

WOODLAWN TODAY

September / October 2010 Newsletter

**Woodlawn UMC
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From the desk of Pastor Jim Ellis...

“And now for something completely different.” – Monty Python

On August 15, the 4 church merger committee met to discuss the report on new church location prepared by the McKnight Group. If you remember, McKnight is a consulting firm which advises churches on the proper facilities for expanding their ministries. McKnight offered no surprises. None of our current properties are good enough for a 4, or even 3, church merger without extensive renovation. Any of the properties could be used if we are willing to spend the money. Even with renovation all of the properties would still have disadvantages to someone. For instance, Woodlawn is not downtown, and downtown is important to some people. Using a downtown property would require extensive street parking in a 2-block radius around the church which is not easy to do. Regarding property, any church merger would require sacrifice, and many of us are looking at sacrifices we really are not willing to make.

Which brings us back to the idea supposedly driving our merger talks: ministry. We all agree that the status quo cannot continue, that something needs to change, and that United Methodists should work together to serve Christ in Bucyrus, Ohio. We want the joy of working and worshipping together. We want to share our resources. We want to reach people we currently do not reach. We want to start new ministries. We want something fresh and new for our young people. Merger talks are not getting the job done, so why don't we put merger aside and try something completely different?

Native Americans had sacred places where warring nations could meet in peace, neutral grounds shared by all. Instead of using our current properties, we should buy or rent a new property for the express purpose of new ministry. It would not replace any of our churches or services. It would supplement what we are doing now. It would not need to be huge but big enough for a casual worship service, refreshments, and maybe a food bank. It would be jointly administered and financed by all the churches. It would be neutral ground. It would be a new beginning. Over time, it might grow into a new church, or a community center, or become the seed of merger between the 4 present churches. At any rate, I believe it is doable, a way to work together without getting bogged down in the politics of merger.

I want Woodlawn Church to prayerfully consider my suggestion. I will be presenting it to our Vision Committee and to the Administrative Board in September. If these bodies approve, I plan to place it for a vote before the entire church. I will also be presenting my idea to the other churches at our September 19 merger meeting, which is at 7pm at Woodlawn.

God Bless,
Pastor Jim

By the way, put Saturday, September 25 on your calendars. Our church is going to tour the Ohio Veteran's Home in Sandusky. The Veteran's Home is a wonderful service provided through our tax dollars to all the veterans of Ohio. It is a city in itself and well worth seeing.

Needed for Sunday School:

Superintendent

Teachers

There is a great need for underwear and socks for children in kindergarten through third grade. Please place all donations in the UMW Donation Box for DUDS Project.

Woodlawn's Vision Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 7, at 7pm to discuss the merger and charge conference.

Administrative Board News...

There are currently two projects at Woodlawn that warrant our prayerful consideration. The first is a roof repair. The Trustees have spent much time evaluating our current roof situation and have developed, with the help of roofing experts, a repair plan that is both thorough and economical. The plan is to complete the repair in two phases. We are currently asking for monetary support to complete the first phase of the repair project. Please consider assisting with this repair at whatever level you are able. We would like to have this project started before winter.

The second project is the Lay Witness Mission scheduled for September 10-12. This project is designed to challenge us to evaluate our personal faith walk and to encourage us to become a strong church unit. We are blessed at Woodlawn with good people who work together to do God's will. This mission project will assist us both individually and as a church. Look forward to blessings! We need housing for the members of the mission team. If you can help in that area, please contact Pat Sparks.

As summer comes to a close, I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy the nice weather with outdoor activities. As fall approaches, may we continue to enjoy God's splendor in the colorful fall leaves and cooler weather.

Working together, I am confident that we will be successful in both the current projects.

God's Blessings to all,
Linda Efaw, Administrative Council Chair

Finance News...

Sanctuary Balance: \$22,668.04 as of 8/16/2010.

Woodlawn Savings Account First Federal

Memorial/Undesignated:	36,557.80
Parsonage:	9,355.99
Hawkins' Scholarship:	4,137.58
Roof Fund:	2,385.00
Instrument Fund:	17.73
Local Mission Trip Expenses:	313.57
Total: as of 8/24/2010	\$ 52,767.67

Apportionments for the months of January, February, March, April, May, and June have been paid.

The average attendance for June was 133. The average general offering for June was \$3858.95.

The average attendance for July was 115 with the average general offering being \$3316.80

\$4400 is the amount needed weekly for our operating expenses in addition to \$127 needed weekly for our sanctuary loan.

Trustee News...

There will be a work day on Saturday, September 18, from 8am-Noon for maintenance projects both on the church property and the parsonage. Alternate date in case of bad weather is Saturday, September 25.

The Trustees will meet on Monday, September 20, at 6pm.

Information regarding the Roof Project:

- *Cost of complete roof replacement \$53,353
- *Shingles are StormMaster dimensional SVS asphalt material
- *Warranty on this product is 50 year and guaranteed to withstand 110 mph winds
- *Price will include a 10 year warranty on all labor
- *New valleys will be metal, old valleys were fiberglass shingle material
- *All old shingles and tar paper will be removed prior to new install
- *A new ridge cap vent will be installed on the east wing which will provide more ventilation in that area, and hopefully, longer life.

Phase 1: Areas in very poor condition are those on the south side of the building (this includes valleys). This area would also be improved by the installation of a roof cap vent. REPAIRS HERE SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE COLD WEATHER THIS FALL. The total cost of this section would be \$19,932.

Phase 2: The remaining roof areas are in better shape, but SHOULD BE DONE IN 2011 OR 2012 AT THE LATEST. The balance would be \$34,421.

The Trustees are fully aware that these are not the best of times financially. In an ideal world, we would wish to have months or even years to prepare for this project. Unfortunately, we do not have that luxury. We run the risk of serious interior damage if Phase 1 is not done soon.

Your prayers and questions are encouraged. Please consider buying or sharing a square at \$100 per square. Sign up on the poster in the lobby or call the church office.

Music Department News...

It's time to get back in the saddle again! It always seems like it's a new year starting after summer vacation; however, it is really the ending of another year.

It's time to about Thanksgiving and Christmas. I can't wait to hear all the beautiful music that will be sung by all our musicians, younger and older, in the weeks to come. The adult choir cantata will be called, "An Evening in December," and the children's musical for Christmas is called, "Aaron the Allergic Shepherd." Sunday, December 5, will be the children's musical, and Sunday, December 19, will be the adult choir cantata.

The children's musical is telling there's a new shepherd on the job in Bethlehem, but he's got a problem. He's allergic to sheep! Meanwhile a miracle is about to happen up the street in a local stable. This musical is 20 minutes long and will be an unforgettable musical for all who perform and hear it.

The adult choir cantata will adequately tell the story of our transcendent God becoming a human being, becoming the poorest of the poor and the weakest of the weak in order to give us His boundless, everlasting life. How can we celebrate such event:

1. The story should be retold both with time-honored tradition and with the newness of here and now.
2. It should be celebrated with unbridled joy and with deep, quiet reflection.
3. It should be sung with great power and heartfelt tenderness.
4. It should exalt our magnificent God with boldness and with childlike humility.

Such a retelling, such a celebration is our prayer for "An Evening in December." May it give you a new glimpse of Emmanuel God with us and fill your heart with a new song of thankfulness and praise.

Always with a Song,
Samantha Gregg

News from United Methodist Women...

Well, summer vacation is over and the kids are headed back to school.

On August 10, some of the ladies and Pastor Jim went to visit Bethel House in Upper Sandusky. We took several bags of clothes. It was very interesting to hear about their ministry.

Things are definitely not slowing down in the next 2 months. On Wednesday, September 1, the UMW Executive Committee will meet at 9am at Woodlawn.

On Monday, September 13, we will serve the Lion's Zone dinner at 7pm. We will be calling for help because we will be decorating for the tea that same day.

On Tuesday, September 14, we are having our annual Friendship Tea. The theme this year is Aprons. Mrs. Sue Headley will be doing the program, and we are asking that the ladies wear aprons.

Friday and Saturday, October 1 and 2, will be our basement sale. Start saving items for this. We will tell you later when to bring items to the church so watch the bulletin!

No circle meetings are scheduled for September. Esther Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 12, at 6pm for dinner. The Rebekah Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 20, at 9am at Woodlawn.

Thanks for all your help in the past, and don't forget to sign up for the Friendship Tea!

Mission News ...

The July Mission Offering went to WXML Christian Radio in the amount of \$245.52.

The August Mission Offering was a love offering for Alaina Crall totaling \$694.76.

Please keep in mind that we will start shoeboxes for Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse) this month (while school supplies are on sale). This will give us 2 months to get these ready to send.

Thank you for all of your support for all the mission projects that we do.

Membership News...

Our Prayers:

Home: Kate Hardesty, Laurie Heinle (deployed), Paul Miller,
Thelma Mutchler, and Lucille Stetzer

Altercare: Charles Beardsley, Bob Laipply, Nina Luzader,
Stacey Shoemaker, and Geraldine Smithpeters

Carlisle House: Esther Holtshouse

Maplecrest: Miriam Holtshouse

Orchard Park: Jane Bower and Fae Outhwaite

Address for Laurie Heinle, while deployed:

#1 ERHG

APO AE 09309

Congratulations to Paul and Jocelyn Esterline on the birth of their daughter,
Claire Victoria Esterline, born July 8, 2010.

Congratulations to Jeremiah and Cyndy (Maples) Bertsch on the birth of their
son, James Bernard Bertsch, born July 25, 2010.

Congratulations to David and Alaina Crall on the birth of their daughter,
Gwendolynn Mae Crall, born August 11, 2010.

I am the church secretary at John Steward UMC in Upper Sandusky. I am also
the accompanist for "The Sounds of Music." We sang at your church on
Sunday, August 8, and I just wanted to share with you how impressed I was
with your hospitality. From the moment we opened your doors to come in, we
were welcomed, directed, and, in general, taken care of. We were offered
worship sheets by at least three people. Samantha Gregg, Music Minister, was
there to answer our questions, and Ruby Cover, Organist, was very helpful.
Your entire church just oozed hospitality, and it gave all of us a warm fuzzy
feeling. Thank you for ministering to us. Marilyn Lehman.

September Birthdays

2	Samantha Gregg
5	Thelma Mutchler
7	Richard Kovach
9	Geraldine Smithpeters
10	Bryant Gerger
10	Marilyn Koons
10	Gene Michener
10	Sierra Richardson
12	Terry Burkhardt
13	Bryant Pfeifer
15	Courtney Tinkey
16	Karissa Kurek
19	Stacey Shoemaker
21	Margie Guttenberg
22	Rose Conley
24	Verl Markley
25	Bob Greenick
27	Nikki Fauser
27	John Miller
27	Ralph Tomlin
27	Connie Stickdorn
28	Austin Strouse
29	Joe Kalb
30	Joe Beck

September Anniversaries

5	V. Allen and Jeanette Auchard
8	Dave and Dana Young
10	Ralph and Peg Lyon
14	Dick and Ellie Rockwell
19	Derek and Lindsay Weisenauer
20	Terry and Barbara Burkhardt
21	Larry and Samantha Gregg
21	Scott and Laurie Heinle
22	Deb and Marilyn Koons
28	Gary and Linda Hess

October Birthdays

1	Megan Markley
1	Jenna Maddy
3	Esther Holtshouse
3	Dorothy Miller
4	Paul Miller
6	Cara Burkett
6	Derek Detwiler
12	Matt Musick
13	Jenni Gerger
14	Tony Lipscomb
15	Sarah Gilbertson
16	Payton Richardson
16	John Reynolds
17	Darrel Motter
17	Kimberly Laferty
21	Mike Stover
21	Kevin Bishop
23	Jo Ann Sharrock
25	Jeff Cochran
26	Carla Gerhart
27	Margaretha Robinette
28	Krista Blair
28	Kyle Burkett
30	Jessica Gerger
31	Beth Heinlen
31	Connie Kalb
31	Heidi Leonhardt

October Anniversaries

12	Pastor Jim and Barb Ellis
15	Jon and Beth Smith
19	Dudley and Donna Gilfillan
20	Darrel and Nancy Motter
22	Mike and Nancy Stover
23	Jason and Darla (Kalb) White
25	Steve and Nikki Fauser
31	Sid and Nancy Maples

