to Rev. Albert Dunlap about the dwindled membership at the Christian Church. He came to Sylvania and served as the minister. Church services were held twice a month at 2:30 p.m. on the Sabbath with the minister receiving \$75.00 a year, according to early church records.

- Abt. 1900 – The Church at Highwater risked the loss of their building. Arch Stinson and Ansel Bailey investigated the issue and reported that if the church had paid its annual dues to the Conference for the past two years, the building could not pass into other hands. The dues were a little over a \$1.00 a year, but no one was sure if they had been paid. To the relief of all, Nancy Stinson had paid the dues herself from her “egg and butter” money.

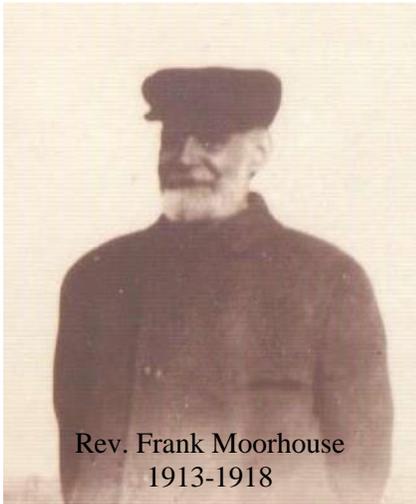
-Some of the new members at this time were the following:

Nancy & Arch Stinson	Della & Alvin Hupp
Isadora & Ansell Bailey	Nancy & Martin Dixon
Eunice Wenger and sister, Emma Clark	
Elzonia & Morrison Clark	Lille & Albert Pierpoint
Mrs. Sarah Johnson and daughter, Mrs. Lydia Pontz	
Mrs. Henrietta Bruce and daughters, Nina, Lena, and Mary	
Mrs. Sarah Jones and daughters, Bessie, Edith and son, Ralph	
Charity Ann Rhodeback	



Rev. Albert Dunlap  
1898-99, 1901-02

- 1906 - Rev. R. H. “Rennie” Long of Centerburg, Ohio contracted to provide services every two weeks on Sunday afternoon. He received \$96.00 a year. Reverend Long served as pastor from 1906-1913 and 1928-1936.
- 1915 – On June 5, 1915, Rev. Frank Moorhouse, as chairman led a discussion of a new church building and a committee was established to research the plan on September 25, 1915.



Rev. Frank Moorhouse  
1913-1918

- 1916 – March 25, 1916 the congregation decided to commence to build a new church after they raised \$2000 of the estimated \$3500 to \$4000. The Ladies Aid gave \$100 to the building fund. Discussions were held for this undertaking, including should the work be contracted or donated and if they could legally sell the old building.
- 1917 – The congregation was given permission to sell the old building. Reverend Moorhouse suggested they move the old church building back further on the lot to allow space for the new construction.
- 1918 – The new church building was dedicated on August 11, 1918 by Dr. Burnett. Reverend Moorhouse resigned in August of 1918 and moved to Michigan.

- 1920 - Money from the sale of the old church was turned over to the building fund.
- 1921 - The old church building was moved by a mule team, using logs as rollers to the Wendell Stevens property and was renovated into a barn.



- 1923 - Christian Church at Sylvania was changed to “High Water” Christian Church, according to early church records. Reverend Humphrey provided services every 2 weeks in the afternoon for \$250.00 year.
- 1926 – On Rally Day, October 31, 1926 during a day long church meeting with Rev. Humphrey, the members burned the church building debt note.
- 1931 – Christian Churches merged with the Congregational Churches, and Highwater Christian Church became known as the Highwater Congregational Christian Church.
- 1940 – Bible school was established at Highwater.
- 1942- The congregation held a celebration of 100 years of the church. There were 130 church members.



- Abt. 1950 - The church steeple caught fire in November. Damon & Gloria Hoover spotted the fire and alerted the neighbors. Those that helped with the water brigade included Welling “Doc” McDaniel, Lewis Heft, Gail Shipley, Russell Rhodeback, Dale Bruce, Emerson McGruder, Jim Shipley, and Tom Baughman, Sr.



Rev. Weldon Stockwell  
1958-59

- 1950's Summer Vacation Bible School was the main focus of the church ministry. The entire church congregation was involved in this endeavor during these years. VBS was held jointly with the neighboring churches of Liberty Methodist Church and Fredonia Church for many years.
- 1952 – A Cradle Roll Department was started for children 2 and under. -Song Festival was held, led by Dorothy Bruce and Ruth Keckley as the pianist.
- 1953 – Church nursery was started by Margaret Heft; Junior Church was also established.
- 1955– Publication of the church newsletter began by Gloria Hoover and Alice Dodsworth.

- 1961 – April 17th Highwater approved their new constitution resulting from the merger of the Congregational Christian Church and the Evangelical Reformed Church, resulting in the United Church of Christ.
- 1965- The Circle of Women's Fellowship, organized August 1962 to meet in the evenings, sponsored the building of inside restrooms. This marked a significant physical improvement to the church building.
- 1969 – Church member all night camp out at the church park, located across the street from the church down by the creek was a success. Campers and tents filled the area.

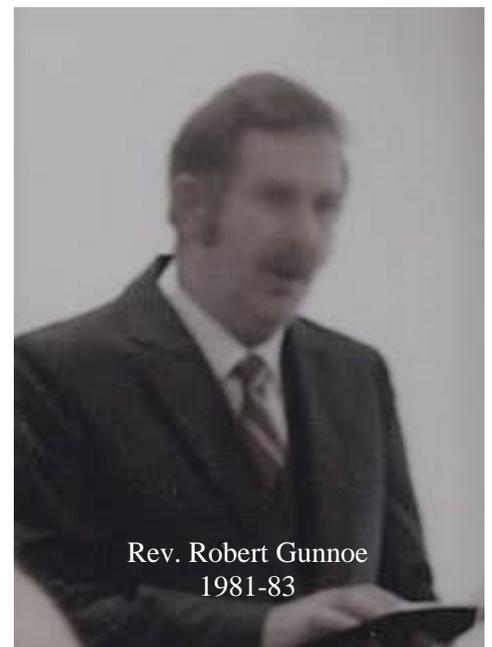


Rev. Rolland H Tarter  
1963-64



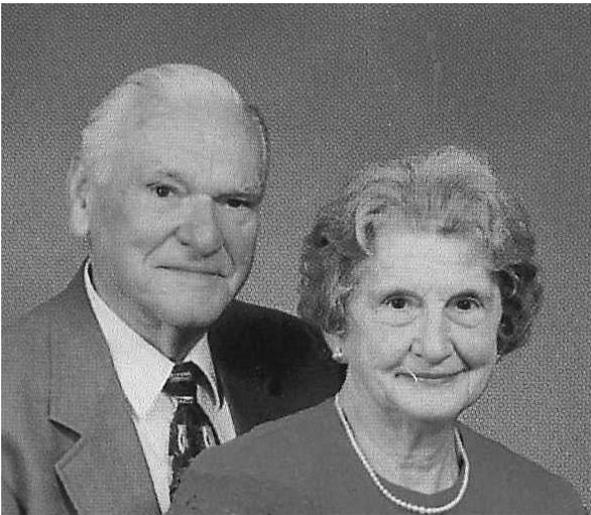
*The Church during the 70's with  
Rev. Phillip Shoher (seen on steps)  
serving 1967-81.*

- 1981-1982 - All church family basket picnics were held at Richard and Jane Hoar's home (Pine Lake Orchard) annually, with Sid and Rosie Shipley, as co-host in 1982. -Dorothy Bruce and Alice Dodsworth volunteered with the Food Pantry Network.



Rev. Robert Gunnoe  
1981-83

- 1983 - Rev. Jim Legg agreed to come out of retirement for one year (he stayed longer) to assist the church. The



*Rev. Jim & Nellene Legg  
1983-1993*

church was experiencing low attendance at the time. His leadership provided a period of growth and organization for Highwater, which necessitated the need for larger facilities. Rev. Legg set up six committees, now called ministries including: worship, membership and outreach, Christian education, missions, stewardship, and Christian fellowship. Ministries were to include all members of the church. These ministries still exist today with one change, the addition of the care ministry. Bequests from the estates of Ethel Hancock (granddaughter of Fleetwood Clark, one of the original members) and Laura Neldon made it possible for the initial building plans to commence.

- 1984 - Land south and west of the church was donated by the Robert Elliott family. This would allow for off-street parking and a new back entry.
- 1985 – The church trustees with chairman, Jim Snyder, contacted an architect for remodeling of the building with improved classrooms, two additional classrooms above the sanctuary, a modern kitchen (in the basement), restroom renovations, moving the Royal Bruce family stained glass window to make room for the new back entry, and an elevator to provide access to the basement and worship/study areas.
  - Telephones installed in the church.
  - A tornado on May 31, 1985, left 16 families north and east of the church needing assistance. A total of \$15,580 was collected and distributed from members, friends of Highwater, and the Conference.
- 1986 – Highwater Congregational Church became Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ. In September the congregation voted in favor of building improvements re: building and elevator.
- -Pew pads and pulpit Bibles were given by Joyce Roberts and Joan Spillman, as a memorial to Mabel Riley and Marie & Gail Keckley.
  - An off-street parking lot was completed and gravel spread, with service being donated by Lyle King. Concrete bunkers were purchased.
- 1987 – A light pole was erected in the parking lot by Carl Jones, Gerald McGruder and Steve Smoke, Sr.
  - The basement was soundproofed.
- 1988- Church remodeling expansion project began at an estimated cost of \$85,000; Chairman of the building committee was Virgil Hatch, Chairman of Trustees; and Trustees: Tom Baughman, Tim Shipley, Steve Smoke, Dorothy McGruder, Betty Bruce. Interior decorating committee was: Susan Legg, Debbie Seibel, Elaine Tulloss.
- 1989 – A Church library was started in the basement.
  - A Golden Days service honoring 60 years of church membership included Russell Rhodeback 68 years; Wave (Hoar) Shipley 65 years; Lucille (Stevens) Baughman and Mary (Hunter) Rhodeback, each 60 years.
  - The remodeled and expanded church building project was completed with an approximate cost, including siding of \$86,000. The project was financed by contributions and loans from members and friends, along with bequests from the estates of Ethel Hancock and Laura Neldon. The kitchen cabinets were built and installed by Mike Baughman. The new back entry opens to adequate off-street parking. The dedication was held on April 16, 1989.



*New Back Door Entry  
1989*

- 1991 –New hymnals were purchased with memorial contributions in memory of Letha Stevens Barclay and the choir loft was extended.



- 1992- 12 acres south and west of the church was purchased for \$18,000 and financed by internal notes from members.
  - The focus 2000 committee was formed with Debbie Seibel chairperson to develop future plans for the church.
  - 150th Celebration of the church was held on May 17, 1992. A worship service, hog roast, special music and program depicting the history of the church was presented to members, invited guests, and friends of the church.
- 1993 – Jan 31<sup>st</sup> the congregation burned the debt notes from the 1989 church renovations.
- 1994 - The land purchased in 1992 was paid off.
  - The Stewardship Ministry started a building fund with a goal of \$70,000 in the bank.

- 1995- Late in the summer, a shelter house was built by family and friends in memory of Jim Shipley and in honor of Wave Shipley's 90th birthday.
  - Plans to build a large new addition to the church to be named the Reverend James and Nellene Legg Family Life Center began. The Legg Center will include a narthex, multi-purpose room, kitchen, and many classrooms. Several of the classrooms are now utilized as offices, a nursery, and library/conference room.



*Construction of the Shelter House in 1995  
Pictured here are:  
John Tulloss, Sidney Shipley and Bruce Claggett*

- 1996- The Kroger Grocery Community Rebate Program was initiated by Donna Shipley and George Freas. The monies generated from this program went into the building fund.
  - The baseball diamond was built south of the church.
  - August 1996 –The first hog roast at Highwater started as a challenge by Sid & Rosie Shipley. The challenge was to fill eighteen plastic piggy banks. If the goal was reached Sid and Rosie would donate and roast a hog. The goal was met and this hog roast fed 350 people and collected over \$4,000 for the building fund.



*Highwater continues to build on its foundation.*

- 1997 – The ground was broken for the Jim and Nellene Legg Family Life Center at a total budget of \$365,000, not including the electrical contract which was donated by Bruce and Carolyn Claggett. Many members of the congregation were instrumental in completing this large undertaking. Members donated by sweat equity and by large donations. The completion of the project occurred in the fall.
  - Women’s fellowship started a stained-glass window fund for the new narthex.
  - Hog roast and auction was run by the Pairs N’ Spares, a group from the congregation. They raised \$5,628.51.
- 1998 - Legg Center was dedicated on October 11, 1998.



- 2000 – The choir chimes were purchased for the church with funds from the Janet Shipley Neal memorial funds.  
-Wi-fi was established in the church for congregational use.

- 2001 – Library nook including books and shelving was donated in memory of Gail and Marie Keckley by their daughters, Joyce Roberts and Joan Spillman.  
-September 25, 2001, council approved the establishment of the Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund (HMEF).

- 2003 – Women-In-Service to Highwater or WISH was established. Women’s Fellowship had ceased to exist a few years earlier.  
-A new piano was purchased with the Lucille Baughman memorial fund.

- 2004 –Beth Parker was hired as the first church secretary.  
-Mystery trips were started by WISH for the women of the church.  
-The Seeker Group was established and then replaced in 2006 by the Finders Committee. The Finders were set up to determine the future path of the church.

- 2005 – At the fall hog roast, the mortgage for the Legg Center was burned.  
-An Easter sunrise breakfast was held with over 100 people attending for the worship, fellowship and the food.  
-Air conditioning in the sanctuary was installed from the memorial gifts in honor of Russell and Mary Rhodback.  
-An auto external defibrillator was purchased and placed in the narthex.

- 2006 –A new organ was purchased for the sanctuary by the Finders Group.  
- Christian Education adds two youth groups, the Jr. High “F.R.O.G.S.”(Fully Relying On God) and an elementary group.  
-Women in Stitches at Highwater or WISH II Quilt was formed in December.



*Rev. Gale Green  
1999*

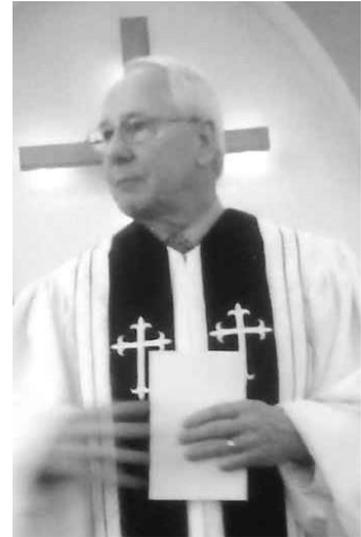


*Rev. Torie Front  
2007-09*

- 2007- The Boomer’s group took over the hog roast from the Pair’s N Spares group.  
-Coffee and donuts between services was established by the Membership and Outreach Committee  
-165th Celebration was observed on Jan. 31, 2007.
- 2008 –WISH initiated the first annual cookie walk in the church Narthex.  
-The Music and Worship Committee appointed Betty Nash to organize the acolytes, including contacting the youth, taking pictures, and assisting the youth on Sunday.  
-Debbie Smetts created artistic banners to be displayed in the sanctuary.
- 2009 – The church constitution was revised and approved with a Mission Statement being adopted.  
-Children’s Church was added during the 10:30 worship service.  
-The first annual chili cook-off was started in January to raise funds for youth programs and activities.  
-A group of members and youth participated in a mission trip to Tiffin, Ohio.  
-Plans to remodel the sanctuary and narthex begin.

- Shelter House improvements were completed by the Shipley Family
- JR Walton installed Benches and Prayer Posts around the property southwest of the building/baseball diamond, creating the Prayer Path. This was a part of his Eagle Scout Project.

- 2010 – The sound room was built in the sanctuary and sound equipment installed in the Legg Center.  
-The remodeling plans from 2009 are completed and carpet is installed in the narthex, hallway and offices.
- 2011 –The baby grand piano was purchased. Eggs were sold to assist in this \$7,000 purchase. *ie; Nancy Stinson had used her egg and butter money to pay the church dues of \$1.00 back in 1900 to save the church building.* The piano was dedicated in honor of Dorothy Bruce and in memory of Lucille Baughman.  
-It is decided hog roasts will only be held once yearly instead of twice.  
-Reverend Scott Schieber was called to Highwater as the first full time pastor.



*Rev. Ed Lopeman 2010-11*



*Rev. Scott Schieber  
2011 - Present*

-Children's Church will have two groups: Bugs and Tigers.

-Brigitte Rizzo was the part time choir director for one year.

-New playground equipment was installed and dedicated to the children in memory of Sidney Shipley, Dorothy McGruder, Gail and Marie Keckley, Edward Presosky. The project was funded through memorial funds and contributions from WISH.

2013 – Zach Cornelius became the Youth Ministry Coordinator.

-Missions decided to participate in the Stop Hunger Now program. The congregation packed 10,050 meals.

- Constitution is amended and by-laws included.

-Acoustic panels were installed in the Legg Center by the Piper family.

-WISH purchases a new ice machine.

- 2014 – WISH II made 42 school bags and the congregation donated school supplies to fill them. This initiative was through Church World Services for children worldwide.

-Participation of Highwater Church as well as other churches and organizations in the community packed 15,000 meals for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stop Hunger Now program.

-WISH begins a Scholarship Fund for the continued education of Highwater members. Three youth are awarded scholarships in 2014.

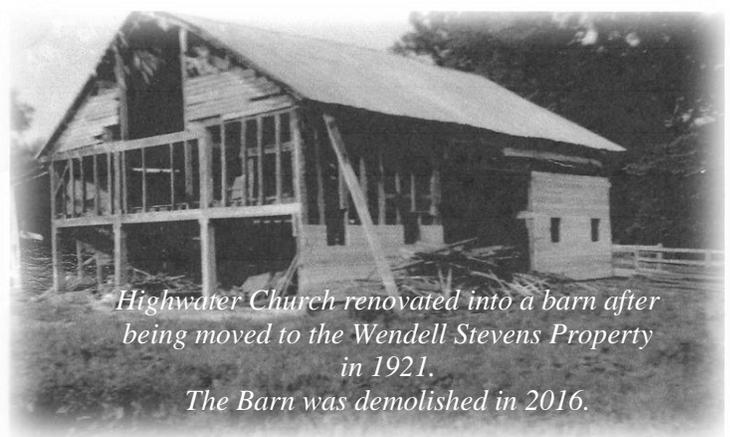
-In July of 2014, Highwater Missions began organizing a free

summer lunch program in conjunction with Salvation Army in Newark in two locations: Miller Park in Utica and Village Park in St. Louisville. The Utica site remains today. Highwater continues to coordinate the site with other congregations in the Utica Ministerial Association. In 2017, over 1200 children were served a lunch in Utica alone.





- 2015 – The parking lot was paved to make an easy and safe entry to the church. The sidewalks were also redone.
  - We participated with neighboring churches through Global Food Packing Initiative to pack 18,730 meals.
  - Renovation of the lower basement level for the classrooms was completed: New carpet was purchased. Installation of carpeting was donated by Allen & Joy Smith, carpentry renovations were done by Mike Piper, electric was installed by Steve Barna, and painting and murals completed by Debbie and Larry Smetts.
- 2016 – From June 26-July 2, several individuals participated in a week long mission trip to Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS. This was an opportunity to serve outside of our community and the following attended: Pastor Scott Schieber, Becky Wright, Danny Steele, David & Bev Keener, Jackie Parrell, Maddie Parrell, Maddie Layman, Karen Holt, Audry Holt, Mike & Laura Laughlin, Jim & Terri Andrews, and Mark & Lisa McKimmins. Volunteers worked the food pantry, the Micah Center (homeless day shelter), and the largest focus on housing rehabilitation. Some attendees also volunteered with Loaves and Fishes, a local soup kitchen.
  - Highwater became the charter organization for Boy Scout Troop #55 with Roger Webb as Scout Master.
  - The congregation and neighboring churches packed 14,256 meals through the Global Food Packing Program sponsored by Lifeline Christian Mission. The meals were sent to families and school children in Haiti.
  - The Highwater logo was designed and adopted.
- 2017 – The big screen TV was installed in the sanctuary and used during the service on February 17, 2017.
  - A kick off for the 175th celebration began with 126 people attending the service which focused on the stained-glass windows. Lunch and a decorated cake followed the church service in the narthex.
  - New landscape plantings were completed near the narthex.
  - Steps leading into the sanctuary were installed.
  - An estimate for the stained glass window repairs with Franklin Glass in Columbus, Ohio was obtained.
  - Remodeling of the upstairs cry room was completed.
  - Elevator upgrades and/or designs are being considered. Cost estimates are being researched.
  - In July 2017, five Highwater Youth and Pastor Scott Schieber, volunteered at Camp Washington at Washington UCC in Cincinnati, a day-camp for inner-city children, along with Trinity UCC at Baltimore, Ohio.

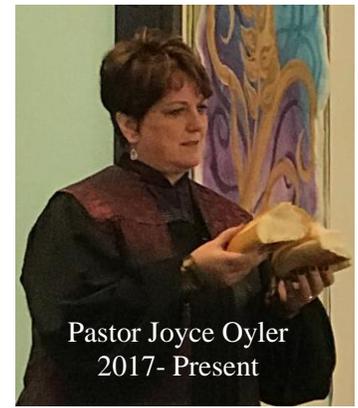


-In September 2017, Pastor Joyce Oyler, an MTSO student in her final year of studies, is hired as a fully-licensed Associate Pastor.

Pictures of the building through its many changes are pictured on the previous pages, as are many of the Pastors who served to keep the Holy Spirit alive and growing at Highwater Church over the past 175 years of Ministry. Below is the complete list of those who Ministered here:

**2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV)**

*<sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*



Pastor Joyce Oyler  
2017- Present

Jesse Harris 1842	Rev. R. H. Long 1906--1913	Rev. Neison 1959-1962
J.W. Marvin 1842	1928-1936	Rev. W.L. Mullet 1962
Bowman Rabb 1852	Rev. Frank Morehouse 1913-1918	Rollin Tarter 1963-1964
Thomas Bruce 1868	Rev. Bradbury 1918-1922	Van Chiles 1964-1965
Rev. W.K. Stamp 1874	Rev. Verne Humphrey 1923-1928	Rev. David Sheppard 1965-1967
Rev. Williams 1874	Rev. Eugene Rainey 1936-1938	Rev. Dr. R. Philip Shober 1967-1981
Rev. Hagans 1874	Denison Student Lewis McKibben 1938-1944	Robert L. Gunnoe 1981-1983
Rev. Buttler 1874	Denison Student Joseph Dickson 1938-1944	Rev. James H. Legg Jr. 1983-1993
Rev. Enos Peters 1887	Mr. Nissen 1938-1944	Rev. Ronald B. Hall 1991-2007
Rev. Dixie Parsons 1887	Rev. Ernest Gilbert 1944-1955	Rev. Gale J. Green 1999
Rev. Albert Dunlap 1898-1899 1901-1902	Jack Byers 1955-1958	Rev. Bertie Dell 2007
Rev. Silas S. Main 1900-1901	Glenn Dalton 1955-1958	Rev. Victoria "Torie" Front 2007-2009
Rev. Russell Clem 1902-1903	Howard Fowler 1955-1958	Rev. Ed Lopeman 2010-2011
Rev. Kilpatrick 1903-1906	Rev. Weldon Stockwell 1958-1959	Rev. Scott Schieber 2011- Present
	Rev. Howard Russell 1959-1962	Pastor Joyce Oyler 2017- Present

A commemorative plaque with the names and dates of the above ministers is mounted in the Narthex in honor of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Psalm 121:1 (NRSV)**

*<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?*

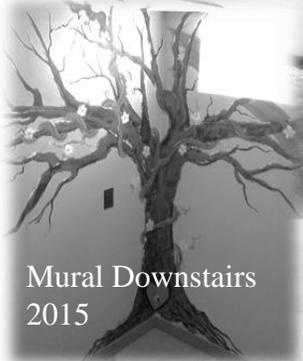
*<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

The past 15 years have seen many changes and updates both inside and out of our building. Following are some additional photos.



*Parking Lot Paved in 2015*

*The Sanctuary is updated and remodeled in 2010*



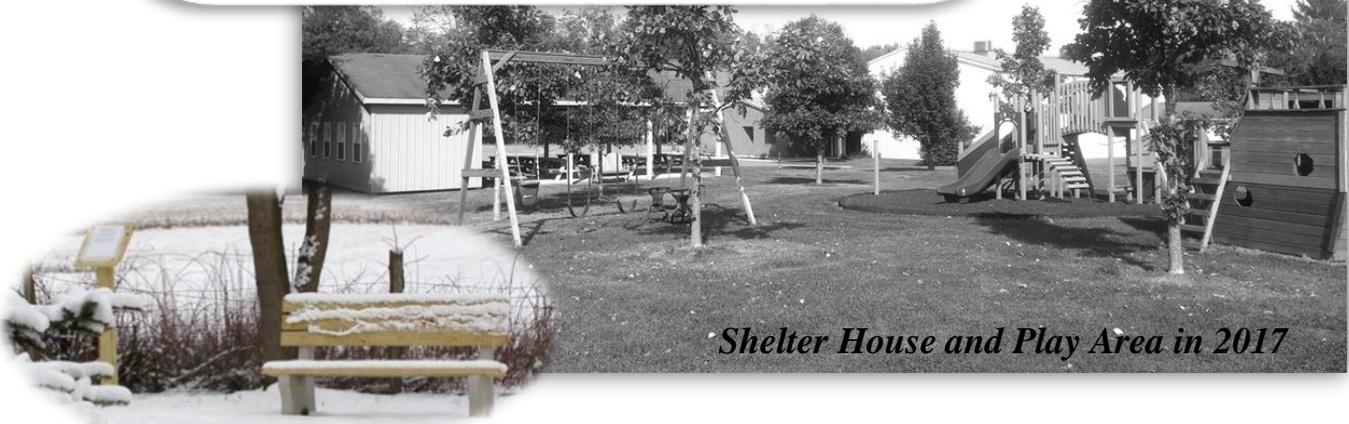
*Mural Downstairs  
2015*



*Arc arrives in 2002*



*2017 Church Entrance*



*Shelter House and Play Area in 2017*

*Prayer Path 2009*

## Highwater Hog Roast and Auction

Since August of 1996 The Highwater Hog Roast and Auction has played an important part in Community Outreach and Fund Raising for continued Building Improvements and Mission Ministry.

Donations are accepted for the dinner. The home baked desserts that are a smorgasbord all by themselves, have become well known throughout the community.

The auction includes items donated from the community as well as items donated by church members.

Originally there were two roasts a year, one in the spring and one at harvest time. In 2011 it was decided to offer one hog roast in the spring.

Around 2004 the Funds from the Hog Roast were divided into three funds; 10% to the Memorial Endowment Fund, 10% to the Mission Ministry Fund and 80% continued to go into the Building Fund.

Originally the hogs were roasted on the property and needed to be watched all through the night. Later the hogs would be donated and prepared out-of-house and brought in to be cut up and served.



## The Men and Women of Highwater

### Ephesians 4:11-13 (TLB)

<sup>11</sup> Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others he has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special ability in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust him as their Savior; still others have a gift for caring for God's people as a shepherd does his sheep, leading and teaching them in the ways of God.

<sup>12</sup> Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; <sup>13</sup> until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord—yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ.

The men and women of Highwater have always been Good and Faithful servants.

The founders of the church were active and involved in building and being the church.

There have been many groups of leadership. Early on there was the Ladies Aide and more recently we have had Pairs and Spares, The Seekers, The Finders, WISH, FISH and WISH II Quilt.

All the groups have shared in *building the church*. There has been a church council and trustees, but church Ministries were not added until 1983. The Ministries remain the same with the addition of the Care Ministry. The Ministries were formed with the expectation that every church member would be involved in one or more of them.

We thank all those who have gone before us and in many cases continue to live on through their sons and daughters. We open our doors and give thanks for the many that have joined us in worship and praise!

Much of the work on the earlier buildings was done by members, and many additions, finish work and improvements have also been done by our many skilled and gifted members.

After the construction of the Legg Center the doors were opened to the public, inviting groups in to rent the facility for their own use or be served dinner by the Highwater Family. The funds made from the meals would go to charities, activities and special church needs, to be determined by the women. The meals were a success and the men and women are still serving these dinners today. The dinners that have been served include The Licking County Trustees, The Licking County Dairy Banquet, The Licking County Lamb Banquet, Park National Freedom Years, Licking County Homemakers Agrarian Groups and others not mentioned here.

The Legg Center has hosted Wedding Receptions, Birthdays, Scouts and many sports activities.

Other events and dinners the men and women of the church have served include The Hog Roasts, Chili Cook-Offs, Farmers Dinners, Christmas Pageants, Carnivals, Spring Flings, Mother-Daughter Brunch, Spaghetti Dinners, Breakfast with Santa, Family Potlucks, Concerts, Fashion Runway Show, Trunk or Treat Potlucks, and 2-3 Family Picnics during the summer months.

Both the WISH and FISH groups have planned Mystery Trips.

The women have participated in large retreats at camps and have recently organized their own private retreats at Lodges located in the area.

Pictured on the next few pages are samples of the Highwater Family enjoying Fellowship, Fun and Faith.

There are currently about 120 active members at Highwater. Two services are offered; 8:30a and 10:30a with Sunday School being offered during the 10:30a service.

The Newsletters and Council Minutes are archived and tell much more of the story if you would want to know further details.

Jesus is alive at Highwater. You can see it, hear it, feel it, smell it and taste it.



2017 WISH II Quilt



*Back row--Ann Moseley, Janine Shipley, Patsy Farmer, Elaine Tulloss, Lisa McKimmons, Kathy Preston and Becky Campbell  
3rd row--Betty Fyffe, Melanie Megias, Sue Bishop, Adrienne Anderson, Paula Bevier, Kathy Schmaltz and Pat Hoar  
2nd row--Paula Daubenmier, Judy Dixon, Debbie Schiller, Nancy Schmidt, Paula Olson, Linda Richards, Irene Smith, Terri Andrews and Carolyn Friedberg  
Front row--Diane Todd, Wilma Todd, Donna Todd, Melissa Malone, Phyllis Buxton, Jane Lake, Sandy Maricevich and Vicki Gierhart.*

WISH 2017



*Back Row: Phyllis Buxton, Jane Lake, Elaine Tulloss, Betty Nash, Kathy Preston, Marsha Barna, Marcia Williams, Judy Grace, Nancy Schmidt  
Front Row: Mary Jo Layman, Becky Campbell, Patsy Farmer, Cindy Campbell, Sue Baughman*

Ladies Aid - maybe early 1940's



Resnie Jones  
Ethel Hancock  
Edith Jones  
Hazel Kinney  
Reba Stevens  
Blanche Keckley  
Helen Clark  
Fern Kausfman  
Ruth Lehtocraft

Found in Janet Neal's collection of pictures - Elaine

Betty Perkins  
Frene Ashcraft  
Marie Keckley  
Wave Shipley  
Lucille Baughman



Front Row: Carolyn Claggett and Wave Shipley, Second Row: Ina Mae Johnson, and Dorothy Bruce, Back Row: Lucille Baughman, Nelene Legg, Alice Dodsworth, Mary Ann Glick, Jo Ralston, Irene Ashcroft, Rosie Shipley, Mary Johnson and Mary Ellen Mercer





**Ephesians 5:33 (MSG)**

*29-33 No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh." This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband.*

**Highwater Weddings 1992-2017**

**Weddings Performed at Highwater by Highwater Ministers**

Bob Tucker and Laura Tulloss	06-20-1992	Rev. James Legg
Shannon Hughes and Tristen Hover	06-06-1994	Rev. Ron Hall
Charles Ricketts and Kay McGuire	05-22-2004	Rev. Ron Hall
Wade Blackburn and Stacy Gaumer	05-07-2005	Rev. Ron Hall
Andrew Bero and Cathy MacLachlan	12-17-2005	Rev. Ron and Rev Torie
Zack Miller and Jackie Hatch	07-29-2006	Rev. Ron Hall and Rev Torie
Jason Hover and Amanda Moore	09-09-2006	Rev. Ron Hall
Luke Simon and Jenna Farmer	05-13-2009	Rev. Torie Front
Michael Stretton and Jessica Baughman	09-09-2009	Rev. Torie Front
David Snyder and Jennifer Edwards	02-05-2011	Rev. Ed Lopeman
Josh Sayre and Emily Hoar	05-16-2015	Rev. Scott Schieber
Jim Kelley and Virginia Freas	12-19-2015	Rev. Scott Schieber

**Wedding Performed at Highwater by other Minister**

Marshall Goodman and Jill Smith	03-08-2008	Rev. Craig Scholl (Jill's Uncle)
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*Jim Lloyd, Jennifer and Dave Snyder, and Becky Lloyd  
2-5-2011*



*Torie Front, Cathy and Drew Bero, Rev. Ron Hall and Tanner MacLachlan 12-17-2005*

*Bob and Laura Tucker  
6-20-1992*

## Highwater Weddings Performed by Highwater Ministers Off-site

Eric Burgess and Mary Jane Hoskinson	11-18-2002	Rev. Ron Hall
Dick Hoar and Carol Wetherbee	09-06-2003	Rev. Ron Hall
Bill Hoskinson and Lindsey Pound	06-28-2003	Rev. Ron Hall
Jim Kornokovich and Jamie Farmer	07-03-2004	Rev. Ron Hall and Rev. Torie Front
Jacob Preston and Alicia Coad	07-02-2005	Rev. Ron Hall and Rev. Torie Front
Daniel Baker and Ashley Keener	06-10-2006	Rev. Ron Hall
Brad Atherton and Stacey Shipley	06-17-2006	Rev. Ron Hall and Rev. Torie Front
Larry and Debbie Smetts	09-02-2006	Rev. Ron Hall and Rev. Torie Front
Gerald Hazzard and Emily Laughlin	06-30-2007	Rev. Torie Front
Kevin Keller and Molly Laughlin	03-17-2012	Rev. Ed Lopeman
Adam Shipley and Ashley Gosnell	07-21-2012	Rev. Scott Schieber
Vance Norris and Angela Andrews	07-19-2014	Rev. Scott Schieber
Mike Shipley and Abby Pound	08-29-2015	Rev. Scott Schieber

## Wedding Receptions Only, at Highwater

Andrew Kalas and Elli Hall	06-20-1998	Rev. Ed Lopeman
Mark Hamilton and Jennifer McKimmins	06-10-2006	Rev. Hamilton

## Highwater Baptisms

### Romans 6:3-5 (VOICE)

<sup>3</sup> Did someone forget to tell you that when we were initiated into Jesus the Anointed through baptism's ceremonial washing we entered into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore, we were buried with Him through this baptism into death so that just as God the Father, in all His glory, resurrected the Anointed One, we, too, might walk confidently out of the grave into a new life. <sup>5</sup> To put it another way: if we have been united with Him to share in a death like His, don't you understand that we will also share in His resurrection?



*Madeline and Avery Hoskinson  
January 24<sup>th</sup> 2016*

A Baptism Plaque is mounted in the Narthex, remembering the baptisms from April of 2008 going forward. Baptisms before this time are recorded in the Record Book which can be found in the church office.



*Max Crain Immersed in the creek  
across the street.  
August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009*



*Morgan Wave Shipley  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

**Psalm 100 (MSG)**

*<sup>1-2</sup> On your feet now—applaud GOD! Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence. <sup>3</sup> Know this: GOD is God, and God, GOD. He made us; we didn't make him. We're his people, his well-tended sheep. <sup>4</sup> Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him. <sup>5</sup> For GOD is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.*

**Music and Worship Ministry**

We have been truly blessed with the gifted musicians and vocalists. The time the pianists and organists have put in over the years practicing, leading and playing during our worship services is a pure act of love for our Church family. Our Choirs; the "Joyful Noise" of our children the beauty of the chimes and the fullness of all our voices; individual, in small groups and in large, over the years, has shown that *Truly, the Spirit of the Lord is in this Place!*

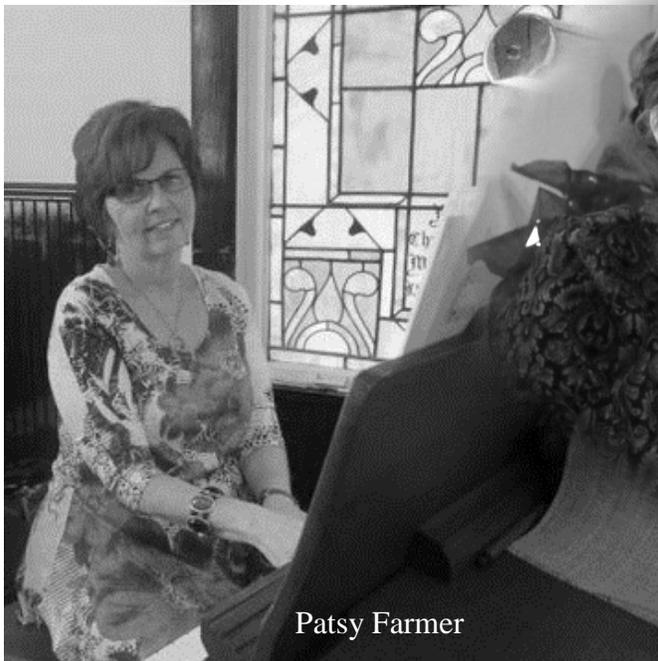


*Sue Steele*



*Judy Grace*

*Cathy Bero*

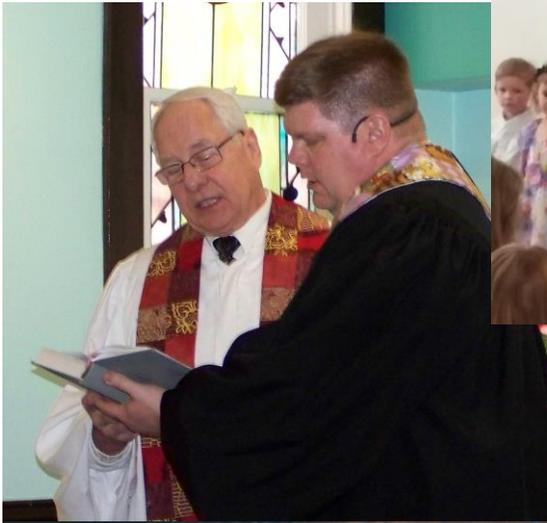


*Patsy Farmer*



*Janine Shipley*

*Laura Laughlin*





*Dorothy Bruce*

*Nancy Siegel*



**Matthew 5:14-16 (MSG)**

*14-16 "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

**Christian Education / Vacation Bible School / Christmas Pageant / Sunday School / Bible Study  
Confirmation**

The pictures tell the story of the importance of being the Light of Jesus in our lives.







## Missions Ministry

### Matthew 7:12 (MSG)

<sup>12</sup> "Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get."

The Mission Ministry is very active at Highwater. Highwater has reached out and helped neighbors with immediate needs, Highwater has helped the community through local organizations including the Licking County Coalition of Care through monetary donations, The Utica Food Pantry through food, monetary donations and hands on volunteers. Highwater has partnered with the Newark Salvation Army through the Angel Tree Program, Red Kettle Sundays and has spearheaded the Summer Lunch Program in Utica. This has been an ecumenical outreach, churches in the community working together to share in this program.

Highwater reaches out beyond the community into the international realm with its Disaster Relief Buckets through Church World Services and has been involved in global Food Packing programs since 2014.

The youth have been on Mission trips both in and out of state.

In 2016 a group, ages 12 and up, from Highwater went to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi and performed different services that were needed at that time.







**Genesis 15:5 Living Bible (TLB)**

*<sup>5</sup> Then God brought Abram outside beneath the nighttime sky and told him, “Look up into the heavens and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that—too many to count!”*



**A look Through the Windows of  
Highwater Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

*By Terri Andrews*

**LADIES AID**

The Ladies Aid stained glass window represents all the women of the church; past, present, and future. Though the years the names of the organization may have changed, Ladies Aid, Women's Fellowship, W.I.S.H. (Women in Service to Highwater), W.I.S.H. II (Women in Stitches to Highwater), or whatever it will be called in the future. It remains the commitment of women's faithfulness to Highwater and provides an integral part of the church's foundation. As a statement of purpose for the group, these women continue to cultivate the spirit of Christ in every area of human life, beginning with their own lives, the community, and reaching to the uttermost parts of the world.

**IN MEMORY OF  
ANSELL P. BAILEY  
and  
OLIVE I. BAILEY**

Ansell P. Bailey (1835-1909) was the son of Daniel E. (1811-1886) and Naomi “Norma” Wright (1816-1892) Bailey. Ansell was born in Highwater, Licking County, Ohio.

Ansell wed Olive Isadora (1849-1929) Fuller. Ansell & Olive joined the Church at the turn of the century, according to church records. *This window is in memory of this couple.*

About the same time that the Bailey’s joined the congregation, the Church was faced with the possibility of losing the building. Ansell Bailey, along with Arch Stinson explored the possibility of saving the church. They reported that if the church had paid the annual conference dues for the past two years, the building could remain. No one was sure if the dues, a little over \$1.00 a year had been paid. To the relief of the congregation, Nancy Stinson had saved a bit each week from her “egg and butter money” and had paid the dues herself.

Ansell & Olive Bailey were the parents of at least three children: Lewis, Arthur, and Lillie Belle. All the children were born in Highwater, McKean Twp., Licking Co., Ohio according to their birth records.

Mr. & Mrs. Ansell Bailey are buried in the Fredonia Cemetery, McKean Twp., Licking Co., Ohio.

The daughter of Ansell & Olive Bailey, Lillie Belle Bailey (1881-1966) wed Albert Elmor Pierpoint (1874-1953) on July 8, 1897 in Licking Co., Ohio by T. M. Ricketts. Her father, Ansell Bailey signed the marriage certificate as Lillie was 16 years old and underage. Albert Pierpoint was 23 years old.

Lillie & Albert were the parents of at least three children: Ivan Ansell, Earl Jarome, and Nellie Fay Pierpoint.

Lillie & Albert became members of the Church at the turn of the century according to church records. There are some in our church family today that remember them.

Lillie & Albert Pierpoint are buried in the Fredonia Cemetery, Licking Co., Ohio.



**REVEREND FRANK MOORHOUSE  
AND FAMILY**

Reverend Frank Moorhouse served as the minister at Highwater from 1913-1918. It was during his tenure that the new church building with stained glass windows was planned and built.

There was talk of replacing the church building as early as 1915. Rev. Moorhouse acted as the chairman and led the discussion. On March 25, 1916, the members decided to commence to build a new church building after they raised \$2,000.00. The Ladies Aid donated \$100.00 to the cause. Brother Frank Riley was tasked with determining if the old building could be sold and the proceeds directed for new construction. The construction of the new church building began in 1917 and it was determined that they could sell the old building, which was completed the following year. The old church building was moved further back on the lot to make room for construction of the new building, as recommended by Reverend Moorhouse, according to church records. The new church building was dedicated on August 11, 1918 with the dedication given by Dr. Burnett. The church was built at an estimated cost of \$4,000.00. The beautiful stained-glass windows were sponsored by different families within the church.

About 1920, the old church building was sold and the monies turned over to the building fund. The old building was moved to a farm owned by a church member, Wendell Stevens. The building was moved by a mule team, using logs as rollers, about 1 mile west of the church where it served as a barn until it was demolished in 2016.

On October 31, 1926, Highwater Christian Church burned the note on the church debt at a Rally Day celebration with Rev. Humphrey.

Reverend Moorhouse resigned in August of 1918 and moved to Michigan, according to early church records.

## ROYAL BRUCE & FAMILY



Photo taken about 1924

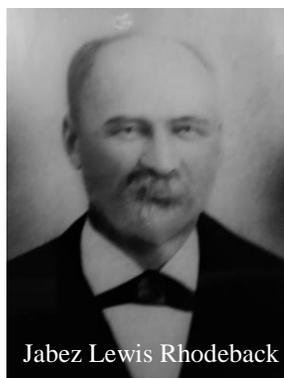
*Front Row: Nina (McLeese), Louise (Hoar), Royal R., Henrietta (Montgomery), Sam  
Back Row: Mary (Shipley), Royal "Bert", Myrtle (Claggett), Lena (McMillen), John*

Royal R. (1859-1930) Bruce, son of Rev. Thomas (1817-1883) and Elizabeth (1817-1898) (Robinson) Bruce wed Henrietta (1859-1944) Montgomery on April 6, 1882. His father, Rev. Thomas Bruce was ordained a minister of the gospel by the Mt. Vernon Christian Conference and served as a minister of Highwater in 1868. Henrietta was the daughter of Samuel (1815-1904) and Mary (Seymour) (1814-1894) Montgomery. She attended Appleton Methodist Church in her early life but then became a member of the Highwater Christian Church. They were parents of eight children:

1. Thomas Samuel "Sam" (1883-1946) Bruce wed Josie Pearl (1884-1976) Crotinger on November 23, 1910. Josie was the daughter of James K. (1847-1936) and Sarrah H. (Ferguson) (1853-1933) Crotinger. They had four children:
  - i. James Burton (1914-1915) Bruce – never married
  - ii. Kenneth Burvel (1916-2011) Bruce had one son: Donald "Donnie" Bruce.
  - iii. Royal C. (1918-2012) Bruce wed Betty Jane (1922-2016) Klump, daughter of Edward and Bertha (Ellinger) Klump on March 22, 1942. They were the parents of two sons: Larry and Tom. Betty was a strong supporter of the church. Larry L. and Jennifer Sue Bruce have three children; Lenae, Deborah and Bradd. Jennifer organized and prepared the WISH dinners and with Larry's assistance ran the kitchen for the hog roasts in past years. She also sings for special events at the church. Kristi Jane (1973-1983), Jarrod T., and Mark A. are the children of Tom and Barb Bruce. In 1984, fifty hymnals were purchased with donations received in memory of Kristi. Also, a flowering crab tree was planted in Kristi's honor at the church.
  - iv. Thomas "Dale" (1920-1979) Bruce wed Dorothy Aileen (1922-2015) Wright on August 12, 1922. Dorothy was the daughter of Harry and Elsie (Studor) Wright. Dorothy Bruce was an active church member until her death in 2015. She provided music during worship for 40 years. They had four children: Judith Ann, Frances E., Nancy J. and Thomas Nelson Bruce (1944-1944). Judy wed John Schmoll on December 17, 1967 at Highwater. John Schmoll, at one time, was choir director at the Church. Judy Schmoll is a current member of WISH II. Fran wed Sam Lantz on May 2, 1970 at Highwater (divorced). Nancy and her husband Thomas Siegel are members of the congregation.
2. Royal Robert "Bert" (1884-1964) Bruce wed Charlotte E. "Lottie" Griffith, daughter of Thomas S. and Sarah A. (McMillen) Griffith on April 8, 1908. They had two children:
  - i. Freda (1911-1978) Bruce wed Dwight Comstock (1909-1992) and they had no children.

- ii. Bernard L. (1914-1991) Bruce
- 3. Nina Beatrice (1886 - 1977) Bruce wed William M. “Bob” McLees, son of Robert C. and Mary E. (Helphrey) McLees on July 19, 1911 by R. H. Long, Minister of the Christian Church. Nina was baptized on July 21, 1907 by Rev. R. H. Long.
- 4. Lena Luella (1888-1960) Bruce wed Harry McMillen, son of Charles and Martha (Patton) McMillen on Christmas day 1911 by R.H. Long, Minister of the Christian Church (Highwater). Lena was baptized on July 21, 1907 by Rev. R.H. Long.
- 5. Mary Etta (1890-1975) Bruce married Gail Herman (1891-1969) Shipley, son of Lewis Marion(1862-1944) and Winnie Mae (Coffman)(1868-1937) Shipley on April 20, 1911 at the home of her father, Royal Bruce by R.H. Long, Minister. Mary Bruce joined Highwater in 1906 and was baptized July 17, 1910 by Rev. R.H. Long. Mary assisted in the kitchen for dinners at the church. Mary and Gail Shipley had two sons:
  - i. Herman Bruce (1911-1929) Shipley
  - ii. Wayne Herbert (1912-1980) Shipley wed Francis Ida (1912-1999) Gray, the daughter of Harry C. and Ida (Lewis) Gray on June 7, 1940. Wayne and Francis had no children.
- 6. John Herbert (1892-1952) Bruce married Mary Elizabeth (1896-1985) Weaver on May 1, 1922. Mary was the daughter of Charles S. and Phoebe Alice (Conard) Weaver. Johnny Bruce was baptized on July 17, 1910 by Rev. R.H. Long. John and Mary had three children:
  - i. Dwight Bruce
  - ii. Neal Bruce
  - iii. Betty Bruce
- 7. Myrtle Lucille (1899-1987) Bruce wed Hugh Orville (1894-1984) Claggett on November 16, 1920 by R.H. Long, Minister. Hugh was the son of Ellis Russel and Effie Mariah (Riley) Claggett. (Additional information found under the James Franklin Riley window) They had three children:
  - i. Twila Jean Claggett wed Louis Granger.
  - ii. Shirley Ann Claggett wed Donald Calhoun.
  - iii. Bruce Edwin Claggett wed Carolyn Rau, daughter of Norman H. and Esther M. (Frederickson) Rau on July 10, 1953. They had three daughters: Christine Ann, Cynthia Marie, and Constance Jean. Bruce and Carolyn are current members of Highwater. Bruce and Carolyn donated the entire electrical contract for the Jim and Nellene Legg Family Life Center in 1997. Carolyn was instrumental in beginning the Phone Prayer Chain.
- 8. Emily “Louise” (1904-1977) Bruce wed Clarence “Russel” (1904-1998) Hoar at the home of her parents on June 15, 1926 by Rev. R.H. Long, minister at Highwater. Russel was the son of Harry and Bertha (Riley) Hoar. Louise and Russel were the parents of one daughter: Jane Alice wed LaMar Jacob King. Jane and LaMar King had two children: Charles LaMar and Carolyn Jane King.

## MR. & MRS. J. L. RHODEBACK



Jabez Lewis Rhodeback

J. L. (Jabez Lewis) Rhodeback (1842-1917) was the son of Joseph Smith (1802-) and Mary Ann (Williard) (1804-1865) Rhodeback.

He wed Charity Ann Bell (1846-1941) on February 20, 1883. Charity was the daughter of William (1811-1877) and Mary (Stephens) (1815-1907) Bell. J. L. was a surveyor and nurseryman. They had eight children:

- 1. William Rhodeback
- 2. Lewis Spencer (1868-1945) Rhodeback wed Cora Evans.
- 3. Mary Molissa (1870-1893) Rhodeback – never married



Charity Ann Rhodeback

- 4. John Clarence (1871-1875) Rhodeback
- 5. Bryl Wilson (1874-1952) wed Elsie Bowers on April 29, 1896 in the parsonage in Chatham with Rev. J. Godfrey Jones officiating. They had four children: Irvin, Ida, Leroy, and Lucile.
- 6. Jerome (1877-1877) Rhodeback
- 7. Bronson Allen (1879-1936) Rhodeback – never married

8. Ernest Ashton (1883-1970) Rhodeback wed Arlie Almina Bishop.

J. L. and Charity Ann Rhodeback are buried at Fredonia Cemetery, McKean Twp., Licking County, Ohio.

J. L. and Charity Ann Rhodeback were members of the church as well as sons, Bryl Wilson (1874-1952) and Ernest Ashton (1883-1970) as indicated in church records.

Bryl and his wife, Elsie were members in 1913. Bryl was baptized in 1914 and Elsie in 1915. Bryl held numerous positions within the church.

Their son, Ernest Ashton Rhodeback wed Arlie Almina "Mina" (1891-1976) Bishop on October 1, 1908, Licking County, Ohio. Mina was the daughter of Stanton (1868-1949) and Ida (Hatch) (1873-1915) Bishop. They were the parents of the following six children:

1. Russell E. (1912-2003) Rhodeback wed Mary E. (1912-2005) Hunter.
2. Ida "Edna" (1915-1988) Rhodeback wed Lamerton N. (1910-1974) Wilcox.
3. Homer Jason (1918-1999) Rhodeback wed Ava Elizabeth (1923-2005) Kinsey
4. Janice (1925- ) Rhodeback wed Robert (1921-2011) Edwards.
5. Marion "Gail" (1921-1982) Rhodeback wed Elizabeth Metzler.
6. Lennis Eugene (1929-1929) Rhodeback

Church records list Earnest, Mina, and son, Russell as being baptized on June 18, 1922.

Ernest and Mina are buried at Fredonia Cemetery.

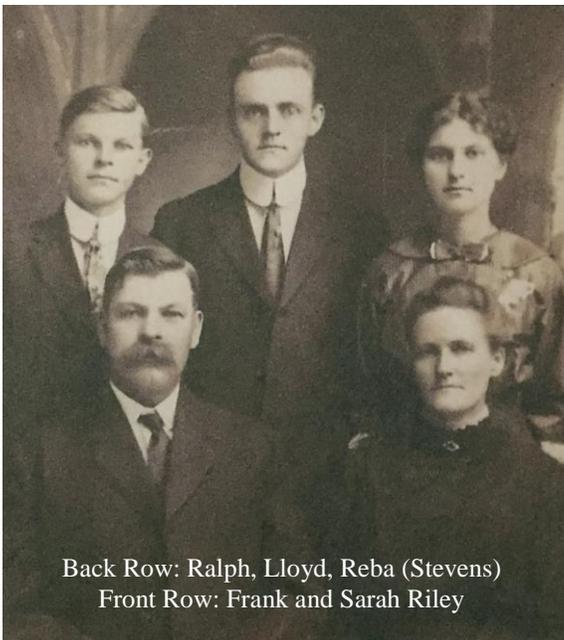
Ernest and Mina's son, Russell E. (1912-2003) Rhodeback, his wife, Mary E. (Hunter) (1912-2005), and their daughters, Jane and Evelyn were active members of the congregation at Highwater. Both daughters married at Highwater. Jane wed Thomas H. "Tom" Lake, at a ceremony on December 14, 1963. Jane and Tom celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013. Cleora "Evelyn" Rhodeback (1935-2001) married Harold L. Lee on September 25, 1964.

Russell and Mary Rhodeback are interned at Wilson Cemetery, Licking County, Ohio. Daughter, Cleora Evelyn Lee is interned at Homer Cemetery, Licking County, Ohio.

Jane and Tom Lake purchased a home in 1968, which was the Rhodeback family farm established prior to 1896.

They are the parents of one son, Thomas H. (1966-2008) Lake, Jr. and are the grandparents of Marisa and Alex Lake. They still attend Highwater Church when they are not residing in Fort Myers, Florida for the winter. Tom and Jane Lake proposed the addition of air conditioning in the Sanctuary.

### **MR. & MRS. JAMES RILEY, MR. & MRS. LOYD RILEY & RALPH RILEY**



Back Row: Ralph, Lloyd, Reba (Stevens)  
Front Row: Frank and Sarah Riley

This window was donated by James Franklin "Frank" (1870-1930) and his wife, Sarah Jane (Kearns) (1872-1929) Riley, along with their two sons: Lloyd (correct spelling of his name) and Ralph.

Their daughter, Reba Leota (Riley) (1895-1975) and her husband, Wendell Joseph (1893-1978) Stevens sponsored a different window (For additional information, see Charles M. Clark window).

Their oldest son, Earl "Lloyd" (1893-1959) Riley married Jessie M. (1894-1982) Boggs on January 28, 1914. Jessie Boggs Riley was the daughter of Alexander and Katherine (Herbert) Boggs. They were the parents of son Earl Lloyd Riley, Jr. born in 1919.

Son, James Ralph (1896-1981) Riley wed Helen May (1900-1988) Carlisle. They were the parents of Marjorie Jane (1927-2014) who wed Thomas C. Losh.

Church records indicate that Frank and his immediate family were active members. Frank joined the Christian Church at Highwater on September 24, 1910. Frank held several positions and served the church as a trustee, deacon and was listed as treasurer in 1912. Lloyd, Ralph, and Reba Riley were baptized at Highwater on July 17, 1910. Lloyd Riley was a "collector" (takes up the collection plate during the service) for the church, according to early records.

James "Frank" Riley was the son of John William (1836-1902) and Angeline (Plummer) (1842-1920) Riley. His mother, Angeline (Plummer) Riley, several siblings and their families attended Highwater. Frank was the 6<sup>th</sup> child of fourteen children born to John and Angeline. His thirteen siblings were:

1. Clement L. (1863-1927) Riley wed Clara Maud (1868-1925) Taylor.
2. Ida Ellen (1864-1938) Riley and her husband Joseph Roger "J.R." (1856-1932) Haas joined the Christian Church at Highwater on February 16, 1919. Their son, Walter "Ray" (1899-1928) Haas was baptized June 22, 1913 and was a "collector" for the church in 1915.
3. Emma Loretta (1866-1951) Riley wed Lemuel A. ((1866-1951) Hammond.
4. Albert Plummer (1867-1939) Riley was also a church member. Albert's wife was Sophia Koontz (1868-1960) Riley. Their two daughters were baptized on July 17, 1910. They were: Mabel Riley (1894-1986) who was an active and loyal church member until her death in 1986 and Leota "Marie" (1896-1957) who became the wife of Gail Russell (1893-1976) Keckley.
5. John "William" (1868-1938) Riley, Jr. wed Clara Jane (1868-1944) Koontz.
6. Effie Mariah (1871-1956) Riley was the wife of Ellis Russel (1868-1946) Claggett. Effie and Ellis were married by Enos Peters, Christian Minister on October 2, 1890. Enos Peters was the current pastor at Highwater.
7. Mary Jane (1873-1961) Riley was wife of Lester Hamlin (1860-1941) Peters. Lester was the son of Reverend Enos (1838-1900) (Minister at Highwater starting in 1887) and his wife Clarinda (1843-1916) (Freeman) Peters.
8. Robert (1877-1967) Riley, was married to Maude Elizabeth (1883-1950) Wilson. Maude Riley was baptized at the Christian Church at Highwater on June 18, 1911. Robert and Maude had no children.
9. Clyde Desmond (1879-1962) Riley wed Clara O. (1884-1962) Bell.
10. Wesley Elvin (1881-1959) Riley wed Ida May (1885-1970) Weaver.
11. Pearl Angeline (1883-1907) Riley wed Asa Lewis (1876-1933) Wince. They had two sons that attended Highwater, Carl R. (1905-1980) and Paul Kenneth (1907-1985) Wince.
12. Bertha Ethel (1885-1969) Riley was the wife of Henry Morris "Harry" (1878-1962) Hoar and also a member of the Christian Church at Highwater. They were parents to Clarence "Russel"(1904-1998), Wave Lucille (1905-1997), Harold "Wayne"(1908-1982), Virginia "Frances" (1909-1992), Agnes Mae (1911-1984), Grace "Indus"(1918-1994), Richard Eugene "Dick" Hoar. Church records indicate that four of their children were baptized on August 10, 1924 by Rev. Humphrey: Wave, Wayne, Frances, and Agnes. Many of their descendants are currently still active at Highwater.
13. Stella "Fern"(1890-1969) Riley and her husband Menno E. (1886-1978) Kauffman were both noted in church records. Their sons, George (1913-1989) and Herman (1911-1982) Kauffman were baptized on June 18, 1922.

Several members of Frank's mother's family were members of the Church as well. Frank's grandfather, Abram (Abraham) (1788-1862) Plummer joined in 1856, about the time the church was reorganized. Frank's aunts, Mary (Plummer) Snare (1847-1930), Sarah E. (Plummer) Warner (1849-1930) and Rozella "Rosy" (Plummer) Dunlap (1850-1880) were on the church rolls in 1866. The aunts were members prior to their marriage and all moved west to Iowa with their husbands.

His aunt, Elizabeth "Lib" Riley was also attending Highwater about the same time as his mother, Angeline (Plummer) Riley.

**MR. & MRS. CHARLES M. CLARK**  
**MR. & MRS. WENDELL J. STEVENS**



Reba (Riley) and Wendell Stevens

Charles Mathias (1861-1938) Clark was the son of Absolom and Matilda (Walker) Clark. Charles was the grandson of Fleetwood Clark, one of the original members of the Church of Christ at Highwater. Charles Clark was the step-father of Wendell Joseph (1893-1978) Stevens. His mother Sadie Allen (1871-1964) (Keckley) Stevens married Charles M. Clark after the death of his father, Joseph Dull Stephens (1864-1895) on August 27, 1901. Sadie was the daughter of James Leander “Lee” (1837-1904) and Amy (1839-1920) (Houck) Keckley.

Wendell Stevens was married April 8, 1913, by F. Moorhouse, Pastor of the Christian Church (Highwater) to Reba Leota (1895-1975) Riley. Reba was the daughter of James Franklin “Frank” and Sarah Jane (1872-1929) (Kearns) Riley. Frank and Sarah Riley, along with Reba’s brothers sponsored a church window (for additional information see Riley window).

Wendell and Reba Stevens were the parents of four children:

1. Letha Leota (1914-1991) Stevens wed Robert Wilson (1916-2005) Barclay. Letha and Robert had one son, Craig Douglas Barclay.
2. Joseph Ralph (1915-1915) Stevens was an infant death.
3. Lucille Laverne (1916-2002) Stevens wed Thomas Noel “Tom” (1910-1968) Baughman. Lucille was an active member and a vital part of our music, sharing her pianist skills during worship and other events, including weddings, at Highwater until her death in 2002. Lucille and Tom Baughman were the parents of four children:
  - i. Larry Lee Baughman wed Sue Arlene Grannon on August 12, 1956. Larry and Sue have three children: Michael Allen, Brenda Kay, and Todd Nolan. Larry and Sue are both active members of the Church today.
  - ii. Rosalie Eileen Baughman wed Thurman Treadway at Highwater on September 24, 1961 (divorced). They had no children.
  - iii. Becky Sue Baughman wed James (1946-2008) Snyder on March 24, 1968 at Highwater Church. (Becky and James were divorced prior to his death and she has since remarried). They are the parents of Douglas James and David Thomas Snyder. Dave Snyder and wife, Jennifer Denise “Jen” (Edwards) married at Highwater on February 5, 2011. Dave, Jen and their sons, Russel James and Finn Barton Snyder are active in the church today.
  - iv. Thomas Russel Baughman wed Constance Smith. Tom and Connie are parents of three children: Jennifer Lynn, Jessica Lee, and Thomas Noel.
4. James “Russell” (1918-1996) Stevens wed Wanda Louise (1917-2006) Dunlap. They had no children.



Charles and Sadie Clark

## IN MEMORY OF J. M. CLARK & AUBREY CLARK

The stained-glass window was donated by Frank Clark in memory of J.M. Clark, his father and Aubrey Clark, his daughter.

J.M. Clark, or Jesse M. Clark (1828-1915) was the son of Fleetwood (1788-1850) & Elizabeth (Gosnell) (1794-1838) Clark. Elizabeth's parents were Daniel (1760-1842) and Sarah Gosnell.

Fleetwood Clark was one of the original 25 members of the Church of Christ of Sylvania (now Highwater Church) established on January 31, 1842. Fleetwood Clark was one of the trustees of the church when the process of purchasing land for the Church began on February 16, 1844. The land owners were Robert and Naomi Cross, and the deed was conveyed to the Church formally on October 5, 1855. This 2<sup>nd</sup> church building was built after 1855 and used until 1918; the first building burnt but nothing else is known.

Jesse's parents, Fleetwood and Elizabeth (Gosnell) Clark are buried at Clark Schroer Cemetery, Highwater, McKean Twp., Licking County, Ohio located about a quarter mile west of the Route #661 intersection.

Jesse M. Clark and his wife, Sarah A. (Bishop) (1834-1898) Clark raised their family in or near Sylvania (now Highwater), Ohio. They were the parents of J.F. Clark, better known as J. Franklin "Frank" Clark (1857-1947).

Sarah (Bishop) Clark is listed as a church member joining sometime about 1866, according to early church records.

Frank Clark wed Rosa B. "Roberta" Dolph (1864-1902) in McKean Twp., Licking County, Ohio on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1899. They were the parents of two daughters, Aubrey Lorena Clark, born August 23, 1900 and Dollie Clark, born in 1902.

Frank's wife, Roberta died of "stomach problems", according to her death certificate, on August 16, 1902 in Sylvania, Ohio. Their six-month old daughter, Dollie died of dysentery only a few days later on August 22, 1902. Roberta and Dollie are interned at Green Hill Cemetery, Johnstown, Ohio. They share a headstone with Rosa's mother, Margaret (Sulk) Dolph.

Frank Clark and his father, Jesse M. Clark, raised Aubrey (age 2) after the death of her mother, as confirmed in the 1910 U.S. Census report. Aubrey's grandmother, Sarah (Bishop) Clark had died in 1898 before she was born.

Aubrey was listed as a student when she died at the young age of 16 years 2 months & 7 days, according to her death certificate. Her date of death was October 30, 1916. Her cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis. She is buried at Liberty Cemetery, Licking County, Ohio. She has a shared headstone with her father, Frank Clark (1857-1947).

## MR. & MRS. MORRISON W. CLARK

Morrison W. Clark (1859-1940) was the son of John R. Clark (1822-1888) and Waity M. (Crosby) (1831-1875) Clark. His grandfather was Fleetwood Clark, one of the original 25 members of the Church of Christ of Sylvania (now Highwater Church) established on January 31, 1842. Morrison grew up in McKean Twp., Licking County, Ohio.

His mother, Waity (Crosby) Clark became a member of the Christian Church at Highwater after the reorganization of the church by Bowman Rabb in 1856.

Morrison's parents, John R. and Waity (Crosby) Clark are buried at Clark Schroer Cemetery, Highwater, McKean Twp., Licking County, Ohio. His grandparents, Fleetwood and Elizabeth Clark are also interned there. The cemetery is about a quarter mile west of the Route #661 intersection in Highwater.

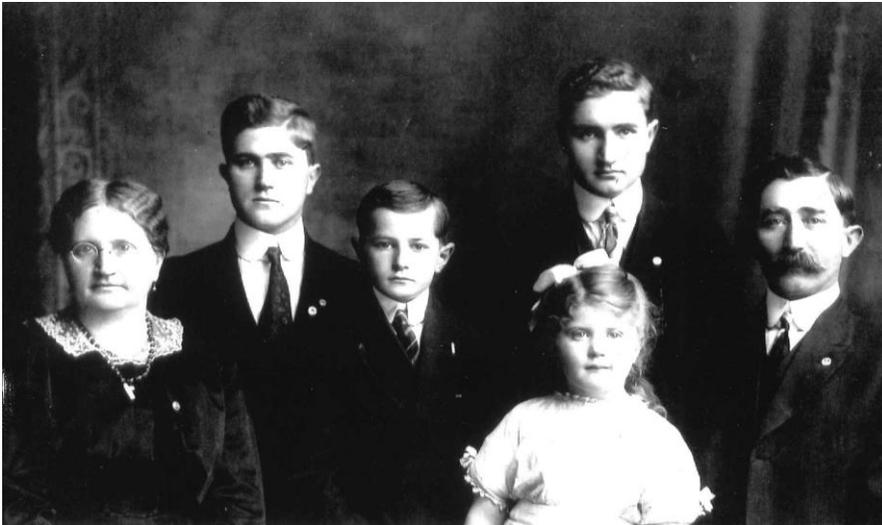
Morrison Clark wed Elzenia Gosnell (1865-1938) on March 29, 1883 in Licking County, Ohio by Elder Enos Peters. Elzenia was the daughter of Chester Gosnell (1825-1906) and Margaret (Wimer) (1845-1921). Chester Gosnell was the son of Daniel (1799-1874) and Naomi (Preston) (1803-1882). Margaret (Wimer) Gosnell was the daughter of John and Sarah (Bowers) Wimer. Margaret Gosnell was a member of the church at Highwater by 1870.

Morrison and Elzenia Clark were on the membership rolls of Highwater by 1898. Morrison was active in the church and held numerous positions within the organization; including trustee, treasurer and janitor. He held the position of janitor for several years with a yearly payment of \$12.00. Elzenia served as clerk from 1906-1913, 1914-1915. Another church member, was Ezra Wimer, Elzenia's uncle joining about 1888.

Morrison and Elzenia had no children. Both of them are buried at Liberty Cemetery, Licking Co., Ohio.



## GABE BASH & FAMILY



*Florence, Jay, Fred, Eva (Hoar), Stanley and Gabe Bash*

Gabriel “Gabe” Bash was born July 8, 1867, Licking County, Ohio to Michael Bash (1829-1905) and Julia Ann (Houck) (1838-1920) Bash.

He wed Florence Vesta (Stephens) (1871-1947) on October 3, 1894. Florence was the daughter of Jonathan Jackson (1829-1906) and Johanna (Dull) (1833-1898) Stephens. They were the parents of the following children:

1. Jay Grover Bash (1895-1966) wed Verne I. Smith (1902-1979) on September 1, 1920. Their daughter, Joy E. Bash was born August 20, 1923.
2. Stanley Stephens Bash (1897-1979) wed Helen Olive Willey on June 26, 1923. They had two children: Raymond Stanley Bash was born June 2, 1924 and wed Marilyn May. Barbara Jean Bash was born on February 28, 1940 and wed Jack William Nicklaus, golf pro in July 1961.
3. Fred Calvin Bash (1905-1988) wed Grace Weisner on November 11, 1926 and they had one daughter, Beverly Ann (1927-2012). Fred and Grace divorced. Fred married a second time to Bertha Snyder (1908- ) on January 20, 1938. They had one daughter, Virginia Kay who wed Edward George Young on September 29, 1962.
4. Florence “Eva” Bash (1910-1978) wed Harold “Wayne” Hoar on October 28, 1936. Wayne Hoar was the son of Henry Morris “Harry” (1878-1962) and Bertha Ethel (Riley) (1885-1969) Hoar. They were the parents of four children: David Wayne “Dave” Hoar who wed Patricia “Pat” Melick on June 18, 1961. Joan Evonne Hoar wed William Edward Shuff on June 15, 1962 at Highwater Church by Rev. W.L. Mullet (divorced). Gary Bash Hoar wed Cheri Sharp (divorced) and is married to Janet Smith. Daniel Joseph Hoar wed Emily Sue Lybarger on December 22, 1972. The Eva and Wayne Hoar family attended Highwater while their children were growing up. Daughter, Joan assisted with Vacation Bible School before she married. Son, Dave Hoar and wife Pat, are current members of Highwater.

Gabe, Florence, and Fred Bash joined the Highwater Christian Church in 1913. The three of them were baptized in 1914, according to church records. Gabe began serving as a trustee in 1914, beginning many years of church service. Florence served also and was listed as the finance head in 1916.

Gabe and Florence Bash are buried at Wilson Cemetery, Licking County, Ohio.



*In 1997 the Women's Fellowship started a collection for the "Let the children come to me" window that lights up the narthex now.*

**Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)**

*<sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."*

## Council and Trustee Members 2017

### Moderator

Mark McKimmins

### Care Ministry

Mary Jo Layman

### Christian Education

Allyson Patton

### Fellowship Ministry

Janet Goodman

### Membership & Outreach Ministry

Kathy Preston (Not Pictured)

### Missions Ministry

Open

### Music and Worship Ministry

Debbie Smetts

Cathy Bero

### Stewardship Ministry

Jennifer Piper (Not Pictured)

### Treasurer

Jack Schmidt (Not Pictured)

### Trustees

Peggy Green

Cindy Campbell

Jeff Preston (Not Pictured)

Andy Kalas (Not Pictured)

Bob Tucker

### WISH

Becky Campbell (Not Pictured)

## Highwater Staff and Clergy



*Debbie Smetts, Office Administrator*      *Peggy Green, Building Maintenance*



*Associate Pastor, Joyce Oyler*      *Reverend Scott Schieber*

Council Members: Cindy Campbell, Mary Jo Layman, Bob Tucker, Mark McKimmins, Cathy Bero, Debbie Smetts, Allyson Patton, Janet Goodman





We began our 175<sup>th</sup> year with a focus on the history of our church windows. Adrienne Anderson (pictured above) designed and constructed a quilt in honor of the church windows and the 175<sup>th</sup> celebration of our church. The history of the families that donated the windows is included in this book and was written by Terri Andrews. A BIG Thank you to Terri and to Adrienne for bringing the windows to life. The windows will be refurbished in early 2018.

We would like to thank everyone for all their support to the Highwater Congregational UCC Church. We are so blest to have many people who have given their time, their talents, their monetary donations, and their prayers to continue the ministry here at Highwater.

We are thankful to those early Christian pioneers that originally established this church 175 years ago. They not only joined together and formed the church but were faithful through the years to keep the church alive and moving forward into the future.

We are hopeful for the future of the church as we continue to build on our legacy.

We have produced a publication regarding the past 175 years of the Highwater Church. We have attempted to produce a brief history with accuracy for Highwater's members and friends. Historical dates and events available have been compiled, but many others may have been missed. This is due in part to the lack of church records for many years. Therefore, this is only a portion of the vast history that has occurred at Highwater Congregational UCC Church during the past 175 years. Records and Newsletters are available in the office for details that may not have been mentioned here.

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Kathy Preston, Janet Goodman, Paula Olson, Lisa McKimmins, Debbie Smetts, Terri Andrews, Elaine Tulloss, Phyllis Buxton, Pastor Scott Schieber, Jack Schmidt, Larry Baughman

I would especially like to thank all the committee members and all who helped to make this a wonderful celebration. – Elaine Tulloss



**Philippians 4:4-9 (TLB)**

<sup>4</sup> Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon. <sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. <sup>7</sup> If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about. <sup>9</sup> Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.