



Pastor's Corner

Greetings Brothers and Sisters !

As I sit here completing the end of year reports for the conference, I am reminded of all that we accomplished this year. While on this report may look like a bunch of numbers, that is not the case! Each number represents a person.

Total Baptized Members who have not become Professing Members: 2

Two is not simply a number. Two people were called by God. Two people answered by walking through the sacramental waters of baptism! They set aside their old sinful nature and were raised up in Christ!

Total number of persons participating in Christian formation groups: 63

We had sixty-three separate people continue their faith journey by taking part in Christian formation groups. Some of these are Sunday morning bible studies. Others are evening classes with our youth groups. That is almost seventy-one percent of our average worship attendance taking part in some form of spiritual formation!

Number of persons served by community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy: 2500+

Over 2500 hundred people were served this year through our ministries of outreach, justice, and mercy! These people were served through our food pantry, the community meal, the Angel Tree, and providing a place for folks to come and serve out their community service time. And this is not all the places and people we touched. Other people were served through our continuing support of ministries such as the Pregnancy Resource Center, JC's Place.

While we were not able to pay our Conference apportionments for 2015, we were able to pay 100% of our District apportionments.

Brothers and Sisters, lives are being changed and transformed! I have only listed a small portion of the ways we have continued to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. I want to take a moment to thank each one of you for the support you have shown this past year in ministry. Each of you have not only been a blessing to the church but also to my family and I. Thank you ! This is a new year and there is still much work to do ! I look forward to serving with you this year and reporting in future newsletters of the exciting goals, visions, and accomplishments for God's kingdom in 2016 !

Grace and Peace

Our Worship Services

Two Styles One Lord

9am Contemporary Service:
Casual style with our Praise Band

11am Traditional Service:
Traditional with piano & hymns

10am Sunday School
Classes for all ages

Everyone is Welcome!



Trustee's Summary of 2015

This has been a busy year for the trustees. Some of the things that they were able to accomplish this past year.

1. The lights in Fellowship Hall were all replaced with more energy saving versions.
2. The entire church was treated to eliminate termites to prolong the building.
3. The outside stairwell wall was re-built with new reinforced decorative fence.
4. Sanctuary lighting was enhanced.
5. New locks on several individual areas were installed to improve security.
6. Sight windows were installed in all class-
7. Heating & Air conditioning systems were serviced and repaired.
8. Outside lighting was serviced and updated.
9. All necessary & routine maintenance to the pastor's residence was completed.
10. Seal coated and lined all parking areas & pastor's driveway.
11. Narthex area of church was remodeled to have a coat room and small refreshment area for morning service.

Bobby Brown & Jim Wylie Trustees

Empowering families through the Fearless love of Jesus Christ



United Methodist Women

The UMW (United Methodist Women) goals focus on women and children. In 2015 UMW participated in more than 30 outreaches & events. After electing officers for the next 2 years, in Jan. 2015, and our pledge service we focused on missions. One of the big community outreach projects is Vacation Bible School (VBS). We contributed time, money, ideas and food. The week long VBS wrapped up on Sunday with a presentation of warmest thanks, certificates and UMW purchased and filled backpacks. We served an average of 57 kids daily, and it was deemed a success for not only the children, and those in the community, but also for the adult servants. Another successful community outreach that UMW hosted was the Thanksgiving Community Dinner. We purchased 12-20lb turkeys. Our members donated lots of yummy side dishes, and we were blessed to serve over 200 people a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings.

We were also able to offer prayer and comfort (in the way of food) to grieving families. We also cooked and delivered many meals to our shut-in's. We also kept the kitchen stocked and provided food for carry-in dinners and special occasions like trainings, singings, prayer meetings and 90 year old birthdays. Our UMW also supports our Food Pantry. Each year we tithe the fair booth proceeds and proceeds from Grandma's Attic to the food pantry. Our food pantry services many Brown County families.

Your UMW finished the year with the "Joys of the Season" as we served local families through the Angel Tree and our church families and shut-ins with the Birthday Party for Jesus.

As I was tallying up the number of mission opportunities we participated in in 2015, my numbers were uncertain because lines tend to blur when categorizing events.

God has blessed MOUNC with a very active UMW. It has been a pleasure to serve and we have been blessed. A BIG THANK YOU goes to everyone involved ! :)

Sue Wylie



Food Pantry Summary for 2015

It has been a very busy year for our church Food Pantry. We serve the families in Brown County who live in the Western Brown School District. For the year 2015, we served approximately 540 families, which is roughly 3024 men, women and children.

Our Food Pantry is designed to be able to feed our clients for approximately 4-5 days, with food items to prepare nutritious meals.

Most items in our Food Pantry are purchased through the Free Food store in Cincinnati, with a portion of our Missions Fund, we are also blessed to get donations from area businesses and organizations, we also select an item a month and ask members of our congregation to donate these items.

This past year we were fortunate to have Mt. Orab Middle School do a canned food drive and that was a great blessing, we also had Dr. Steven Pendell and his staff at HealthQuest also do a food drive.

Our Food Pantry is now open every Saturday of each month from 9am –12 noon. To serve our local families.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated time and food to the food pantry. If you are interested in helping our food pantry in any capacity please feel free to contact me. Or call the church office.

Thank you,

Steve McQuitty

Women's Bible Study

Beginning Sunday February 14th
@6pm in the church Library Pat
Reeves will be leading a women's
bible study. The 7 week study is
called "Embraced by God" Seven
Promises for Every Woman by Babbie
Mason. If you are interested in partic-
ipating in this study please contact
Pat Reeves, the cost for the book is
\$11.00

Christianity 101 Class

This is a 6 week class that will begin
Sun. Feb. 14th and run through Sun.
March 20th, it will be from 2:30pm –
4:00pm, there is no cost for this class.

A Disciples Path Class

This also a 6 week class that will
begin on Sun. Feb. 14th and run
through Sun. March 20th, from
4:00pm –6:00pm. Cost for this class is
\$12.00 for the book.

Both classes are required if you are
wanting to become a member.

Report from Lay Member , Becky Becker

This year continued the theme 'Becoming the Beloved Community: Taken, Blessed, Broken, and Given, using the word Broken to shape the direction of this year's Annual Conference session.

The Laity Session was held Sunday evening in Hoover Auditorium where Bishop Gregory Palmer convened the Annual Conference. We learned about holy conferencing and were encouraged to use respectful dialogue throughout the session.

During the 3-day session, the members of the West Ohio Annual conference tended to the business of the annual conference, voted on recommendations and reports, elected a great slate of Lay and Clergy delegates to represent us at General Conference, supported a petition to General Conference to study and promote a global conversation on marriage and a set of petitions concerning fossil

fuel divestment. We passed a recommendation to allow the group working on the Conference Center more flexibility in options, such as upgrading the current building, going forward. After long discussion we also passed a recommendation to sell Camp Asbury.

Dr. Thomas Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology offered two teachings during the week. Long Delivered a humorous and thought-provoking message about the state of the church. "The problem is not atheism, it's superficiality," Long said. "No one is qualified to be a leader who has not had the experience of being on the outside."

Long's second teaching focused on the gospels of Luke and John and challenged leaders to extend welcome and invitation to all people. The videos of his talk are available on the Conference website and I encourage you to watch them.

At the Tuesday morning Global Praise worship service, I had the privilege of delivering our church's offering for the Imagine No Malaria campaign. The worship service was a joyful celebration of praise and thanksgiving. Rev. Dr. J. Kabamba Kiboko, lead pastor of Forest Chapel United Methodist Church in Cincinnati delivered the morning's sermon, asking "What is in you that will cause you to rise?" The offering helped the Conference surpass our goal of 3.5 million dollars.

But I would argue that the best thing that happened at Annual Conference was watching our pastor, Bruce Dickerson, be ordained as an elder in the UMC. The Celebration of Ministry service honors retirees and provides the commissioning and ordination of deacons and elders for ministerial leadership. Bishop Deborah Kiesey, Episcopal leader of the Michigan Annual Conference,

She addressed the candidates offering a challenging and encouraging word as they take steps in ministry. "As you have promised to give your life to the work and ministry of God within the United Methodist Church, know that God's promises to you will never fail," said Kiesey. "God will continue to challenge you. God will continue to call you. God will continue to carry you through life for God's promises are true and they are forever." Kiesey challenged candidates to take bold steps in trusting God so that they continue to change themselves, others and the world.

Prior to adjournment, the Bishop fixed appointments and commissioned newly elected delegates asking members to pray over them and the work they will on behalf of the annual conference and denomination. And the West Ohio Annual Conference of 2015 came to a close.

2016 will be a busy year with General Conference in Oregon, May 10-20 and West Ohio meeting June 5-9. Jurisdictional Conferences will also be taking place.

PRAYER BOARD

We have a Prayer Board located in the main hallway of the church, between the church office and the Pastor's office. Please feel free to write down any prayer concerns you may have for yourself, your family, community anything on your heart, but also feel free to take one of the requests on the board to pray over.

We also have used one of the bulletin boards by the glass double doors to use as announcement and also to let everyone know what's happening in our church. So please feel free to check it out and if you have anything you would like to see up there please see Pat.



West Ohio Lay Ministry Academy

The Certified Lay Ministry Academy, established in 2006, currently has more than 60 Certified Lay Ministers leading ministry teams at churches or serving in other areas within the West Ohio Conference. Certified Lay Ministers (CLMs) assist in program leadership in areas such as: preaching the word; providing care for the congregation; leading small churches; serving on personal teams; assisting in continuity of leadership; advising children and youth ministries; organizing community outreach, and much more.

Prayerfully consider members in your congregation or ministry setting who are ready to grow in their leadership. Paid and unpaid laity, Certified Lay Servants and Lay Speakers are encouraged to take advantage of exploring their call to leadership through the West Ohio Conference Certified Lay Ministry Academy. A Certified Lay Minister (CLM) is assigned by the superintendent in each district to provide lay servant leadership in a ministry or within a church for significant service in a wide variety of mission fields.

Certified Lay Ministry Academy Information Sessions have been Scheduled and registra-

tion is open. Within the 7 sessions, personal call stories will be shared and insight given on the NEWLY designed curriculum, class schedule, and steps to certification. They will be offered beginning February through March and designed to help individuals focus on the need to enhance the quality of ministry to small membership churches as well as the expansion of team ministries within the churches. The next academy class will launch in September.

Share this information and encourage those you feel have a desire to move forward with equipping and strengthening ministerial skills. To register for any of the sessions, visit westohioumc.org. and click on "Register for Events" or contact Dr. Barbara Lee at 419-738-3402, bjcwapak@bright.net, for more information.

Blessings,

RaNae Street

Director of Discipleship

Our Church Staff

Bruce Dickerson, Pastor

Pat Reeves– Office Manager

Emily Hardy-Youth Minister

Church Office Hours:

Mon.-Fri 10am-1:30pm

Church e-mail

office@mtorabumc.org

Our First Issue

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking time out of your busy days to glance at our "First" newsletter. It is my first attempt at this sort of thing and I hope you will forgive the mistakes or errors. It is my hope that this will be a monthly thing and we will have lots of "newsy" things to put in here. If anyone is interested in helping out with this project please feel free to contact me...please.

Pat

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

YOUR LOGO HERE