

The Good Word

Brecksville United Methodist Church

Published December 18, 2009



January 3

Fellowship Hour
(No Christian Education)
New Member Potluck

January 10

3rd Grade Sunday
Adult Classes Begin

January 13

Quest and CMAP Resume

January 16

UMM Chili Cook Off

January 24

Project 2010 Kick Off
UMW Soup Sunday
Youth Volunteer at The
Cleveland Food Bank

PROJECT 2010 just around the corner!

As we turn our calendar pages to a fresh new year, keep in mind our congregation's goal for each member to give at least an hour of love to others through hands on service in the year 2010. We feel confident that we will quickly exceed the 2,010 hours that is our shared goal. You may find a way to serve in your neighborhood, your community, in the greater Cleveland area, or beyond.



If you are looking for a place or way to serve, especially as we are asking your 2010 hour to be in a place that is new to you, plan to attend the **PROJECT 2010 Kickoff** on Sunday, January 24. A feast of volunteering opportunities will be presented that Sunday morning from 10:00 until 1:00 in our Fellowship Hall.

If you are ready to put pencil to paper and sign up to volunteer somewhere, attend the **PROJECT 2010 Kickoff** on Sunday, January 24, where there will be representatives from places and agencies that could use your help. There will be ideas for individuals, families, and youth to serve.

If you would like to get excited about the idea of taking the love of Jesus to the world, attend the **PROJECT 2010 Kickoff** on Sunday, January 24. Sample UMW soup and buy some to take home to support missions, browse displays and volunteer information, buy a PROJECT 2010 T-shirt, get ready for a great year of love and service!



New Member POTLUCK

Sunday, January 3

S t a f f

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

Facility Managers:

Jeff and Scott Hastings

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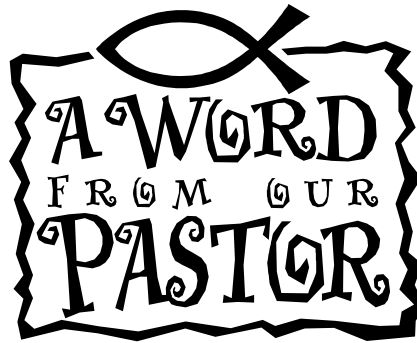
The Brecksville

United Methodist Church.

65 Public Square

Brecksville, OH 44141

*Article deadline is the third
Monday of each month.*



Dividing the Pie

Comments by Rev. Karen Oehl

Whenever I have something good to eat that my husband Chris likes the look of, he asks me, “What did you learn in school today?” My answer is supposed to be, “Sharing,” as I offer him part of what I’m eating.

Growing up in a big family, Chris learned that sharing was essential (although as the only boy with 6 sisters he always got his own bedroom). He still feels perfectly comfortable spearing a meatball off your plate or taking a bit of your cookie even if you didn’t offer it. I’ve had people who worked for or with Chris ask me if he did this at home, because he felt free to do it to co-workers, not just family!

Most of us do not have to resort to these guerilla tactics to share in the good things of life. Instead, we are more in a position of figuring out the best way to divide the pie that we do have, so that everybody gets a share.

The book of Leviticus, which can be heavy going for the casual reader, lays down a faith foundation for making sure that a portion of our pie is shared with others. You are to let fields and orchards lie fallow every seventh year, with its fruit available to all. Don’t cut your crops to the very edge of the field or gather up all the fallen stalks of grain—leave some for the poor to glean. Offerings are divided up so that not only God gets a portion, but so does your family, and the temple servants and priests who have no lands and flocks of their own.

One church pie is divided so that some of our budget goes to “apportionments” for the district and the conference. In other words, to the broader ministries of the United Methodist Church. I have been in churches where these payments are seen as dues, or taxes, and are very grudgingly paid. In Brecksville, as in many other churches, apportionments are seen instead as an additional way to give to mission. And I have the opportunity through being involved in the UM connection to see how apportionments are used for mission and ministry both near and far, which is very exciting.

The best way to understand apportionments is to define them as “a portion meant” for spreading the gospel—the good news—of Jesus in the world. These pieces of the pie feed the hungry, educate young people and pastors, provide an administrative structure to our relief agencies, build hospitals, and more. I have seen them at work: in church camps, churches, and communities all over Ohio.

This is a season of celebration. I am really celebrating the fact right now that Brecksville United Methodist Church has paid its apportionments for 2009 in full, and almost doubled the suggested goal for connectional mission giving. Thank you for sharing portions of your pie with others.

"WORD!"

BUMC
Jr./Sr. High

Youth Happenings



BUMC Teenagers Help with Yuletide Hunger

Quest Ends—December 16th and Begins Again January 13th

Lisa will be out of the country on the Costa Rican mission trip until Jan. 10th so we are delaying the start of Quest until January 13th. CMAP is delaying their start as well!

No January **EPIC** (High School)

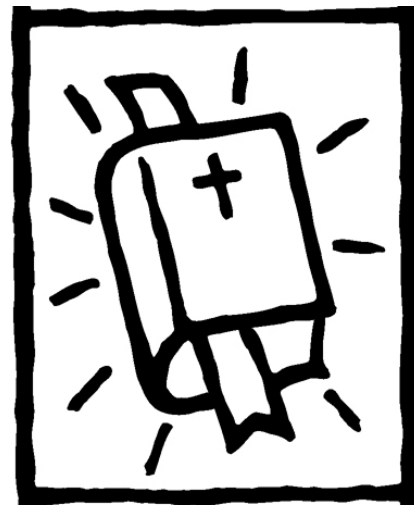
January 24— Cleveland Foodbank-- 8am-Noon

Middle-schoolers and High schoolers are invited to help at the Cleveland Foodbank! There is a volunteer form you must fill out as well as a church medical form that you can find on the BUMC website: www.brecksvilleumc.com. The only other requirement is that you need to be 12 years old to help there. We will meet at the church at 7:30am and return at 12:30pm. We need parents to help drive so RSVP with Lisa by Jan. 18th. There is limited space so we only have 10-12 spots. Sign-up soon.

January 24 — EPIC UnWound (High School)— 6pm-7:30pm

January 31—5th Sunday Fieldtrip—10am-12:30

We will be worshipping at Orchard Path UMC in Broadview Heights. It is a new church start and we will get to see what worship in a "brand new" church looks like. They are feeding us lunch so come check it out! We'll need parents to drive over to the Broadview Heights Rec Center that morning.



Third Grade Bible Sunday

One of the many wonderful traditions in our church is the presentation of Bibles to our third graders each January. **This year Third Grade Bible Sunday will be held on January 10 during the 8:45 worship service.** Plan to join the children in the Fellowship Hall for a cake and punch reception following the 8:45 service. All the students in Rotation Sunday School (1st through 5th grade) will begin a Bible study unit beginning that Sunday and continuing for 8 weeks. Their unit will culminate with the children leading worship on March 7, 2010. This is an exciting time in our children's faith journey. Please plan to attend and be a part of this special day. If you have a third grader, but did not receive a letter in the mail, call Jenny Gee as soon as possible.



Order forms will be available in your Sunday bulletin and on line.



PENNIES *for Hunger* **UPDATE**

Thank you to all the children in Rotation Sunday School who remembered to bring in their pennies, nickels and dimes in October and November. The coins really added up! We were able to collect \$63.15 which was doubled by our Missions committee. The money was donated to Cross International and was enough to sponsor two children in Mozambique for a year. Check out Cross International on the web for more information about this Christian relief and development organization. Please keep the poor and sick in your prayers this Christmas season.



ALTAR FLOWERS

We hope you are enjoying the beautiful altar flower arrangements. If you are interested in adding to the meaning of our worship service through placing flowers on the altar in 2010, please contact the church office by phone, 440-526-8938 or e-mail

bumc222@ameritech.net

Forms for requesting flowers are on the bulletin board in the office workroom over the copy machine. Simply complete a form and leave it in Cec Podolny's mailbox.

www.brecksvilleumc.com

Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offering theme is "Churches". We will be dividing the money three ways:

Unalaska United Methodist Church - Operational Expenses

Since 1992, a congregation with ministry to children, fish processors, and fishing crews/vessels, has been established. Through the generosity of partnering churches and the hard work of numerous Volunteers In Mission (VIM) work camps, a church building with celebration space, as well as a spacious parsonage, were designed, constructed, and completely funded.

While these two buildings have been blessings to the ministry, they have also been a burden, since they are both expensive to heat and maintain. Recent land ownership is changing so that for the first time since 1992, the congregation will be responsible for fire, liability, and other necessary insurance on both buildings.

This, along with the ever-rising cost of heating fuel and propane, will be adding significant burden to the church's already limited resources.

Werner United Methodist Church

Located on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Cleveland, The Werner United Methodist Church has been meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the Buckeye-Woodland Community for thirty-four years (since relocating from East 110th and Superior). In recent years, two of their most successful programs have been serving daily hot meals and tutoring students from the nearby schools. Their current facility is small, lacks parking, and is not able to accommodate the programs needed to serve the people around them.

They seek financial assistance in bringing to fruition the vision of building a 21st Century community center/church building that will service the changing needs of those in the Buckeye-Woodland community. With the hot meals programs, they mostly serve the indigents - those who lack the skills to compete in the new global economy. However, in the tutoring and academic enrichment programs, they are helping to develop a new generation that will be able to work in fields and jobs not yet in existence, especially those that will be found in the University Circle corridor. This new church will be more than a church - it will be a community learning center.

Liberia , East Ohio Conference Mission Trip

The international recipient of our Christmas offering is the Camphor Mission in Camphor, Liberia. This mission is a program of the East Ohio Conference with the stated goal of "Transforming lives from a dark yesterday to a brighter tomorrow." The need in Camphor is great, and Methodists from all over the East Ohio Conference are contributing to help the people of Liberia build a brighter future. Some of the listed needs of Camphor Mission include: \$25 pays for 5 gallons of kerosene to fuel clinic refrigeration for vaccination; \$25 sends a child to school for a month; \$80 - 100 pay a teacher salary for a month (the teachers have not been paid since August, but keep showing up, plus volunteering on their days off!); \$2000 pays for a well in a village; \$10 pays for a bed net (they need 300). If you would like to learn more about the Camphor Mission Station you can do so at

www.camphormission.org



Serving in Love in Liberia

On January 26, 2010 I will be going to Liberia for two weeks with a mission team from the East Ohio Conference. This is part of the Bishop's Three Cs initiative, building Churches, Clinics and Classrooms. While there, some team members will provide medical services at a clinic and in the communities. Others of us will work on building a school and a home for teachers and other mission workers. All members of the Brecksville UMC are participating in this mission through a financial contribution made by the Missions Committee, and I thank you all, and the Missions Committee in particular, for your support. I hope you will also support this mission by remembering the people of Liberia and the members of our mission team in prayer. Liberia is a nation of tremendous potential, but with a devastated economy and infrastructure. After two decades of civil war and brutal dictatorship, they are now trying to rebuild on all levels: roads, buildings, electricity, clean water, sanitation systems, education and human resources. It is a huge job, and not an easy one. But we know the truth: with God, all things are possible. Thank you for your support, Janet Kleckner



Welcome, New Members!

We welcomed new brothers and sisters into our church family on Sunday, December 13. They had attended new member orientation sessions and individual meetings with Rev. Oehl to prepare for their membership vows.

Welcome Our New Members

You are encouraged to seek them out and introduce yourself when you see them on Sundays and in other settings. There will be a church family potluck on Sunday, January 3, after the 11:15 worship service. Not only is this a chance for you to enjoy a fun lunch, but our new members are invited to be our special guests on this day.

Please watch for and greet these new members:

Jamie and Marla Hocutt have been attending for more than a year with their daughter Charlotte ("Charlie") who just turned two. Jamie is a pilot and Marla has worked for travel agencies. They are next-door neighbors to the parsonage, which was a plus on the day of the Young Disciples picnic!

Dorothy Jordan has also been attending in the past year, after we were able to conduct a memorial service for her husband Jack. She was joined by her adult children on the Sunday she joined the church. Dorothy has made Brecksville her home for many years and loves it here. Look for her gentle smile at the second service most Sundays.

Sherry Klodnick will be familiar to many of you as the grandmother of James, who comes to the 8:45 worship service with her most Sundays. Sherry is a retired Special Education teacher, now busy substituting and doing things with her children and grandchildren. She has started to participate with United Methodist Women already, as well.

Ben Magistro will be familiar to many of you as the man who attends worship with Jill Herman, now his fiancé, and Ruth Herman, his future mother-in-law. Ben is a CPA who is also studying massage therapy. Ben has been taking Disciple Bible Study classes and has a tremendous amount to share about faith and life.



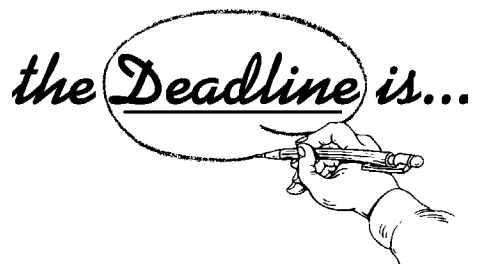
COAT DRIVE

"JOSEPH" Coat Drive a Success:

Thank you to everyone who went through closets to find warm coats to donate to the Sunday School Coat Drive. We were able to collect 51 warm coats which were delivered to Brookside Center. They happily accepted the donation and you can be sure they will be keeping some of our near west side neighbors warm this winter.



If you're ever wondering to yourself, "what's going on at the church today?" log onto brecksvilleumc.com and click on the new calendar link for up to the minute information about all events scheduled at the church.



To qualify for the 2009 Tax Year, monies must be received by 11 am on December 31st—or must be postmarked by December 31.



We would like to extend special thanks this month to:

Those who helped install the church insulation:

Bob Lundholm, Jeff Fesler, George Sendrey and others

~

Staff Parish Relations Committee for their extra efforts with staffing

~

The Boy Scouts who helped rake our leaves this fall

~

Marisol Wylie and

Carol Wilson for the beautiful job they have done with decorating the entryway of the church.

~

And

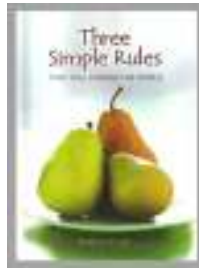
Jim Fredrick for developing new evacuation floor plans for the church.

New Adult Classes on Sunday Mornings

The next session of adult classes on Sunday mornings will begin on Sunday, January 10. As many have been craving additional fellowship time on Sunday mornings, there will be a fellowship gathering at 10:00, with classes beginning at 10:30 on that first day of the session. These classes will run through February 14, after which we will all be involved in next year's Lenten study.

Please indicate your interest in one of the following classes by signing up on Sunday mornings or online at www.brecksvilleumc.com.

Three Simple Rules



Led by John Brachna, this is a combined book and United Methodist study opportunity. The book *Three Simple Rules* by Reuben Job looks at the Wesleyan way of living as outlined by John Wesley's rules for the original Methodist Societies, grouped around these three rules: do no harm; do good; stay in love with God. Cost of the book will be \$5.

Faith and Films



Led by Rev. Oehl in the sanctuary, this class will look each week at a movie clip that highlights some faith issue or question. This is a way to reflect on how our faith interacts with life and the contemporary world. Tim and Leslie Miller will lead the introductory class on January 10.

Fireproof and Marriage



Led by Les and Cathy Buttolph and others, this class will be on strengthening your marriage. Plan to watch the movie *Fireproof* before the class begins. Clips will be shown each week for discussion. There may be a charge for a participant workbook that can be shared by a couple.

Digging Deep!



Learn Bible study tools for digging deeper into the scripture. Join Lisa Drew for a journey into resources and tips that will help in your study of the Bible. If you have wanted to feel more confident in your ability to study the Bible this is the class for you! Revisit favorite Bible characters and stories and understand them in a new light.

Alice Needs Some Fellowship

Addressing Coffee Hour



Perhaps the most frequently mentioned item in our recent worship survey was in response to the absence of a regular coffee hour over this past year. Though we do have coffee available in the parlor each week, there is an ongoing request for a “real coffee hour”. In this month’s explanatory column, I want to offer a small window into the considerable (and often comical) discussion that has gone on surrounding this issue.

How many of you remember hearing about the Transition Task Force? It seems like ages ago, doesn’t it? That dedicated group met regularly for *over a*

year in preparation for the fall of 2008, or as we often jokingly called it, “The Change”. In meetings that frequently topped two hours, we pored over issues ranging from parking and finding space for adult classes to implementing a children’s worship program and selecting meaningful class topics. We talked about *everything!*

As you might imagine, coffee hour came up in the discussion. You might be surprised, however, at just how *often* it came up. No issue was discussed more than that one. On multiple occasions, our meeting leader glanced at the clock only to realize that we had invested yet another hour trying to figure out how to best weave coffee hour into our new Sunday morning schedule. Several strategies were proposed: coffee could be provided in each adult class; coffee carts could be available in the lobby *on the way* to class; coffee could be available for pickup in the kitchen before people headed to their class; or coffee could be available in the parlor for any takers. Ultimately, we agreed that this would have to be a work in progress.

Let me tell you, folks, this issue of coffee hour has dogged us ever since. We have discussed it at Administrative Board meetings, Council on Ministries meetings, Staff Meetings, Worship Committee meetings and in the hallways of this church on countless occasions for almost two years! Everyone wants a coffee hour, but nobody wants to *do* the coffee hour. We have assigned it to our various boards month-by-month, asked for families to volunteer week-by-week, and begged individuals to do it on a temporary basis. For a couple of weeks, I was running out *during sermons* to set up coffee and cookies before running back in to direct the choir on the offertory. It was nuts, I tell you!

So here’s the lesson at the end of this crazy story: it turns out not to be about coffee at all. What we are missing as a church family is time to chat and catch up. We need a few minutes to touch base with those we haven’t seen in a couple of weeks, pay off our Rock-a-Thon pledges, drop our mit-



tens under the mitten tree and conduct all the “church business” that only seems to happen over a cup of institutional coffee in a Styrofoam cup. We have heard the cry, and we have drafted a solution.

On December 27, Worship Committee is sponsoring a time of coffee and fellowship following our single worship service at 10:00. There is no education that morning, and we invite you into the parlor to enjoy some time catching up with friends. On January 3, a time of fellowship and refreshments will be offered in the parlor following 8:45 worship. After 11:15 worship, we will have our New Member Potluck in Fellowship Hall. We hope you will take one or both opportunities to be in fellowship with one another.

But that’s only a temporary solution! Say a word of thanks to Kathy Auble the next time you pass her in the hallway. At our most recent Worship Committee meeting, Kathy proposed a delayed start to Sunday school each time a new adult rotation begins. This would periodically provide an opportunity for extended fellowship following 8:45 worship. We are going to implement this great idea beginning on January 10. Rotation Sunday school will start at 10:15, and adult education will begin at 10:30 with a short, introductory class. Cake and coffee will be served in the parlor in honor of 3rd grade Bible Sunday, and all are invited to enjoy this extended time of fellowship. Cake and coffee will be served following 11:15 worship as well.

If you have questions, ask me or ask Pastor Karen. (Specific questions about how this affects rotation should be directed to Jenny Gee.) Thank you all for your input and continued flexibility. We hear you! We believe in the importance of fellowship as a Christian community and believe that this strategy will restore some much needed time together!

~Joy Fenton, for the Worship Committee

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
E-mail: office@brecksvilleumc.com Phone: 440-526-8938						1	2
3—Communion 8:45 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour 11:15 Worship (No Sunday School)	4 6:30 Women's Emmaus, Chapel 7:30 Trustees, Parlor 7:30 Boy Scouts, FH	5 9:30 Staff Mtg 201 7 Knitting, 406	6 6:30 Dawnbreakers 7 Taizé Service, Cha 7 Missions, Parlor	7 9 UMW, Parlor 6:15 Handbells, Sanc 7:30 Choir, 304	8	9 7:30—4:30 Boy Scouts	
10—3rd Grade Sunday 8:45 Worship 9:30 Church & Society 9:45 3rd Grade Recept 10:15/30 Education Hr 11:15 Worship 6 EPIC	11 6 Evangelism, 301 6:30 Women's Emmaus, Chapel 7:30 Ad Board, Par/301 7:30 Boy Scouts, FH	12 9:30 Staff Mtg 201 7:30 COE, Chapel 8 Music Board, 304	13 6:30 Dawnbreakers 4 - 6 CMAP, 304/302 4 - 5:15 Quest, 406 7 Prayer Service, Chapel	14 9:30 Asbury Cir, Par 6:15 Handbells, Sanc 7 Adult Scouts, Par 7:30 Choir, 304	15	16  5p Fellowship Hall	
17 8:45 Worship 10:00 Education Hour 11:15 Worship	18 6:30 Women's Emmaus, Chapel 7:30 Boy Scouts, FH 7:30 Finance, Parlor	19 9:30 Staff Mtg 201 9:30 UMW FC 7 Knitting, 406	20 6:30 Dawnbreakers 4 - 6 CMAP, 304/302 7 Prayer Svc , Chapel 7:30 Staff Parish 201	21 10 Amendt Wyatt, Par 6:15 Handbells, Sanc 7:30 Choir, 304	22 9 Soup Prep, Kitchen 9:30 UMW Board, Parlor	23 Project 2010 Set Up, FH 7:30 - 12:30 Cleveland Food Bank	
24 UMW Soup Sunday 8:45 Worship 9:30 Project 2010 FH 10:00 Education Hour 11:15 Worship 6 EPIC Unwound 406	25 6:30 Women's Emmaus, Chapel 7:30 Boy Scouts, FH 7:30 Worship, Parlor	26 9:30 CWU, Parlor 9:30 Staff Mtg 201 7 Cub Scouts, FH	27 6:30 Dawnbreakers 4 - 6 CMAP, 304/302 7 Prayer Svc Chapel	28 6:15 Handbells, Sanc 7:30 Choir, 304	29	30	
31 8:45 Worship 10:00 Education 11:15 Worship	January 3: Epiphany Sunday Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12 Libby Kuntz preaching January 10: Third Grade Bibles, Michael Jaszczak preaching January 17: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11 "Uncommon Good" January 24: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21 "If One Suffers. . . ."						