

STEEPLETALK

OCTOBER 2015



My first pastoral appointment was to a two-point charge on the banks of the Ohio River upstream from Marietta, Ohio. The community was on the edge of a national forest and the beauty of the region was framed against the contrast of the rugged hills and the winding river. For ten years we made that place home, and the birthplace of our three children.

In an area of economic decline and struggling families, there were many challenges for ministry. Despite the challenges, we experienced some exciting times of ministry. Reports of what was happening caught the attention of a consortium of organizations committed to improving the life of Appalachia. I was asked to write an article sharing the source of this "bright spot" in a difficult place.

The article was published in a booklet entitled, "Signs of Hope in Appalachia." It's been a couple decades ago, but I remember writing about several keys of our success, and one was the gift of financial stability. What was mentioned in passing in the article I share in more detail.

Toward the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century it was not uncommon for churches to struggle to pay their meager salary to the "preacher" (as they were known in the area). One dear lady would go door to door of church members soliciting funds to make payroll. This left an impact on her son. He had a successful career and invested conservatively in the stock market. When he and his wife decided to prepare their will, they included the church.

One day we were notified of his death and the naming of the church in his will. When the estate was settled, the church's share was nearly half a million. The funds were invested, and only the interest available. The church leadership determined that the funds should be used to fuel ministry and mission in the church.

The fruit of that permanent endowment to the church reaped many benefits. It provided a base for ministry that otherwise may not have occurred. Those funds helped free the church from "we can't afford" thinking to support thriving ministries and outreach.

Since beginning my appointment to Mentor, I have seen this blessing repeated many times through the planned giving people have made that includes this church in their estate. Once again, ministry and mission has been, and continues to be, funded on a perpetual basis. What a gift this has been and will continue to be!

If you have any questions about this, please give me a call or drop an email. Every one of us can help create "bright spots" through the legacy of our estate planning.

— Pastor Kurt

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MISSION MINISTRY

THANK YOU FROM FLAT ROCK CARE CENTER

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each of you for participating in the advocacy effort to promote Flat Rock, the petitions protecting choice for individuals and their families and for making our collective voices heard. The response was overwhelming, with more than 21,000 signatures collected in support of choice for our individuals statewide.

On July 1, 2015 the Biennial Budget for the State of Ohio was signed, protecting the critical funding for our individuals. While this particular success can be celebrated, there is still much work to be done. You can be assured that we will continue to bring voice and attention to this issue at the state and federal level. Thank you for your support!

2015 FLAT ROCK QUILT AUCTION

The auction will be held on Sunday, October 4th at Strongsville United Methodist Church, 13500 Reynolds Road, Strongsville, Ohio. The Quilt Auction is comprised of two parts: a Silent Auction and a Live Auction. The Live Auction Quilt Review begins at 1:30 p.m. At 2:45 p.m. the Flat Rock Choir will sing, and at 3:00 p.m. the Live Auction starts and the fun begins! All proceeds benefit the individuals and families served by Flat Rock. Please join us!



HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS FOR THE SYRIAN PEOPLE

Mark & Eszti Landerholm, Missionaries to Hungary, have shared stories of the horrible conditions for the Syrian immigrants entering Hungary. A group has been created Christians for Migrants and the first two big projects have been set up – a Baby Washing Station at Keleti railway station where moms can bathe their babies and a soup kitchen to feed the migrants. Funding for these projects is critical. If you wish to help, contributions can be made to the Mentor United Methodist Church. Please mark your gift as "Hungary Relief".



WHAT EVERY CHURCH MEMBER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT POVERTY

This is a three week small group offering facilitated by Pastor Bev Wrobel that will meet on **Tuesdays, October 13th, 20th, 27th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Whether you attended the "Bridges Out of Poverty" training or not, this study helps all in the faith community understand various aspects of poverty that go beyond the financial limitations most often associated with poverty.

Sign up in the church office or contact Pastor Bev at 255-3496, ext. 14. Please pick up your book and read Chapters 1- 4 BEFORE the first class on October 13th.

**YOUTH NEWS
Toby Mattern—Youth Director**

I'd like to take the opportunity to say it is an honor to come alongside you and, in a small role, help show our students the love that Jesus has for them. They have an opportunity to be a part of a fun, safe, vibrant, and relevant community while knowing they will not have to compromise their morals to fit in. This is a place that is welcoming to the strong believer and the student who doesn't know Jesus at all. This is a place where our students will be empowered to go and shine the light of Jesus in their communities and schools. This is a place where they will know they can make a difference in the world and nobody is overlooked or ignored.

This year the name of our youth group is changing to Occupy Student Ministry. After much prayer, I chose this name because youth group will be a place we want students to occupy. This is also cohesive in branding when we can plan trips and occupy Wendy's, the bowling alley, the park, etc. This name reflects Matthew 5:14 where Jesus calls us to be the light of the world. Scripture clearly tells us we are supposed to be a light in the darkness at any location we occupy!

We will meet Sunday evenings 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. We begin with a meal at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help by preparing a meal this year or drive students when we have an off-site event, please contact me at 255-3496, ext. 16. Any and all help is appreciated!

----- THROUGH THE YEARS -----

The Archives of Ohio United Methodism is located on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University In Delaware, Ohio. Since 1839, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Ohio recognized the need to record important documents from the founding of the faith. The original location was Cincinnati. The archives were moved to Ohio Wesleyan in 1851. Housed in the Beeghly Library, the collections include books about United Methodism in general, as well as manuscripts and conference proceedings relevant to the history of United Methodism in Ohio.

Other documents include artifacts and photos that depict the history of our faith. One of the very interesting records the archives contains are files on the history of local churches. In fact, at the end of 2014, I completed, with the help of Joan Sadler, a form that documented Mentor Methodist's history. I hope to travel to Delaware to see what other history they have about our church.

There is much more information housed at the archives, including newspapers, journals, personal papers, and diaries. Information on the Evangelical United Brethren Church is also included. The EUB church and the Methodist church merged in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church.

The archives will also aid in research regarding Methodist history. It is located at 43 Rowland Avenue in Delaware. Call 1-740-368-3285 to make an appointment with Carol Hollinger, Archivist, if you would like to visit. The email address is: aoum@owu.edu.

Do you have any MUM history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to:

Mr. Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Drive
Concord OH 44060-6704
Or email to: dhumphrey@ameritech.net

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NEW DAY CIRCLE: Join us in Fellowship Hall on Monday, October 12th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. We will be working on projects for the Gingerbread House Craft Fair.

RUTH-ESTHER CIRCLE MEETING: Tuesday, October 13th we will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the church and carpool to Project Hope for a tour of their facility. All women of the church are invited to attend.



ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFT SHOW
Friday, November 6 — 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, November 7 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Gingerbread House Craft Show is sponsored by the Mentor United Methodist Women.

All proceeds benefit the local, national, and international mission projects of the UMW.

Attic Treasures Room (mini-rummage sale) needs any kind of treasures (except clothing) — small appliances, cooking pans, kitchen items, knick-knacks, crystal, dishes, etc. This is your chance to do some clearing out before the holidays!

We will need your homemade baked goods — cakes, coffee cakes, pies, cookies, cupcakes or your favorite specialty for our **Bake Shop**.

The Country Cupboard needs homemade candies, pickles, jellies, apple butter, applesauce, snacks, etc. — any of your kitchen specialties.

We will also need volunteers to help with setting up, selling our items, and keeping tables stocked. Volunteer sign-up sheets are at the table in the Atrium outside Fellowship Hall. Let us know if you need childcare in order to help.

If you have any questions, contact Kim Mele at gingerbread@mentorumc.org.

2016 Annual Operating Budget/3 Year Commitment for In tHis House Building Enhancements

Each year we have the opportunity to make a commitment toward the next year's operating budget. This allows the church to plan a budget and move into the year with a strong estimate of giving. This Fall we will be given that opportunity once again.

This year, like 2012, we will also include a 3 year campaign for capital improvements. In the Fall of 2012 we were challenged toward support of a campaign to support building enhancements. Commitments were made with a 36 month pay in opportunity. In the early summer of 2014 we voted to begin construction on Phase I of planned enhancements. The construction is winding down, but the time has come to make another three year commitment toward paying for those building enhancements.

We have been blessed with personal resources, and the church has been entrusted with building resources. Our call is to be and make disciples; we do so through the ministry and mission of the congregation. Through our annual budget and the continued support of the building enhancements, we live into that call.

Our goal is simple:

1. Support the mission of the church through our support of the annual budget.
2. Commitments for payment for our building enhancements over a three year period.

For your information note the following Q & A:

We've heard of construction overruns, why and how much were they?

The construction costs increased by 37%, due primarily to unforeseen issues associated with adding to existing structures built in 3 stages dating back to 1956, as well as code changes. With a budgeted contingency of 10%, careful management of funds, and a higher than anticipated debt, these costs are covered.

What was not completed?

All work has been completed, or is nearing completion. To manage funds we did not spend anticipated funds on furnishings. In addition, through volunteer labor we performed landscaping and some interior work.

What is the debt on the new construction?

We are expecting the final bank loan to be \$2.1 million with a monthly mortgage payment of \$14,149.00. In addition, we borrowed an additional \$300,000 from GEM.

Will there be more construction?

The plan is to pay off the present debt, then begin addressing Phase II of new construction. This is the long-term plan.

What is the size of the church operating budget?

While the final figures are not complete for the 2016 operating budget, it is coming in near the \$1 million mark. This is consistent with the past two years.



The Membership Committee on behalf of the congregation of MUMC would like to thank all those persons involved in contributing to the huge success of our **Consecration Service and Community Open House on Sunday, August 30th**. Lay and Clergy leadership of this church should be commended for their perseverance and vision during this entire construction period. We give thanks for all the Lord has provided!

A HUGE thank you to Lisa Ruschman who donated the materials for the glass mosaics constructed by the congregation for the new Gallery. She not only donated the materials, but her time and expertise. They are gracing the Galley and will be a permanent fixture for years to come. They represent the birth and the death of Jesus in a beautiful way for us to enjoy. Thank you Lisa for the inspiration and the reminder of what we can do when we all do our part.

KNOW

- **Sunday School**
 - . Children 0-4 years old—Early Childhood Area
 - . K—2nd Grade—Room 107
 - . 3rd Grade—Room 103
 - . 4th—6th Grade—Room 104
 - . Family Worship is FIRST SUNDAY of the month and K—6th graders remain in worship with their families
 - . www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school

GROW

- **StuCo 56**, 5th & 6th grade youth group
 - . Sunday, October 11 from 5:30—7:30 p.m.
 - . Sunday, October 25 from 5:30—8:00 p.m.
 - . www.mentorumc.org/stuco-56
- **GENERATIONS, family fellowship group**
 - . Fall Festival, “Heroes Unmasked” — Thursday, October 22nd from 6:30—8:00 p.m.
 - . www.mentorumc.org/generations
- **MOPS & MOMSnext Monthly Meeting**
 - . Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 9th from 9:30 a.m. to noon
 - . “Rooted in God” with our own Mentor Moms’ panel
 - . www.mentorumc.org/mops

SHOW

- **Sunday School Servant sign up:** www.mentorumc.org/sunday-school
- **Children’s Choir (1st-6th Grade) rehearses** 10:15-10:45 a.m. Sunday mornings in Room 112
- **Cherub Choir (3 Yr. Olds—Kindergarten) rehearse** 10:15—10:35 a.m. Sunday mornings in Room 104

NEWSLETTER and CHILD REGISTRATION FORMS: www.mentorumc.org/children



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
6:30—8:00 p.m. In Fellowship Hall

HEROES UNMASKED!!

- . Games
- . Face Paining
- . Cookie Decorating
- . Story Room
- . Create a MASK
- . Cupcake March
- . Selfie Booth

**Be sure to join us for this fun-filled
FAMILY event!!**

**For more details and registration, go to
www.mentorumc.org/fall-fest**

FINANCE



YTD through AUGUST 2015

Receipts	\$625,032
Disbursements	621,129
Surplus	3,903

**Electronic giving is available online at
www.mentorumc.org**

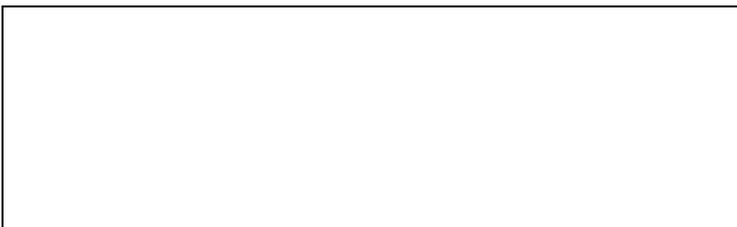
HEARTLAND VISITATION

CONSIDER JOINING US FOR A BRIEF SERVICE AT HEARTLAND on Sunday, October 18th. We begin at 10:45 a.m. and are finished approximately 20 minutes later. It’s a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with the Heartland residents. We would love to have you join in!

**Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor OH 44060**

**Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Mentor OH 44060
Permit No. 37**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Sunday, October 4th — 1 p.m.
South West Parking Lot under the Portico**

All God's creatures, including those with fins, scales, and fur are invited to a celebration of the role household pets play in our lives.

Bring your dog, cat, fish, rabbit, turtle, and more. If your pet doesn't like to leave home, you can bring a photograph. Each animal will receive a blessing by Pastor Quincy and a small memento of the event.

WORSHIP

SANCTUARY Worship — 9 & 11 a.m.
iCONNECT Worship — 9 & 11 a.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

COMMUNION

10:30 a.m.

Join us in the Sanctuary at the Altar
(Except for the 1st Sunday of the month)

CHILDCARE

9 & 11 a.m.

Babies & Toddler/2 Yr. Olds
(as of September 1st, 2015 & toilet trained)
Early Childhood Check-In

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

**K—2nd Grade — Room 105
3rd Grade — Room 103
4th—6th Grade — Room 104**

FAMILY WORSHIP

(1st Sunday of the month)
Kindergarten through 6th Grade
worship with their families

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

**DEADLINE:
STEEPLETALK
October 5
For NOVEMBER Issue**