

The Good Word

Brecksville United Methodist Church

November 2009

Advent and Christmas Worship

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

Our season of waiting begins as we light the candle of hope. Each week we will focus on an aspect of our faith that brings us rest as we await the coming of Christ.

Sunday, December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

You can look forward to seeing our halls and Sanctuary decorated for the season as we light the candle of love. We will also share in Advent Communion.

Wednesday, December 9 – Advent Worship at 7:30 pm

Each year, we offer this service to you as an Advent gift. This service of quiet music and readings is a special invitation to enter into the spirit of Advent. Our focus this year is on centering and rest.

Sunday, December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent

(Gaudete Sunday) New members will join our church family on this day, and we will hear special music from our CMAP (children's) choirs and our handbell choir. Gaudete Sunday is when we light the candle of joy!

Sunday, December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Music Sunday

As we light the candle of peace, we will wrap ourselves in music with a traditional service of lessons and carols. We welcome string quartet and flute to both services in addition to our chancel choir and organ. Following worship, poinsettias will be taken to special friends and members as a sign of peace and love.

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Family worship at 5:00 will include a Christmas pageant, music from our CMAP choirs and candle lighting. Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 will include the Christmas story, retold in all its wonder with Bible passages, choir and organ music, and the lighting of candles.

Sunday, December 27 – Christmas Carol Sunday

We will share one worship service at 10:00 am with the singing of many of our favorite Christmas carols. Put worship in the middle of your Christmas season on this day.

Sunday, January 3 – Epiphany Sunday

At the darkest time of year, Christians celebrate the light of Christ! Services will return to their 8:45 and 11:15 times, but there will be no education programs on this day.

A new member orientation program will begin on Sunday, November 29, for anyone who is interested in joining the church.

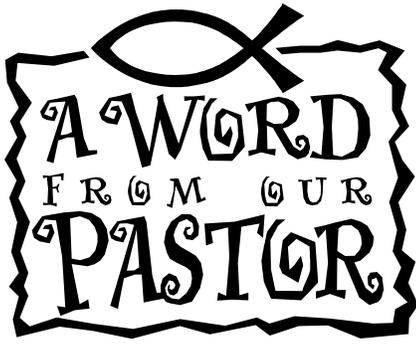
There will be two sessions of preparation on November 29 and December 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

You will meet others considering membership, along with staff and leaders of the congregation. You will learn more about Brecksville UMC and United Methodism.

We will receive members in worship on Sunday, December 13. At 10:00 on that day, you will have an opportunity to meet a faith friend who will support you in your first year of membership.

Please contact Pastor Karen at the church by phone, 440-526-8939 or email, pastor@brecksvilleumc.com if you are interested in pursuing membership at this time.





An encouraging word

Comments from Rev. Karen Oehl

The Webster's dictionary in the church office defines "encourage" as *to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope; to hearten.*

As I sit here in my office today, I can glance up and see several cards and a plant that were given to me in the last few weeks to encourage me. I cannot tell you how much they helped. It has been a month of hard work when I often felt dispirited or less than hopeful. We said goodbye to a beloved office manager and struggled to do the best thing for the church and Dan Handzel, resulting in the decision to replace him as custodian. We have been wrestling with other staffing questions, preparing for charge conference, and taking a hard look at our current and future financial options. We have been spending time reviewing your thoughts on the worship experience here, especially where there are concerns. On my own personal front I was waiting anxiously for

work in the parsonage to be completed and doing the follow up work of cleaning and rearranging and at the same time beginning to plan our daughter Kirsten's wedding for next summer.

Did I need encouragement? Of course I did! Do you need encouragement on a regular basis? Of course you do! Have human beings always needed encouragement? Of course they have!

How are we encouraged by God? How are we inspired with courage, spirit, and hope? How are our hearts renewed within us?

God does not send us cards but does speak to us through the Word. It amazed me to think about how much of the Bible is encouragement. The stories inspire us, prophecy gives us hope, and the poetry speaks to our hearts. Paul's letters and others in the New Testament are specifically written as encouragement to the family of God in Jesus. Even some of the most difficult literature—the apocalyptic books of Daniel and Revelation—are meant as encouragement to oppressed and suffering people.

God does not send me potted plants, but I can look out my window to see the beauty of the earth in all seasons.

God encourages us through the power of the Holy Spirit. The word inspire itself is related to spirit. To inspire is to breathe into someone or something. In the Gospel of John, Jesus

breathed on the disciples after his resurrection. God breathed into Adam to bring him to life. The Holy Spirit continues to breathe power and hope into us.

We are also encouraged by our time together as a church. Every time we get to worship, learn, serve, or even drink coffee together, we feel encouraged! My high point of the week is the moment when I sit down in the chancel on Sunday morning, turn my head, and see your faces. The very fact of you encourages me.

Paul began his letters with a greeting of grace and peace, and often ended with personal greetings and reminders to love one another.

Dear ones, let us love one another by sharing in any way we can an encouraging word.

"Let us love one another by sharing in any way we can an encouraging word."

Staff

Pastor

Karen M. Oehl

Assoc Pastor of Visitation

Libby Kuntz

Director of

Youth Ministries

Lisa L. Drew

Director of Music

Joy E. Fenton

Interim Director of

Christian Education

Jenny Gee

Business Manager: Les Buttolph

Office Manager: Melanie Smith

Administrative Assistant: Cec Podolny

Financial Secretary: Pat Gordon

Church School Registrar: Joan Olszko

Facilities Managers:

Jeff and Chris Hastings

The Good Word is published by the Brecksville United Methodist Church.

Article deadline for January's Good Word will be December 14.



Encourage
one another
and build up
each other....

I Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV



**Brecksville Christmas Parade and
Tree Lighting**

November 29 4:00 pm. We are looking for helpers. Contact Pastor Karen.

**UMW Annual Christmas
Potluck Luncheon**

is **Thursday, December 3 at 11:30 am.** in the church parlor. Our guest will be from the Head Start program. The members of the Amendt Wyatt Circle have supported Head Start as part of their outreach mission. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Bring your favorite casserole, salad, or dessert to share. Everyone is welcome to the luncheon.

Movie Night

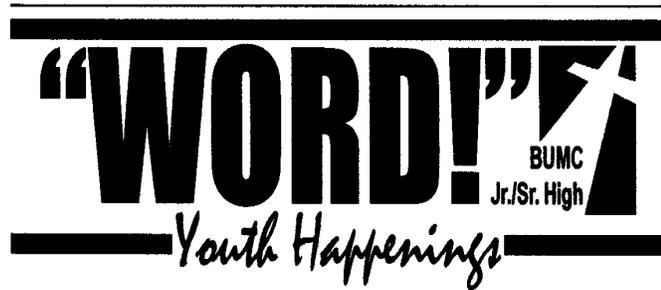
Jesus & Ebert Movie Night Saturday, December 5, 7:00 pm at the Vastartis residence 8976 Elm Street, Brecksville. Movie will have a Christmas theme. Bring your favorite snack or dessert to share. RSVP to Catherine at 440-526-9406.

**Red Cross Blood Drive
December 8**

1 pm—7 pm Fellowship Hall
Give blood this winter and warm someone's heart.

Third Grade Bible Sunday

Families of Third Graders... mark your calendars! The date for Third Grade Bible Sunday is Sunday, January 10. The children will be presented with their Bibles during first service. You will be receiving a letter soon asking how you would like your child's name to appear in the front of the bible. This is an exciting time for the children and a wonderful tradition for the entire church family to enjoy. Plan on being there on January 10th to encourage and congratulate our third graders.



Every Wednesday

Quest (Middle School)—4-5:15 pm

All 6th -8th graders are welcome to join us for a new year of Quest. We meet every Wednesday afternoon for games, snacks, and study! We meet in the BUMC Youth Room on the 4th floor in room 406!! Hope to see you!! Let Lisa know of any allergies!

November 29—

5th Sunday Field Trip (High School)—10am-2pm

Last year we worshipped at Epworth-Euclid UMC, our local Methodist cathedral, and we attended worship at St. Joseph's Byzantine Catholic church. The experiences were diverse and gave us a flavor for how some of our Christian brothers and sisters worship. We found lots in common and some expressions of faith different from our own at BUMC! This year we will be attending worship on the 5th Sunday of the month in November and January! November 29 there will be no Sr. High Sunday school. We will be going to worship at Trinity Cathedral which is an Episcopal Cathedral!! We will meet in the fellowship hall at 10am on that Sunday morning and drive down to the Cathedral. We will attend their Choral Eucharist and then have lunch after to discuss what we experienced. We will be back to the church by 2pm. Bring \$10 to chip in for lunch. We will need parents to drive! RSVP with Lisa no later than November 22!!

December 8 —

Yuletide Hunger Helpers—4:30pm-5:30pm

Attention all 6th-12th Graders: We are asking for some help on Tuesday afternoon December 8 for the Yuletide Hunger program. We are going to sort the food that is collected by the schools!! RSVP with Lisa by Dec 2 if you can help! This is a great way to support our community during the holidays! You will meet me at Blossom Hill School on Oakes Road and be picked up at the same place. We could use some parents to help so stay with your kids and help sort food!

December 13 —

EPIC (High School)—6-7:30pm

Sr. High: This year EPIC is a little different because we are going to meet twice a month! Join us for games, supper, and Bible Study! We will meet in the 4th floor youth room (406)! Come check us out!

No EPIC UnWound this month due to the holidays!





Another quick note to thank you for my retirement luncheon and all the people who took time from their busy schedules to join in. And then to receive your very generous money gift. My Cambodian missionary will be so thankful. And then add all the cards and warm thoughts expressed and my 'cup runneth over'. Even in saying good bye you have been warm, generous and lavish. May God dwell richly in your church family and continue to make you a 'cup of cool water' for parched lives one hour at a time.

Sincerely,
Irma Agnew

Thank you dear friends for prayers, loving thoughts, calls and cards sent to us after our automobile accident and Dan's weeks of healing. We know his amazing recovery was due to the positive energy sent to him through you. And now, as I recover from knee surgery your prayers are guiding me to a full recovery.

Most Sincerely,
Dan & Barbara Soltis.



Stop by the church office to pick up your giving envelopes. You can let us know you want giving envelopes by emailing financesec@brecksvilleumc.com, calling the church office: 440-526-8938 or by checking the box on your pledge card.

Introducing New Staff Members

Melanie Smith has joined the Brecksville UMC staff as of Monday, November 16 as Office Manager. Melanie joins Cec Podolny as part of a team that supports all the ministry and activity of the church. Some of her primary tasks will be producing the newsletter, managing the master calendar, maintaining our member database, and handling major mailings and office projects. As Office Manager she will also be in charge of supplies, office machinery and managing the work flow. Quite a challenge!



Melanie is well up to the challenge. She has spent twenty years working in a variety of capacities for the Ritz Carlton. This has given her some of the best customer service training in the world, and the variety of work has given her the ability to solve problems and adapt to new tasks. As a volunteer in the community and schools, she has also been able to use her creative and graphic skills.

Melanie lives in Macedonia with her husband, Jim, and son, Adam. She will be in the office from 9:30-4:30, Monday through Fridays. Stop in and introduce yourself!

Monday the 16th is also the start date for a new team handling cleaning and building care: Jeff and Scott Hastings. The Hastings are familiar to many of you from their enthusiastic involvement in many levels of church life. Jeff knows the building well, serving as a Trustee, one of our closers, and has stepped in at times as a substitute and extra pair of hands for past custodians. Scott has gained skills and a heart for service through his years of activity at the church and on Youth Service Project trips. He will be attending classes this year, but you will likely find him about the building on many mornings and in the later afternoons. Care of our church building is very demanding, and there will be an adjustment period as Scott and Jeff find a rhythm that suits all of us. Remember that this is a faith home for all of us, and be willing to communicate and help out in any way that you can.

As of Sunday, November 15, we also welcome Chris Toth back to our staff.

Many of you will remember a young man of great skill who played here some years ago, and we are elated to greet him once again as our organist and choral accompanist. Over the years, Chris has continued to play for weddings and special events in our building while serving at a number of different churches and a Jewish temple. His sure hand on the keys will be a pleasure, and it is especially thrilling to have him join us as we enter such a special season of the church year. If you have a special love of the organ, take time to listen to the preludes and postludes in the coming weeks at our 11:15 worship service. Chris will also join us at the 8:45 worship service from time to time; you can hear him at both services on December 20. Be sure to find Chris and welcome him to our church family as soon as you can!

Take a plant to a home bound friend

Every year our Christmas worship is enhanced by beautiful poinsettias. This year we are inviting congregation members to take some of these poinsettias to our church members who are home-bound or limited in their ability to worship with us. The pick-up date will be December 20 after each service. You'll be able to deliver a plant at your convenience and bring a portion of our worship to a home-bound friend. Contact Gretchen Mates 440-526-6481 to sign up or see her November 29, December 6 and December 13 after worship.



Breakfast without Santa

Supporting our mission in Costa Rica

There are many opportunities during the holiday season to visit Santa, and even have breakfast with this cultural icon. But on Sunday, December 13, you have the opportunity to BE Santa, the spirit of giving, and at the same time have a delicious and interesting breakfast.

The Costa Rica January mission team will be serving breakfast in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-11:30. Stop in before Sunday School or right after, depending on your worship schedule. If you are not part of a regular class, drop by during the education hour. Breakfast will be served buffet style, with constant service. The menu will include Costa Rican coffee, juices and fruits (very much a part of the Costa Rican diet), scrambled eggs, pancakes with various toppings, and rice and beans, a staple for much of the world.

Tickets will be on sale at the church for the next two Sundays, or from a member of the team: Stephanie and Ian Roberts, Lisa Drew, Jenny Scheufler, Katie Bartholomew, Chris and Karen Oehl, Melissa AuWerter, Bruce McCrodden. They are \$10 per person, \$25 per family, 6 and under eating free. Help build a church for the Living Word United Methodist congregation in Carrillos, Costa Rica.



Crib & Toddler Room Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy spending time with the little ones of our congregation?

Every Sunday, during both services and the Sunday School hour, childcare is provided for the littlest treasures of our church family. Think about getting involved and volunteering an hour of your time. You will not be alone in the room with the children. Stop by the crib and toddler room at any time on Sunday morning and talk to Angie Andersen, our Crib and Toddler Room coordinator. She will show you the schedule and you can choose a date and time that is convenient to you. We are now booking volunteers for late January through June. You can also call Angie at home at 526-4080.



Worship Committee News

Written by Jane Petrie, Worship Committee co-chairman

There has been a good response from our "How are we doing?" survey but we still need to hear from YOU. Deadline is November 30. Thank you now for taking the time to respond. Overall results will be forthcoming at a later date.

Wednesday, December 2 we look forward to decorating the interior of the church for the holidays. We would enjoy your company. Please call Jane Petrie at 440-526-1725 for times.

We need your presence as an usher. It would be helpful if you were willing to make a commitment for a particular service, for so many Sundays. (ex: 1st service, 2nd Sunday of the month for 3 months). We now have several people who have made a commitment: Marilyn & Jeff Schillo, Diane Pidwell, Lynn & Mark Spencer, Catherine Vastartis, Mary Kotnik, Carl Rossborough, Cathy & Les Buttolph, Ken Wise, Don Yates, and Lynn & Mark Hobzek. *A total of 32 ushers are need in one 4 week month.

We are fortunate to have many places within our church to be part of meaningful fellowship. Please call the office or Jane Petrie 440-526-1725 to volunteer.

Partnership Churches Christmas Toy Sale



Saturday Dec. 12, 2009 at Brooklyn Memorial UMC – 2607 Archwood. Estimated number of shoppers - 30 families; 100 children. The congregation members of suburban (sponsor) churches purchase toys for children age infant through teen. These can be GENTLY used items, too. Small items for children to purchase for their parents – can be GENTLY used items, too, mittens, hats and scarves to be given away to families. These items are donated to Brooklyn Memorial (inner-city host) church. The host church sells them for reduced prices (\$10 max) to families from the neighborhood. (Purchases made by children for parents cost 10 – 25 cents.) Mittens, hats and scarves are given away to families purchasing toys. **Volunteers needed:** Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10:30am – 12:30pm. Tasks include: registration helpers (3), shopping assistants (6), check out helpers (6), cashiers (2), Snack hosts (3-4), gift wrappers (8-10). Clean up **Volunteers needed:** Saturday, Dec. 12 from 12:30pm-1:30pm. Re-set room for Sunday morning, pack up toys not sold.



It's Not Too Late to Sign Up to Travel to Germany, Austria, and Italy to Experience *The Passion Play* at Oberammergau!

In July 2010, Pastors Bob and Libby Kuntz will be traveling with Bishop Hopkins and others from the East Ohio Conference. We welcome you to join us for this once-in-a-decade journey to experience:

- The passion of Jesus in moving and stirring music
- The faith of the Oberammergau villagers, keeping a 370 year old voy by presenting the Passion Play
- The breath-taking beauty of the Alps, abbeys, cathedrals, and churches where God's holiness and beauty are found
- Fellowship with other Christian travelers
- Moments that bring us closer to God.

We'll be glad to answer questions and fill you in our details at your request: 440-886-3677.



READ ME.

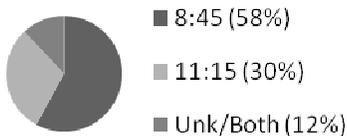
I had the privilege of attending the BBHMS Production of Alice in Wonderland this past Friday night. [I'll send a little "shout out" to our own Faith Decker, Bridget Gee and Doug Robie for a job well done!] Throughout the show, I found myself laughing out loud at Alice's willingness to eat every cookie that was labeled "eat me" and drink every mysterious bottle similarly labeled. Most of us are not so intrepid as Alice!

Many of you have taken the time to respond to a worship survey that was included in last month's Good Word. We are grateful for your communication, as it has provided an opportunity for discussion and planning around a broad range of topics related to our church life. I have personally reviewed the nearly 30 surveys that have been turned in, as have members of the Worship Committee and Pastor Karen. I know you're curious, so here are some demographic statistics:

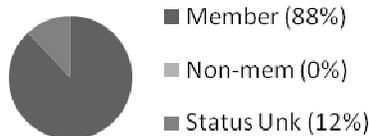
the Worship Committee, are diligently pursuing solutions as funds become available.

In future editions of the Good Word, watch for a regular column addressing what I'll call the "Alice in Wonderland" issues. In this column, Karen and I (and perhaps others) will answer *why* questions. As a preview, I ask you to briefly consider one item of common issue. *Why* is the 8:45 service so contemporary? *Why* are you using a drummer in worship? As one anonymous survey respondent put it, "That service sounds like 95.5's The Fish!" An equal number of respondents asked reciprocal questions. *Why* is 11:15 worship so traditional? *Why* must we still use the organ? One reality of today's world is that contemporary music is wildly popular amongst people of all ages! An equal reality is the sustained affinity for truly liturgical, traditional worship, *also across age boundaries!* Our philosophy is that we have enough resources and ingenuity to offer the best of both

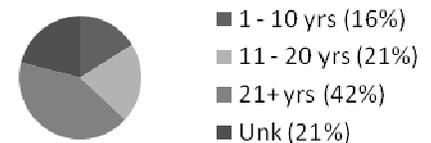
Service Attended



Membership Status



Years Attended



Perhaps most striking to me in my review of these surveys was the importance of communication in every area of our life together! Every aspect of our worship services – the music we sing, particular prayers, pieces of liturgy and the service elements – is by design. Activities and events around the church – or, at times, the discontinuation of events – are never without specific purpose and rationale. Rarely is a change or adjustment made without the prayers (and sweat) of at least one staff member and a supporting committee or task force. BUT... if the *reasons* and *spirit* behind these decisions are not clearly communicated and heard, I imagine some of us are left feeling a bit like Alice in Wonderland. We have something new and strange in front of us with no explanation other than a big sign that says, "DRINK THIS." It is a rare person who would not be left asking the most obvious of questions. "What IS that?! And why in the *world* should I drink it?!"

Over the coming months, we as a church family will respond to our surveys in a variety of ways. Some items have already been addressed. Hearing assist devices have been cleaned by our ushers, and some new devices will likely be purchased shortly, thanks to Gifts & Memorials funding. Extra care is being taken to have the building clean on Sundays as we welcome our new facilities staff aboard. Other issues are items that can be addressed, but at considerable cost. There was concern about the quality and visibility of signs from the road. Many felt we should find ways to make our lower entrances more attractive and inviting. There continue to be difficulties around understanding the spoken word in the Sanctuary. The Trustees, together with

worlds. We are a church that embraces tradition, sings traditional hymns and loves the sound of the organ while simultaneously offering contemporary worship that "rocks out". We strive to provide excellent music at both services even as they are very different. You are welcome at either service (or both!) as the spirit moves you to embrace a particular style of worship on any given Sunday. For my own part, I am deeply committed to the traditional hymnody, I am a lifelong student of classical music, and I am equally passionate about finding expression for cutting edge sounds as well. God meets me through the music and liturgy of our worship at both services!

For those of you who still feel that struggle in your heart around this issue (or any issue), I challenge you to put a human face on your struggle. Bear in mind that for each thing about which you feel strongly, there is a brother or sister in Christ who feels equal passion, perhaps to the contrary. Consider the moments in worship that move you most deeply. Perhaps for you it is the swell of the organ during a hymn. Perhaps it's hearing the words of the Lord's Prayer, spoken in unison as the family of God. Perhaps it's the high-energy beat of percussion during a praise song. Remember that those who worship on your right and on your left may have equal love in their hearts for just the opposite!

It is the nature of the God we love and serve that unlike things are able to come together in harmony. People of God, thank you for your continued investment in this community! Thank you for your comments and for your understanding and flexibility as we continue to grow together.

Soli Deo Gloria, Joy Fenton ~ Director of Music



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Poinsettias will be used to decorate the altar and chancel area Sundays, December 13 and 20. Poinsettias may be ordered in honor and in memory of loved ones or to the glory of God. Poinsettias will be delivered as an act of caring on Sunday, December 20. Please indicate below if you will pick up your poinsettia after 8:45 or 11:15 worship on the 20th, if you will donate it to be delivered to someone, or leave it for Christmas Eve worship. Again the cost of red or white poinsettias is \$8.00 per plant. To Order:

Fill out the information below, printing clearly so the secretary can read your name and the persons in whose honor or memory the poinsettia is donated.

Indicate whether you wish to pickup, have it delivered to a person who is confined, or leave for Christmas Eve.

Attach to the order a check for \$8.00 per plant ordered—payable to BUMC or cash in the proper amount

Put in an envelope and mail or bring to the church office or place in the offering plate no later than Sunday, December 6.

Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 6. No orders can be honored after that date.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

To the glory of God _____

_____ Red _____ White @ \$8 per

_____ Pickup 12/20 after either worship

_____ Deliver to someone for me

_____ Please leave for Christmas Eve

Fine Arts Series

Joy Fenton, Director of Music

I want to extend my enthusiastic thanks to all who have attended and invited friends to our **Fine Arts Series** concerts this fall. Over 70 people came to hear ETA3 in October, and **nearly 150 were in attendance** to hear the Manhattan Piano Trio on November 14. The Trio shared selections by Haydn, Chopin, Brahms, Granados and Schumann. I had the opportunity to hear the group rehearse for several hours during the afternoon, and I was impressed both by their nearly flawless management of such technically demanding pieces and their deep commitment to finding creative ways to *express* the emotion at the heart of each work. What a privilege that so many were able to enjoy this professional ensemble right here in Brecksville!

On December 13 at 4:00 pm, we welcome the Brecksville Community Chorus and Youth Chorus back into our Sanctuary, under the direction of Donna Box and Joy Fenton. These ensembles will share a wonderful selection of seasonal favorites, including a number of combined pieces. Make this concert a part of your holiday tradition! A beautiful reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Keep an eye on the Good Word and our weekly bulletins for additional concert opportunities in 2010! Thank you all for your continued support!

PSALM 100:1-2

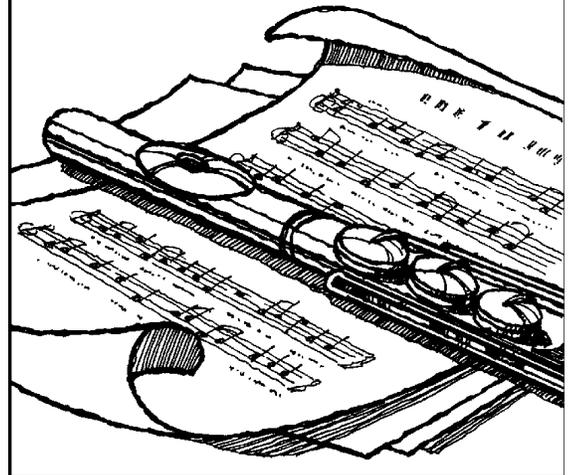
SHOUT FOR JOY TO THE LORD

ALL THE EARTH.

WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS;

COME BEFORE HIM WITH

JOYFUL SONGS.





Get yourself in the Christmas spirit by checking out some of these Book Cart titles, perfect for sharing with your children, grandchildren, or the child in you:

Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect
by Richard H. Schneider --
a sweet tale of a generous little tree who sacrifices his perfect shape to help his friends, the animals.

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey
by Susan Wojciechowski --
a grouchy and reclusive woodcarver is transformed by helping a widow and her seven-year-old son.

The Christmas Pageant
by Tomie DePaola --
a gentle, humorous and colorfully illustrated tale.

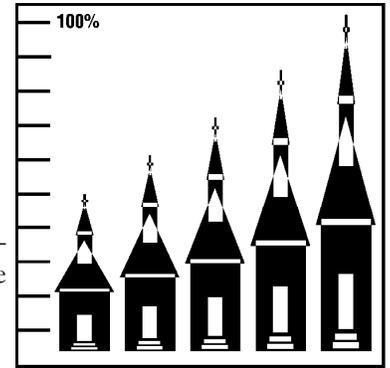
Budget Status Here is our financial status at the end of the third quarter of this budget year, and a comparison to last year.

	2008	2009
Offerings	\$409,343	\$398,339
Total Revenue	\$446,818	\$426,778
Total Expenses	\$440,764	\$450,972
Budget Status	\$6,054	\$(24,194)

Thank you for your giving in the last month. We are closing the gap between expenses and revenues. Please continue to be faithful in completing your pledge for 2009. This year especially giving is a way to share the load with church family whose circumstances have changed. Ministry continues, with your help.

Capital Campaign Draws to a Close

In the fall of 2006 the Brecksville United Methodist Church invited members and friends to pledge three years of financial support for a project of renovations and refurbishing. The goal of that campaign was \$400,000. Although the entire amount was not pledged, there was enthusiasm for the project and a readiness to move ahead on plans and improvements. There was also a confidence that additional gifts and pledges would come in.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Three years later dreams have come true (after a lot of hard work), and we meet weekly in a beautiful, well-appointed sanctuary. The offices are better work spaces, and we have already forgotten the cramped restrooms that used to serve the entire second floor of our building. The work done on the roof even held up to the difficult ice of this past winter. The entire project came in almost exactly at \$400,000. All the expenses have been paid. An internal loan from Gifts and Memorials, BUMC's internal endowment fund, allowed us to pay for all of the costs of the capital project in advance of all of the pledged funds being received. As people have faithfully continued to pay on their pledges, we have been repaying that money to Gifts and Memorials.

Where are we now?

Based on the current pattern of payments, we expect approximately \$10,000 to come in during the last months of our three year commitment. We believe that \$45,000 originally pledged will never be received, based on a variety of circumstances of change and the economy. The internal loan to Gifts and Memorials at the end of October was just over \$90,000. Some of this will be repaid through a gift from Norm Hoertz set aside for this stage of the campaign, and the pledge of Gifts and Memorials themselves to cover \$17,000 for the projection system. The year 2010 will begin with \$30,000-\$40,000 unpaid balance on the internal loan from Gifts and Memorials.

Where will we go from here?

The Finance Committee has continuously watched the financial picture of the capital campaign while at the same time stewarding the operating budget. It is their recommendation that we close the Capital Campaign at the end of the three years originally planned, as of December 31, 2010. They will work with the Gifts and Memorials Committee on the best way to finalize this arrangement and move into the future.

While we all realize that in the best of all possible worlds we would have been able to fully retire this internal loan through pledges and gifts, we also are realistic that in these economic times it is crucial to fully support the operations of the church. In other words, if you are a family needing to choose the most effective way to serve financially, at this time it will be to maintain or even increase your regular pledge to the operating fund.

We are blessed with funds held in Gifts and Memorials that speak of generations of love and commitment to this church. They might have been used in other circumstances to refinish pews, or buy choir chairs, or remodel bathrooms one project at a time. In this case, they will have helped us to complete the projects in one complete undertaking.

As we look ahead to the future, Finance will continue to work with the Board of Trustees on a way to plan for and fund capital projects on an ongoing basis, reducing the need for capital campaigns or borrowing as much as possible.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 Staff Meeting 201 7-9 Disciple 4 Par 7-8 Knitting 406	2 6:30 Dawnbreakers FH 4-6 CMAP/Quest 6:15 Yoga Par 7 Prayer Service Taizé 7 Hanging of Greens	3 11:30 UMW Par 6:15 Handbells Sanc 7:30 Choir 304	4	5 7:00 Jesus & Ebert Movie Night, Vastartis Residence
6 Communion 8:45 WORSHIP 10:00 Education 10 New Member Orientation 11:15 WORSHIP	7 7:30 Trustees Par 7:30 Boy Scouts FH	8 9:30 Staff Meeting 201 1-7 Red Cross Blood Drive FH 7-9 Disciple 4 302 8 Music Board 304	9 6:30 Dawnbreakers FH 4-6 CMAP/Quest 6:15 Missions, 302 6:15 Yoga Par 7:30 Advent Worship, Sanctuary	10 9:30 Asbury Circle Par 6:15 Handbells Sanc 7:30 Choir 304	11 6:00 Brooklyn Memorial Toy Sale Setup	12 9 – 12:30 Brooklyn Memorial. Toy Sale
13 8:45 Worship 9:30 -11:30 Breakfast w/o Santa FH 9:30 Church & Society 10:00 Education 10 New Member Orientation 11:15 Worship 6-7:30 Epic FH 4:00 Community Chorus Sanctuary	14 Good Word 6:00 Evangelism, Par 7:30 Council on Ministries Parlor 7:30 Boy Scouts FH	15 9:30 Staff Meeting 201 Noon-Staff Luncheon, Parlor 7-8 Knitting 406 7-9 Disciple 4 Par	16 6:30 Dawnbreakers FH 4-6 CMAP/Quest 6:15 Yoga Par 7 Prayer Service 7:30 Staff Parish 201	17 6:15 Handbells Sanc 7:30 Choir 304	18	19
20 Christmas Music Sunday 8:45 Worship 10:00 Education 11:15 Worship 2-5 Parsonage Open House	21 9-11 CMAP Christmas Party, FH 7:30 Finance, Parlor	22 9:30 Staff Meeting 201	23 6:30 Dawnbreakers FH 7 Prayer Service	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 Family Worship 8:00 Worship 10:00 Candlelight Worship	25 Christmas	26
27 10:00 Worship NO Education Hour	28	29 9:30 Staff Meeting 201	30 6:30 Dawnbreakers FH 7 Prayer Service	31		

December 6: Second Sunday of Advent, **Ezekiel 37:21b,25-27; John 14:18-20, 23b,27; Ephesians 2:13-18;** “Center Yourself in LOVE”

December 13: Third Sunday of Advent, **Isaiah 55:12-13; Luke 2:25-32; Galatians 5:22;** “Center Yourself in JOY”

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent- Music Sunday, **Psalms 131; Matthew 1:18-25; James 3:17-18;** “Center Yourself in PEACE”

December 27 – **One** Worship Service 10am: Luke 2: 41-52