



THE CHIMES

September 2014

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**Christ United Methodist Church
470 East Broadway Street
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Church: 330-823-7136**

**Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to
Serve God by Sharing Compassion Hope and Love**

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THE CHIMES

September 2014

Monday, September 1	Church Office closed
Tuesday, September 2	6:00 P.M. United Methodist Women Salad/Dessert Supper
Wednesday, September 3	5:30, 6:30 & 7:30 P.M. Adult Bells and Vocal Choirs begin
Sunday, September 7	10:00 A.M. Worship in Fellowship Hall <i>Holy Communion Sunday</i>
Sunday, September 14	8:30 A.M. Chapel Service and 10:45 A.M. <i>Rally Day Celebration</i> Worship in the Sanctuary Cherub and Wesley Choir rehearsals begin (11:10 A.M.) Youth Activities begin: 5:15 P.M. Youth Choirs 6:00 P.M. Youth Snack Supper (volunteers needed) 6:30 P.M. United Methodist Youth Fellowship
Thursday, September 18	6:30 P.M. <i>Threads of Love</i> , Prayer Shawl Ministry

CHRISTIAN ED CORNER

There is a familiar proverb that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6)". Along with another school year also comes the time for new Sunday school curriculum and for classes to begin again. Over 200 years ago a woman was concerned about the children in the streets of England's slums and began teaching Bible lessons to a group of them. The idea became popular, and the concept of "Sunday School" was born and from there it spread everywhere. Several centuries before that, Martin Luther took many children into his home and used his Small Catechism as the basis for instruction. He considered the teachings in it to be the mere basics for Christian learning.

Sunday school can help us with moral guidance and even point out things in our thoughts, words and deeds that may not be in line with the Word of God. In Sunday school we can continue to work towards instilling lifelong attitudes of humble repentance to all who are seriously engaged in it. How many times does it take for a child to finally get the message to take out the garbage, go to bed or clean up his or her room? Sometimes it takes repeated remarks to get them moving. Likewise it may take repeated Sunday school lessons to get us and keep us moving in the right direction.

Sunday school reminds us of how much our heavenly Father really does love us and that message has to be instilled in every lesson whether for children, youth or adults. Therefore it is important that we devote a sufficient amount of time to truly abide in Jesus and in the security of His Word. The Bible said, "Let the little children come to Me" and, as we are all children of God (maybe not so 'little' anymore), that invitation is still open to all of us.

Check the Church calendar for an event called, "Rally Day" which is the official welcome back to Sunday school for our congregation; bring someone with you to attend Sunday school classes. The more we learn, the more we can share with someone else. "Each one, reach one" and "each one, teach one". We look forward to a banner year for teaching, learning and magnifying the Gospel message.

Peace,
Dr. J

RALLY DAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2014 **10:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

We will celebrate Rally Day on Sunday, September 14, 2014, at the 10:45 AM worship service. We cannot celebrate as a church family without your participation. We are asking that all adult Sunday school teachers let us know what your course of study will be for this fall session, the location of your classes and your instructor/teacher. This information will be in the September 14 bulletin. The children and youth are being asked to prepare posters (with bios and photos) for presentation on the bulletin board nearest the chapel. The posters will be available in the Church office for any of the "young-at-heart" who want to prepare a bio with photo to be included in the display. We will need them in hand by Wednesday, September 9.

Thanks, as always, for your prayers for and your support to the Christian Education ministries of our Church.
Dr. J & The Christian Education Commission



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

USHERS - Team #3

Tyler Kinser, Captain
Chuck Cline Treva Cline
Chris Martin Linda Montgomery
Greg Ruff John Topping

LITURGISTS

	8:30 A.M.	10:45 A.M.
7	(No 8:30 A.M. Service)	Jim Greiner
14	Haven Ackley	Peg Rodefer
21	Steve Diser	Ellen Sol
28	Haven Ackley	Patti Hirst

COMMUNION STEWARDS

September Ellen Sol & Betty-Jo Sutherin
October Susan Haddox
November Tyler & Jenni-Jo Kinser
December Patti Hirst

SANCTUARY GREETERS

7 Carol Topping and Barbara Wright
14 Kathy and Gene Stroia
21 Casey and Sharon Riddle
28 Keith Noble

NORTH & WEST DOORS GREETERS

7 Carol and Frank Woolf
14 Nancy and Bill Prueter
21 Dick Diser and Betty Thorpe
28 Betty Sheetz and Susan Burden

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

7 Helen Brown and Mildred Hostetler
14 Ellen and Bill Sol
21 Cynthia Carlin and Charles Manypenny
28 Dick Diser and Peg Williams

SEPTEMBER TELLERS

7 Pat Helsel and Marilyn Ruff
14 Jill Greiner and Donna Essick
21 Tyler Kinser and Bruce Helsel
28 Nancy Sandifer and Marilyn Bower

OCTOBER TELLERS

5 Jan Essick and Nancy Prueter
12 Bill Prueter and Ruth Williams
19 Jim Greiner and Larry Pyers
26 Pat Helsel and Marilyn Ruff

ACOLYTES

7 Zachary Kinser
14 Aerien Starkey
21 Brendon Mercer and Michael Shields
28 Brianna Starkey and Zachary Smith

VISITATION MEMBERS

7 **Norma Wasson**, 1524 Lilly Ln., Alliance, OH
44601-3846
14 **Vivien Reid**, 800 S. 15th St., Apt., 7226
Sebring, OH 44672-2082
21 **Betty Frankenberg**, 800 S. 15th St.,
Apt. 9-164, Sebring, OH 44672-2050
28 **Louise Hobbs**, 23569 Hartley Rd., Alliance,
OH 44601-6900

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry of Christ Church will begin its fall season with a meeting on September 18, 2014, at 6:30 P.M. in the Dussel Room.

Current members are asked to bring the projects they are working on and join us at the meeting. Anyone who has been considering becoming a part of our group would be so welcome! Congregation members are asked to let the group know of individuals that might find one of the handmade items a blessing, whether it is for a joy, a birth, a stressful time, comfort, or illness, please speak to any Threads of Love member.

Should you like to support this ministry with a gift, please contact Linda Montgomery or Dolores Lawrence.

Scouts Annual Fall Popcorn Sale:

Boy Scouts of Troop 50 and Cub Scouts of Pack 50 will soon be taking orders for their annual Popcorn sale. The variety of specialty corn, Chocolate Covered, Carmel, Cheese, etc. is extensive, along with microwave packages, both buttered and *butter light*. Look for a Scout and place your order. You should pay on delivery. The Scouts thank you for your support. Ian Sherer, Joe Richmond, Josh Shields, Jake Shields and Michael Shields

Christian Outreach Salvation Army Food Pantry



We recognize a need in our community by collecting funds, food, personal and household items to help the Salvation Army in its outreach.

The Christian Outreach Committee reminds you that there is always a shopping cart in the Lounge for donations, and that the third Sunday of each month is designated as Food Pantry Sunday. **September 21st** will be the next date collected donations of non-perishable food items, paper and cleaning products and cash donations will be counted for delivery to the Salvation Army. **In June, July and August 51 items and \$169.20 were collected, \$68.13 of that total was collected at Music Camp.** Your response for this much needed community program is appreciated. Thank You!

HOLY COMMUNION

If you are ill and/or homebound and would like to have Holy Communion brought to you, please call the church office so that can be arranged.

HOSPITALIZED

If you are going to be hospitalized or have surgery... Please take a moment and let the Pastor know either by a phone call or prayer card; or if you are ill and need a pastoral visit, please have someone leave a message for Rev. Lee at the church office, 330-823-7136 days, or 440-935-0840 day/eves.

HELP NEEDED TO PACK MEDICAL SUPPLIES

East Ohio 3C's Farmer-to-Farmer is preparing to send 4,164 lbs. of medical supplies to the Liberia and Sierra Leone Annual Conference for distribution.

Volunteers are needed on Friday, September 5, 9:30 AM, at Windermere UMC, to help pack items from Med-Wish. The church is located at 14025 Euclid Ave., in East Cleveland.

The barrels will be picked up that weekend by I.B. Express, a Minnesota-based Liberian Transport Company.

Funding for ebola and sending medical supplies can be sent to EOC, PO Box 76019, Cleveland, Ohio 44101. Checks are payable to East Ohio Fund 9936. Please write "ebola" in the memo section of the check.

We know you have been thinking about it.....

You know you'll love it.....

Isn't it time to make the leap?



JOIN A CHOIR!

Lead our congregation in worship of God through Music

Rehearsals Begin:

Wednesdays, beginning September 3rd

5:30 P.M. Halleluia Bell Choir
6:30 P.M. Chancel Bell Choir
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

Sundays, beginning September 14th

5:15 P.M. Youth Bell and Vocal Choirs

Sundays, beginning September 14th

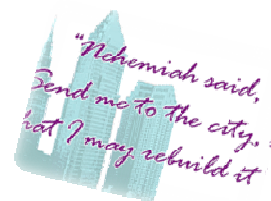
11:10 A.M. Cherub and Wesley Choirs



The UMW'S Fall basement sale is scheduled for **October 10 & 11** so begin gathering items for the sale. Mark your calendar to help: set-up October 9 beginning at 9:00 A.M., and sale dates 9a – 4p Friday, 10/10/14 and 9a – 12p Saturday, 10/11/14.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the United Methodist Women and everyone that donated money and gift cards to support the Nehemiah Mission Tool Drive, sponsored by the UMYF.

We raised a total of **\$349.00**. Your generous donations are much appreciated. This money will go to the Nehemiah Mission for the purchase of needed tools to carry out a very important mission to improve the homes of people in need. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of many people! Stay Tuned for our next planned Nehemiah Mission Trip!



Thank you,

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

The Lay Leadership (Nominations) Committee will meet Saturday, September 6 at 10:00 A.M. in the Dussel Room.

Recycle!!

Let's fill up our River Valley Paper Bin located in our north parking lot for **BACK TO SCHOOL BONUS WEEK - SEPTEMBER 21ST – 27TH**
BRING ALL YOUR PAPER TO THE BIN DURING THIS BONUS WEEK,
we'll receive an additional \$5/Ton!

BRING:

- * Junk Mail
- * Newspapers
- * Copy Paper – White or Color
- * Wrapping Paper
- * Brown paper bags
- * Flattened Cardboard
- * School Paper
- * Coupons,
- * Magazines / Catalogs

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Make It Happen!

Tuesday, September 2 the United Methodist Women will meet at 6:00 P.M. for their Salad/Dessert Supper. Please bring a salad or dessert to share, your table service and a friend. Program: *We are Mary!! We are Martha!!! There is a time to listen and a time to be busy.*

Hostesses/Greeters: Peg Rodefer, Membership Coordinator and Committee

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN welcomes VISITORS to any Unit or Circle meeting!! Just talk to any United Methodist Women to find out more or ask Pettie in the office.

SEPTEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Monday the 15 th	12:30PM	Dorcas Circle	Lakeview Terrace, Copeland Oaks
Monday the 15 th	7:00 PM	M&M Circle	Hosted by Jill Greiner
Tuesday the 16 th	7:00PM	May Smyth Circle	TBA
Tuesday the 16 th	7:30PM	Susie Buckel Circle	at the Church

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: Church Women United will gather Friday, September 5th at 1:00 P.M. at the Feed My Sheep/New Beginnings Church (114 East Main Street, Alliance). Program: *A Vision for Our Community*, Susan Lucas.

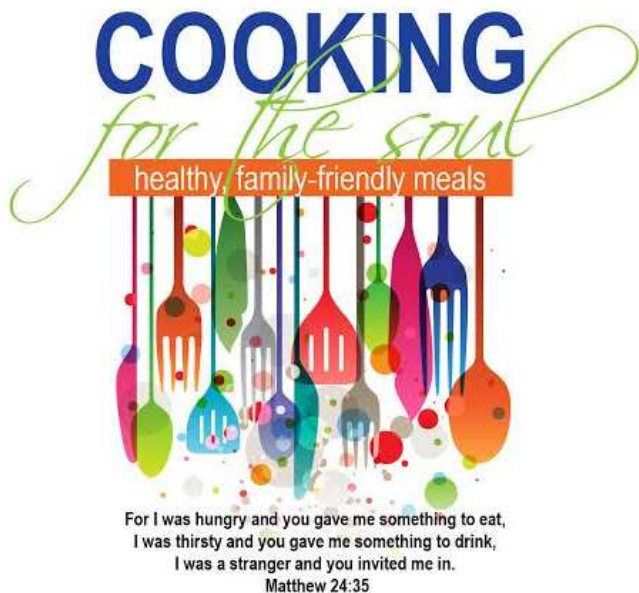
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Susan Schafer	16 Louise Hobbs (99years old!)	21 Dolores Lapp
2 Heather Thomas	16 Keith Noble	22 Peg Williams
4 Charles Manypenny	16 Jon Reese	23 Jim Greiner
7 Pat Helsel	16 Abbey Rogers	23 Gene Stroia
7 Ed Ackley	17 Dan Feess	26 Peg Rodefer
12 Brad Thomas	18 Nancy Locke	29 Sharon Riddle
13 Joshua Shields	18 Amy Essick	29 Dan Gard
16 LaVerne Edwards	19 Bruce Helsel	30 Sharon Griffiths
	19 Mike Greiner	



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Steven and Sonya Reisch	8 Stephen and Pat Stone
6 Tom and Jane Graham	16 Roger and Shirley Gantz



The Susie Buckel Circle with the support of the entire group of United Methodist Women will be conducting a series of **FREE** Cooking Classes entitled, "Cooking for the Soul". These classes are targeted to women in our neighborhood in need of healthy, kid-friendly, and budget-minded meal options.

The first series of classes is scheduled for 3 consecutive Thursdays, **October 16th, 23rd, and 30th, 2014 at 5:30PM** in Fellowship Hall and will focus on **Crock Pot Cooking**. Registration is limited to the first 15 women and their children. Each woman will receive a **FREE** Crock Pot as part of the series, along with all of the ingredients and supplies necessary to make the meals.

The evening will consist of the following: 1.) A group meal will be served. We will eat in fellowship with all of the women and their children before we kick off the Class. 2.) A Teaching Moment will be conducted, which is an opportunity to educate women on various topics, such as

How to read Nutrition Labels, How to use Leftovers, How to stretch your Budget, etc. 3.) The group will be divided into Women and Children. The women will participate in the Cooking Class and the Children will be grouped with other members of United Methodist Women to take part in fun activities and prepare a simple dessert for the entire group to enjoy. 4.) During the Cooking Class the women will prepare 2 different meals for them to take home. We will present each of the recipes, list all of the ingredients (discuss substitutions), and review preparation instructions. Next, we will assist the women in cutting, chopping, seasoning, etc to assemble their crock pot creations. Each woman will receive a recipe ring and recipe cards for all meals prepared during the classes. 5.) After the Cooking Class we will re-assemble as one group and enjoy the dessert prepared by the children and offer a wrap-up Question & Answer Session. During the first class all of the women will receive a set of **FREE** measuring cups & spoons and one name will be drawn and receive a **FREE** Tupperware Set. During the second class all of the women will receive a **FREE** meat thermometer and one woman will receive a **FREE** Spice Kit. During the third class all of the women will receive a **FREE** set of cutting boards and a paring knife. Those women that complete the entire series will receive the **FREE** Crock Pot, Certificate of Completion, and a UMW Gift Package (consisting of various kitchen gadgets/supplies).

Support would be gratefully appreciated in the following areas:

- 1.) **Advertising** – We have designed colorful flyers and are asking for your help in distributing and posting these flyers around town (Alliance Food Pantry, Rodman Library, Neighborhood Dinners, Interfaith Daycare, Domestic Violence Shelter, Alliance Pregnancy Center, Health Department, Alliance of Churches, Alliance Farmers Market, and any other locations). The flyers are located in the lounge for your taking. Also, your word of mouth about this exciting project would be much appreciated. Our hope is to make this an ongoing Outreach Program for women and children in our community.
- 2.) **Funding** – As you may have read in the previous Chimes edition we did receive a much appreciated grant from the Alliance Chamber of Commerce Women's Division to start this program; however, additional funding will be needed to make this a **completely FREE** program. Therefore, we are hosting a **Fundraising Luncheon on September 28th, 2014**. This Luncheon will feature some of the Crock Pot Meals we will be preparing in the Classes.
- 3.) **Donating** – During the September 14, 2014 Church Service we will be presenting a Mission Moment and introduce our "**Apron Tree**" which will be located in the Lounge. The "Apron Tree" will be a way to donate needed items for the Classes (cooking gadgets and supplies for the **FREE** Giveaways and Gift Packages).

We are very excited about this Project and any support is gladly welcome and very much appreciated! We hope that the "Cooking for the Soul" Classes will truly exemplify faith, hope, and love in action, through education, service, and spiritual growth.

A special Thank You to Melissa Gardner for designing the amazing logo pictured above!!!

Love in Christ,

The Susie Circle

Annual Conference Report 2014

Susan Haddox, Lay Delegate, Christ United Methodist Church, Alliance, OH

The Theme of Conference was “Jesus is Calling Us In.” Bishop Hopkins explained that Jesus is calling us into a community of faith, that no one can be a Christian alone. He defined three features of the Christian community: “[1] A community tells us about Jesus and loves us into a new being in Christ. [2] A community inspires us... prays for us... teaches us... and holds us accountable. [3] In some way that community... shows us a little bit of heaven on earth.”

Worship for the week carried out the Jesus is Calling Us In theme. Monday’s opening service began with the lighting of the Christ candle, reminding us that Jesus is the light in all of us. As part of the memorial service, a candle was lit and a bell rung in remembrance of the 51 clergy, clergy spouses, and lay delegates to Annual Conference who had passed during the year. Bishop John Hopkins preached about recognizing greatness, both seeing the greatness of God in unexpected places, and realizing that what the world considers great is not what Jesus calls us to strive for. Greatness comes through the servant life. Monday evening was a celebration of the ministry of 28 retiring pastors. As Jesus calls us through our baptism, God continues to call us through different phases of our life and ministry, even through retirement. On Tuesday morning the Rev. Solomon Hill preached on how Jesus calls the unexpected, the weak, the ordinary to do God’s work. God breaks into our everyday lives and changes us, empowering us to stand up and work to transform the world through sharing the love of the risen savior. God is calling us into a new day. On Tuesday evening thirteen elders and two deacons were ordained into full connection, twice as many as last year, and 5 elders were commissioned into provisional status. Bishop Janice Huie talked about how the clergy life is a life on the edge. She said a pastor lives on the vertical plane, connecting people with God and God with people, and a horizontal plane, connecting people with one another in Christian community. Wednesday morning Rev. Rock Jones talked about the type of community of faith we are called into. He stressed that there is no partiality in God and that everyone gets a seat at the table. He challenged the church to reach out to the marginalized and to challenge ourselves to live into the full promise of God’s inclusive love for all. Thursday morning presented the Great Commission in dramatic form and the Rev. Janelle Kurtz spoke about the doubts that arose among some of the disciples. She said most of us feel doubts when God calls us—we think of our inadequacies and disqualifications, but she reminded us that those whom God calls, God equips. What is impossible with humans is possible with God. Commission Possible!

The report on the state of the conference focused on the some of the bigger picture issues of the decline in church membership and attendance over the last 40 years (numbers have dropped by about half) and the aging of the clergy. Only 20% of EOC congregations have an average worship attendance of over 120, which means that the number of shared and part-time pastoral appointments has increased significantly. Bishop Hopkins continues to focus on increasing the vitality of local congregations in their effort to make and mature disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, while diverting conference resources from dying churches. The Healthy Church Initiative provides interested churches with a consultant to lead them through a lengthy assessment and leadership development process to help them better carry out effective ministries. So far, 19 churches have participated. Two new churches opened, one, 614 Church, is a new plant by Church Hill UMC, and one, Crossroads UMC, arose from the merger of St. Paul’s and Church of the Savior in Canton. Three churches were closed this year.

The leadership session this year focused on the formation of people as followers of Christ, from two different perspectives. Kenda Creasy Dean, a product of EOC Youth Conference who now teaches at Princeton Seminary, talked about the importance and goals of youth ministry and also its misconceptions. She noted that the purpose of youth ministry is not to save to church, because only Jesus can save the church, but it is to engage youth in ministry, to form them as active disciples of Christ. Youth ministry should not be equated with Youth Group, she warned. Young people who only go to Youth group and don’t attend church do not tend to attend church as adults. Young churches are primarily about hope, not age. Bishop Janice Huie from Texas Annual Conference talked about some of the challenges our church faces because of an aging clergy. 54% of active elders are between 55-72 years old. Only 6% are under 35. Young clergy are important, she emphasized, because they tend to bring creativity, energy, new ideas, diversity, and cultural awareness into the church, as well as attracting more young congregants.

(Continued)

She encouraged churches to create a culture of call and support to cultivate a heart for vocational ministry among the young in our congregations. Many people have investigated a call to ministry because someone in their churches noticed their gifts and encouraged them.

Only six resolutions were proposed at conference this year, of which four ultimately were approved. Of those approved, the first called for the conference to publish a pledge to take a stand against violence, by refraining from the consumption of sensationalized violence and by taking action to work for against violence and support young people. The second encouraged all churches in East Ohio to designate a day in October to present information about domestic violence. The third encourages churches to condemn violence in word and deed, but was heavily amended from its initial form, which specified condemnation of violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and other marginalized communities. The final approved resolution came from Youth Annual Conference which requested the conference to send letters to state officials, encouraging them to enforce human trafficking laws. A resolution to express the opinion that United Methodist pastors should be able to officiate at any legal wedding, regardless of the gender of the participants, was tabled to avoid any controversy that might arise from its conflicts with the current Book of Discipline. A resolution to divest from and boycott companies that participate in Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands was defeated after impassioned debate.

There was a lot of action this year on the Bishop's 3C's initiative: churches, clinics, and classrooms, in Russia, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. The conference initiated a new event—a 5K to raise funds for the bishop's 3 C's initiative. I staffed the midpoint water station and saw the bishop, our DS Benita Rollins, along with 180 others running or walking for the cause after a torrential downpour. The race was also the subject of the annual challenge between the Youth and the Bishop's Cabinet. The race raised \$8,346 for 3 C's. Mission work related to the first C, churches, included several pastor education sessions in Bo led by the Sierra Leone team, of which I was a part. The Farmer to Farmer partnership rebuilt a church in Harrisburg, Liberia and provided pews. Mission work in the clinics initiative included the rehabilitation of staff facilities at Manjama Health Center in Sierra Leone, as well as providing many supplies and engaging in public health training with the Traditional Birth Attendants. Ganta Hospital in Liberia was also supported with much needed supplies. 3 C's funds helped dig several wells in Zimbabwe and Liberia to increase access to clean drinking water. With regard to the classrooms initiative, work continues with the Ensizimi Secondary School in Zimbabwe which is growing rapidly and now has a full time pastor to work with the children. EOC also works with Ganta school in Liberia, where a recent team helped establish a library, and the Camphor Mission station, which was provided with desks and school supplies. The relationship with the church and orphanage in Kursk, Russia continues to develop. The Sierra Leone trip offered a Vacation Bible School for nearly 200 children and donated some supplies.

The many and diverse works of the church were emphasized in a ministry fair on Wednesday night, despite the rain that delayed set-up. I helped staff the UMVIM table to tell people about our trip to Sierra Leone and try to recruit people for future trips. Booths representing many, many different groups ringed Hoover Auditorium, providing information on the mission work of the church with children, teens, elders, those with developmental disabilities, people with socioeconomic struggles, education at all levels, world missions to provide clean drinking water, eliminate malaria, and working toward racial and ethnic reconciliation, among many others. The people in our conference are committed to providing hope and help to those around the neighborhood and around the world.

The United Methodist Church in East Ohio carries out many powerful ministries that reach out to help others and form followers of Jesus. Yet it faces many challenges external and internal that have led to a serious decline in membership. Annual Conference can be a time to challenge ourselves by taking a close look at ourselves and asking, "Are we missing opportunities to spread the love of God and make disciples of Christ because of our preconceived ideas about who is and who is not worthy and receptive? Are we limited because we don't want to associate with certain types of people?" There is room at the table for everyone, even if we have to move over or change the way we'd planned to set it. Jesus is Calling us In. Jesus is calling us into community with no partiality. Are we listening?

On August 7th and 8th, concerned United Methodists from all over our connection came together for a conference entitled "Walking with Palestinian Christians" hosted by Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, OH. The conference was designed to educate and assist United Methodists in understanding how we might help our fellow Palestinian Christians who are under extreme duress, and how we here in the U.S. might help work toward a just peace for all in the Holy Land. Following the conference was a summit with United Methodist Kairos Response, also hosted by Ginghamburg UMC, which I attended. Following is an explanation and a synopsis of those two events.

Palestinian Christian Conference Challenges United Methodists

By Lisa Bender

Close to 300 United Methodists and faith partners from around the world gathered recently at Ginghamburg Church in Ohio "to join hands with fellow Christians, Palestinians, in considering how our faith commitments can contribute to holy justice and peace for all the people of Palestine and Israel," according to Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), and co-sponsor of the conference with Rev. Mike Slaughter and the host church.

Addressing the conference's theme, "Walking with Palestinian Christians in Holy Justice and Peace," Lynne Hybels of Willow Creek Church stressed that it is possible to be both pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian. Conflicting narratives require listening with discerning ears. While there are divergent theologies of the land, Biblical theology leaves room for Palestinians and Israelis to live together in peace, she said. Violence and violations of human rights creates insecurity on both sides. She believes that violence doesn't reflect the hearts of people on either side. In her many trips to Israel/Palestine, Hybels has met with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim peacemakers who are working for transformation.

In response to Hybel's keynote, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of the North Carolina Conference and President of GBGM, and Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council further encouraged participants to help bring peace to the region. Rev. Abrahams, a South African, quoted poet June Jordan with "We are the ones we have been waiting for." He encouraged us to work for "dignity, justice, and a just peace for all God's people by using every form of non-violent means we can."

Participants at what was called the largest gathering of United Methodists on a single social issue heard presentations from a number of Palestinian Christians, including Rev. Alex Awad, who with his wife Brenda have served as United Methodist missionaries for 25 years in East Jerusalem and Bethlehem. As a child he was warned not to get involved in politics, but realized that God calls the church to action. His examples included Moses, the judges, the prophets, and especially Jesus. "We must dream of a future without refugee camps, without separation walls, without separate roads. We must imagine a future living in peace with equal rights, with peace, justice and security for all."

Other Palestinian Christians included Wissam Salsaa, one of only 42 Palestinian guides permitted to travel throughout Israel and Palestine compared to 15,000 Israeli guides with the same privilege. United Methodist Holy Land visitors are encouraged to use Palestinian guides, provided through the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem. Wissam stands in line each morning for two hours at a checkpoint on his way to work. He refuses to travel with his young children as he doesn't want them to see him humiliated. "We Palestinians are human too," he said. "We love to live. We want to live. We are different from the way we are presented in the media."

Zoughbi Zoughbi, director of Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center in Bethlehem, believes the occupation demoralizes both Palestinians and Israelis. He updated the group with statistics on the current situation in Gaza, where one quarter of the population are displaced with no water, electricity or sewage. 32,000 homes have been destroyed, with nearly 2,000 persons killed and close to 10,000 wounded. "Tell the world we need a safe haven," he urged.

A viewing of the poignant and disturbing film "Where Should the Birds Fly" about Operation Cast Lead, the 2008-2009 attack on Gaza, was narrated by its filmmaker,

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Page 2, Palestinian Christian Conference Challenges United Methodists

Gazan journalist Fida Qishta, who was brought to the conference and introduced by United Methodist Women Executive Harriet Olson. Fida touched hearts with "The camera is the only weapon I have. I know if I am shot the camera will capture the bullet that kills me."

Nora Carmi from Kairos Palestine, the group that issued *Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth* in 2009, explained that kairos means the right or opportune moment. The document, written by Palestinian Christian clergy, is a call for the world's help, including use of nonviolent options like boycott, divestment and sanctions. She believes "we see the glory of God even amongst the pain and suffering. We are called to be changed, to act, to be transformed." Study guides are available for groups reading this document.

A plenary on United Methodist positions included thoughts from general secretaries Barbara Boigegrain of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, Susan Henry Crowe of the General Board of Church and Society and Thomas Kemper of the Board of Global Ministries.

Subdued worship experiences Jorge Lockward and The Ginghamburg Band included messages from Rev. Mike Slaughter and Dr. Wendy Deichmann, President of United Seminary in Dayton. Participants held lighted candles as they prayed.

In addition, thought-provoking workshops were led by leaders of partner organizations and by general secretaries and staff of the GBGM, the General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Topics included Christian Zionism, how occupation changes reading of scripture, Holy Land travel, corporate engagement, boycotts and divestment, and Congressional advocacy.



Immediately following the close of the conference, 86 participants gathered at the conference's partner event with United Methodist Kairos Response (UMKR), also held at Ginghamburg UMC, August 8-9. United Methodist Kairos Response is "an international peace movement in the United Methodist Church responding to the urgent call from Palestinian Christians for effective action supporting a just peace in Israel/Palestine." Participants at the UMKR Summit 2014 spent Friday evening and all day Saturday hearing more from Palestinian Christian guests and United Methodist missionaries serving in the Holy Land, and discussing plans to expand the work of UMKR throughout our UM Connection. These plans included reaching more United Methodists with the information presented at the "Walking with Palestinian Christians" conference and the reasons behind decades of UMC General Conference opposition to the Israeli occupation.

Other key topics of discussion and planning included: encouraging the church to uphold its long-held opposition to the Israeli occupation by divesting of companies supporting and profiting from that occupation, building church-wide engagement in the General Conference 2012 call for a boycott of products from the Israeli settlements, and bringing United Methodist Israel-Palestine advocacy to policy makers in Washington.

More information about UMKR may be found at: www.kairosresponse.org.

In light of recent events in the Middle East, and the terrible losses in Gaza, it behooves us as faithful Christians to understand, pray for, and do all we can to work for a just peace. With that in mind, I encourage each of you to do all you can to be a part of the efforts the United Methodist Church continues to make toward that end up to and including UM tours to the Holy Land for a better understanding of the issues there and how we might be a part of a resolution! (More on that at a later time!)

I myself will be hosting some information sessions, including a book study that should be helpful toward this end. I hope you will join me in working and praying for God's peace in the precious land of our Savior's birth.

Pastor Stephanie



2014

***Sunday** Worship & Program Opportunities

September 7th: 9:00 A.M. Sunday School
 10:00 A.M. Worship
 8:30 A.M. Chapel Worship ***begins 14th**
 9:30 A.M. Sunday School for all ages ***begins 14th**
 10:45 A.M. Worship Service ***begins 14th**
 11:10 A.M. Cherub & Wesley Choirs ***begins 14th**
 5:15 P.M. Youth Choirs ***begins 14th**
 6:00 P.M. UMYF Snack Supper ***begins 14th**
 6:30 P.M. U M Youth Fellowship ***begins 14th**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Labor Day</i> Office Closed	2 5:30p. Comm. Dinner 6p. UMW Salad/Dessert Membership Supper	3 Childcare available: 5:30p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	4	5 11:30 CWU Board 1p. CWU General Meeting/Program at Feed My Sheep	6 10a. Lay Leadership Dussel Room
7 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion Sunday</i> 9a. Sunday School 10a. Worship	8 6:30p. Christian Education 7p. Cub Den mtgs. 7p. Boy Scouts	9 5:30p. Comm. Dinner 6:30p. Finance Com. 7p. Administrative Council	10 Childcare available: 5:30p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	11	12	13
14 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost Rally Day</i> 8:30 & 10:45a. Worship 9:30a. Sunday School 11:10a. Children's Choirs 5p. CRC Visitations 5:15p. Youth Choirs 6p. UMYF Snack Supper 6:30p. UMYF	15 12:30p. Dorcas Cir. 7p. M & M Circle 7p. Boy Scouts 7p. Cub Den mtgs.	16 5:30p. Comm. Dinner 7p. May Smyth Circle 7:30p. Susie Buckel Cir.	17 1:30p. Congregational Care Com. Childcare available: 5:30p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	18 1p. Clergy Spiritual Formation group Dussel Room 6:30p <i>Threads of Love, Prayer Shawl</i>	19	20
21 <i>15th Sunday after Pentecost Food Pantry Sunday</i> *See Worship & Program Opportunities above	22 6:30p. Cub Scouts Rain Gutter Regatta 7p. Staff Parish Relations Com. 7p. Boy Scouts	23 5:30p. Comm. Dinner 6:30p. Board of Trustees 7p. Worship Com.	24 Childcare available: 5:30p. Halleluia Bells 6:30p. Chancel Bells 7:30p. Chancel Choir	25	26 5:30p. Wedding Rehearsal	27 2p. Wedding Sanctuary
28 <i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i> *See Worship & Program Opportunities above 5p. CRC Visitations	29 7p. Boy Scouts 7p. Cub Den mtgs.	30 5:30p. Comm. Dinner 7p. UMW Exec. Board	World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2014		October 19th Laity & 50 Year Member Sunday, and Fellowship Luncheon	

September 2014 Calendar - Christ United Methodist Church

Reverend Stephanie Lee's Office Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.