

# MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ

December 2015/January 2016

## Pastor's Corner By Pastor David Galbraith

Dear Church,

There's a song in the musical *West Side Story* called "Something's Coming and It's Going to be Good!" That's a good statement of the advent mood.

Advent emphasizes the sense of expectant waiting for something good to happen...waiting for someone special to come from God. The people of Israel had heard God's promise that a Savior would come, and, as recorded in the Old Testament, waited through some of the darkest hours of their nation's history for the fulfillment of that promise.

Christians know that God's promise was fulfilled by the coming of Jesus. We celebrate that fulfillment at Christmas, but Advent invites us to experience the sense of anticipation that precedes Christ's coming.

Advent also has personal aspect. Perhaps some of us have not had the Christmas experience of having Jesus born in the manger of our hearts. We are still in Advent, hoping something good will yet come, but fearing that it will not.

This Advent is a time to make our hearts ready to receive Christ. He's coming to us and that is good! Our Advent season starts November 29, and we will celebrate it during our worship service.

December 3 we will host the Community Hospital Infant memorial Service at 7:00 p.m. with a reception to follow.

December 5 we will invite the community in for our Holiday Bazaar.

December 6 we will go Christmas caroling and will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. Afterwards,

we will return to the church for snacks and fun.

December 20 the Chancel Choir will present the musical Cantata during worship.

December 24 our Family Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m., and the Candlelight Service will be at 9:00 p.m.

December 25 celebrate the birth of God the Man, Jesus, who gave it all for you.

You are a blessing to the **Mt. Comfort UM Church of the Risen Christ**. Thank you for all you do for our church and the Kingdom of God.

God bless each one of you,

*Pastor Dave*

## Show the Spirit of the Season

Opportunities abound for you, the people of MCUM Church of the Risen Christ, to show the spirit of the season this Christmas.

- ❖ Donate to the food pantry and to the used shoe collection at the December 5 Christmas Bazaar (& food pantry any time).
- ❖ Ring bells for the Salvation Army.
- ❖ Take a tag off the church giving tree, and purchase a gift for someone you don't know.
- ❖ Donate winter hats, gloves, scarves and socks for children at Fortville Elementary.
- ❖ Donate food items for a few families identified by Mt. Comfort Elementary School as those who could use a little help when their children are out of school on the two-week Christmas break and won't be having school breakfasts and lunches. (You may also donate money for the food purchases. See Jan Pope for details.)



## **This Little Light of Mine** **By Tiffany Kelly**

Outward looking. Have you heard of that before? Looking outside the church. Outside of our comfort zone. Last newsletter I had asked for everyone to pray for those of us who are already talking to others about God and inviting them to church. I have been witnessed to three times since I wrote that article. All three times by strangers and in different places.

The first one was in a gas station where a gentleman told me that heaven did exist. He told me of how he had died on an operating table and been brought back, but that it was a blessing because now he could spread the word “that there is a place for us on the other side.” What a great conversation to have just standing in line at a gas station!

The second was in Olive Garden. Our server had an extremely difficult and demanding table. He was very gracious with them and treated them with such gentleness. I told him if I had a medal for politeness I would give it to him. His response was, “I’m a Christian, and I believe that everyone should be treated with Love no matter what the situation.” How wonderful to hear someone so willing to openly talk about his faith! Our world is so focused these days on being careful not to offend someone. I, myself, am a little offended that I am pressured to repress speaking of my faith. I want to tell people of Jesus and God!

The third was in Walmart of all places. There were a couple of gentlemen in the air freshener aisle looking for some air freshener for their church to help with a musty odor. Another lady and I offered our opinions as to which may be least offensive. The gentlemen were grateful. They made their choice and moved on, or so I had thought. One of them came back to the aisle and gave me a card for his church. He said, “I don’t know if you go to church, but we would love to have you join us on Sunday.” This was a huge eye opener for me! Something simple...a business card with church information on it. You could tell he was nervous when giving me this card and offering for me to attend their services, but guess what? He did it! He stepped outside of his comfort zone and offered me a way to learn about Christ.

I am overwhelmed by these three gentlemen. Three different men, three different locations, and three different, yet wonderful examples of witness. So this inspired me to keep some of our church cards with me. I’ve handed them out at Meijer, fast food restaurants, and Goodwill. Some members of the FCJ team handed them out in the middle of the bowling alley to strangers. What a step! Were we all comfortable? Nope! But we all took that step. Letting our light shine. If you are interested in some cards to hand out when you are out and about, just ask me, Pastor Dave, or Carrie in the office.

Let’s reach out (note the word "out" as in outside the church walls) to those in our community. Let them know we are here and that God loves them. We can make it happen. Let’s bring them to God!



Here’s what you can do to help our church bear the fruit that God intended us to bear.

1. Pray! Pray that WE listen to what God has to say to us and then DO what He asks us to do.
2. Talk to the folks who are wearing those buttons and ask them what they are learning.
3. Read the books that are being read by the Fruitful Congregations Journey (FCJ) team.  
Book 1: *Renovate or Die* by Bob Farr.  
Book 2: *Bearing Fruit* by Lovett H. Weems, Jr.  
Book 3: *Direct Hit* by Paul Borden
4. Encourage each other.
5. Love everyone.

Please pray for your Fruitful Congregation teams. FCJ Team: Michael Adkins, John Bales, Roger Hudson, Sandi Hudson, Tiffany Kelly, Rose McKinney, Tom Nigh, Kathy Petty, Jan Pope, Teresa Sexton, Jo Sullivan, Kenny Thompson, Linda Wynn. FCJ Prayer Team: Amy Allen, Lois Neuman, Kathy Petty, Jinny Waymire. If you would like to be a part of the FCJ Team, please contact one of these folks.

Blessings, Pastor Dave



## Monty's View By Monty the Church Mouse

Yes, I am Monty, I am he. The job of church mouse may surprise you. It is very important in making a church a fun place to be and a great place to learn about Jesus. You might wonder how I came to be the official church mouse of Mt. Comfort. Well, you see, when I was growing up with my dad and mom and my five brothers and sisters, I was being trained to be a church mouse at grocery stores, drug stores, and hardware stores. All of my mouse brothers and sisters were trained to work at a special place; but after several years working at these types of stores, I just didn't feel that I was following what God wanted me to do. I was bored and unfulfilled in my mouse career.

So, I talked to Butch, a mouse that worked at a church in the country. He told me how much fun it was to do the mouse chores at the church where he was assigned. He told me to take my concerns to the monthly leadership council. I told President

Summers of the mouse council of my frustration, and he asked all of the members of the council to pray for me, and they did. About a month after I met with the council, President Summers called me and asked me to meet with the council.

President Summers said that the council had decided to assign me to work as a church mouse because they felt I was being called to do ministry for the people at the church and for my mouse brothers and sisters. Am I glad I got this new job! It is so much fun. There is always something going on in the church. I have fun hiding the secretary's jelly beans and scaring the pre-school teachers. I want to recommend to any of you E-mouse brothers and sisters that if you want to work at a church, contact the editor of this paper, and she will help you with either writing this column or helping with other mouse chores.

It is fun to be a mouse and hide in those special places in the church and, also, hear the conversation that goes on in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Don't forget to pray for me, Monty, and I will be praying for you. Until the next time . . .

I am Monty, the church mouse.

## Junior Church

Children's Church at Mt. Comfort serves those in grade four and under. Children leave the sanctuary after the Children's Moment and then go to Fellowship Hall for Junior Church. The format for Children's Church parallels adult worship. The service opens with the Acolytes bringing forth the light. In the photo below, the children have just completed the Affirmation of Faith and are singing the Glori Patri and next will recite the church Mission Statement. Children will share Joys and Concerns, write down prayer requests, and then have a prayer followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. Each service includes the offering, the Doxology, scripture, and a teaching moment and story time. The service concludes with Acolytes, closing prayer, and benediction.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with Children's Church, please see Linda Wynn or Jo Sullivan.



## DAYTIME MINISTRIES

By Pat Zarse

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11*

Have you thought about why we give gifts at Christmas, birthdays, and other holidays to those we love so dearly? Jesus was and still is the Greatest Gift ever given! God loves us so much he sent to earth His Son, born of a virgin in a lowly stable. He was then placed in a bed of hay in a manger where cattle were fed. Imagine! Just think of that scene.

To all of our young families, I hope in your homes you are creating traditions and are making memories to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Choose things that honor Him and don't let yourself get engulfed in the shopping and decorating frenzy. In the church the time before Christmas is called Advent which means "to prepare." It's not to prepare our homes, but our hearts. A reminder you see everywhere is -- Jesus is the reason for the season!

*Thanks be to God for his gift that is too  
wonderful for words. 2 Corinthians 9:15*

Serving Him,  
Pat

## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE

In November the children studied our Five Senses, the Food Groups and Thanksgiving. There was a lot of eating going on! Parent Teacher conferences were also held. Thanks to all the parents who participated. It is always great to share with parents their children's progress.

December will be all about Jesus' birth. The children re-enact the Nativity each day and will end with birthday parties for Jesus. Lots of art projects will be taking place, all centered round the true meaning of Christmas. Each room has its own tree and will make ornaments to decorate it. On the last day of school before Christmas break, the students will perform the Nativity for their families.

**Christmas Break**  
**Pre-School: December 21 - January 1**  
**Childcare: December 25 - January 1**  
**Return January 4, 2016**

## CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Mark your calendars for the Church Christmas Bazaar, Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. If you have not yet signed up to donate crafts, baked goods, food items, or to help, it's not too late. Help is needed from everyone. Also, please plan to join us for lunch, which will feature soup, chicken salad croissant, drink, and dessert.

Last year at the Bazaar, MCUMC collected boxed and canned foods for our local pantry, and we will be doing a food collection again this year. In addition to that, we will be collecting used shoes for those without through an organization called "Changing Footprints." Pat Zarse discovered this charity at another art fair and wanted to bring this worthy project to Mt. Comfort. The donated shoes are used locally and around the world. How exciting! Clean out your closets, and bring your shoes that don't fit, are out of style, or you just plain don't like anymore. At the entrance to the Family Life Center, you will find a grocery cart for food donations and tubs for donated shoes. Thanks for your generous donations.



## Shepherding Committee

By Cindy Kendall

In November white mums were placed on the altar in memory of Harry Bare, father of Cindy Winterstein; Lorene Shepler, grandmother of Lori Thompson; Bob Whitehouse, grandfather of Tiffany Kelly; and Dennis Fry, father of Michelle Sheets. Laura Heckman, mother of Bruce Heckman, was remembered with a white carnation on the altar in August. Our prayers and sympathy go out to their loved ones and families.

The Shepherding Committee seeks to serve our church family wherever there is a need. The committee oversees preparing and taking of meals, visitation, and a card ministry. Please contact Pastor Dave or Cindy Kendall (317-326-8193) if you are aware of a situation where we can be of help.

## Music at Mount Comfort

By David Morton

The Chancel Choir will present a joyous message of hope with the Christmas Cantata *Mary, Did You Know?* on Sunday, December 20. This cantata is created around one of the most dramatic and inspired songs ever written for the Christmas season. It also features new songs from Chris Tomlin, Sue C. Smith and Ronnie Freeman. Songs include such favorites as "Glory to the Newborn King" • "Born to Save Us" • "One King" • "Who Would Imagine a King?" • "Mary, Did You Know?" • "Jesus, Messiah" with "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" • "For Unto Us a Child Is Born", and then be prepared to join the choir in singing the "Hallelujah Chorus"! To add to the fun, the Bell Choir will present their music this season which will feature "Carol of the Bells" • "In the Bleak Midwinter" and • "Away in a Manger."

Following the holidays, the Chancel Choir will be singing arrangements of your favorite hymns which will include "Blessed Assurance" • "Blessed be the Name" • "Holy, Holy, Holy" • "Jesus Saves!" • "Standing on the Promises" • "'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus", and • "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus." The Handbell Choir will present songs following the theme "from the cross to the crown" to carry us through the winter blues!

Psst... if you know of anyone who might be a potential ringer or singer for our choirs, write his or her name on an "Espionage Card," and hand it to any choir member or leave it at the reception desk. Have no fear! Although rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata have already begun, we want you to join us.

And remember! All are welcome *at any time* to be a part of our wonderful music groups. We would love to see you at our weekly practices:

Handbell Choir - Wednesday, 6 - 7:00 p.m.  
*Children and youth are encouraged to join our handbell choir and will be mentored by an adult handbell choir member during all Wednesday night rehearsals.*

Chancel Choir - Wednesday, 7- 8:00 p.m.  
Praise Team – Sunday, 9 - 9:30 a.m.

I hope to see you there!  
Dave Morton  
Director of Music Ministries



## 2016 Mission Trip

Are you looking for something to do next summer that will improve the quality of life for a family that is less fortunate than you are? If so, then join Patty and Dan Johnson on our mission trip, June 5-11, 2016, for a work camp at Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. This is a family mission trip. Adults and their children are encouraged to attend.

Henderson Settlement is a mission agency of the United Methodist Church within the Red Bird Missionary Conference located in Southeast Kentucky. Henderson Settlement's mission is "Meeting Basic Needs in Appalachia." The goal is to display the love of Christ through service. Henderson accomplishes this by partnering with individuals and churches across the country to touch the lives of the families they serve.

The Frakes work camp has its base of operations at the original site where Hiram Frakes began Henderson Settlement. Although the Settlement has been able to provide many services to the community, there is still great need.

Work will be available for all ability levels. Our mission team will be involved in making improvements to a family's home located in the immediate area. We will be involved in light construction work, which may include painting, hanging and finishing drywall, installing peel and stick vinyl flooring, installing window trim, installing vinyl siding, and light electrical work. For those who do not feel they can do light construction work, alternative projects are available. These include sorting clothes in the Thrift Store, cutting Campbell's labels, cleaning, and helping in the craft shop.

The cost for the mission trip is \$230 per person. This covers air conditioned lodging, meals, morning devotions, recreation facilities, and programmed evening activities.

Donations to the Mt. Comfort's mission fund pays for the construction materials we use. The material costs for the 2016 trip is estimated at \$2,000.00. Therefore, if you cannot attend the mission trip, you can still support the mission trip by making a donation.

If you are interested in serving Christ by your presence on our work team, please contact Patty or Dan Johnson: E-mail: [dwjpaj@yahoo.com](mailto:dwjpaj@yahoo.com), Patty 317-753-1975; Dan 317-448-5659.

## MISSIONS

By Rose McKinney

### *Thank You and Things You Can Do for the Holidays*

Thanks to all who took the time to prepare a shoebox or boxes for Operation Christmas Child. You have made a child somewhere in the world happy and started him/her on the road toward accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.

Thank you also to those who have brought in food for the five families to have a good Thanksgiving dinner. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Tags with names and gift suggestions for the members of five local families will be placed on a Christmas tree in the foyer for you to select. Purchase the suggested gift—or as nearly as you can find to the request—wrap the gift and place the name tag onto the outside of the gift, and put the gift under the tree. All gifts need to be under the tree no later than Sunday, December 20, so they can be delivered before Christmas. Again, thanks for your care and concern for those who are less fortunate than we are.

If you have some time and would like to help the Salvation Army, you can sign up to ring the red bells during the holiday season. Sign on to [RegisterToRing.com](http://RegisterToRing.com) and pick a time and place of your choice.

The dates for serving hot meals at Fletcher Place for 2016 are Monday, February 29; Monday, August 29; Monday, September 12, and Monday, October 24.

For questions or comments, please contact Rose McKinney personally or call 317-894-8687

## Christmas Shoeboxes The Back-Stories

Each year the MCUMC Missions team works feverishly for eight days to prepare the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for shipment overseas. Mt. Comfort UMC is a drop-off location for the boxes, and only two Relay Centers are located in Hancock County.

Twelve people assisted Rose McKinney, Missions Chair, with packing shoeboxes into cartons, loading them into trucks and trailers, and delivering them to Heritage Christian School to be packed into semi-trailers and transported to the site of final preparation for delivery to children around the world.

When collecting the boxes, Mission Team members heard some interesting stories. When one church dropped off its boxes, the team learned that a thirteen-year-old girl has made her birthday party the last couple of years a Christmas shoebox party. When her friends come to the party, they bring items for the shoeboxes and pack them there.

One man dropped off a bag of small stuffed animals. He said he was replenishing and refreshing the vending machines with the big claw that captures stuffed animals, and brought the left-over stock to Mt. Comfort to donate to Operation Christmas Child.

One church brought the items to fill the shoeboxes to MCUMC, but not in shoeboxes. The Mission team used the supplies to put together another twelve boxes, with a few additions and a Missions check.

We are proud that our church plays such an important role in Operation Christmas Child.

*Operation Christmas Child 2015 was a great success. Mt. Comfort UMC donated 125 Christmas shoeboxes to the Samaritan's Purse project and collected many more, as the church served as a county Relay Center. When the work concluded November 23, the total count was 2,426 shoeboxes packed into cartons, loaded into trucks and trailers, and delivered to Heritage Christian School. Here Rose McKinney shows the results of the Mission Team's hard work.*



## SonShine Kids Making a Positive Impact

SonShine Kids, now in year four at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Living Christ, serves around 35 children on Thursdays after school when school is in session. Herb Hale, director of this year's program recently heard reports of the positive impact SonShine Kids is having in the lives of the boys and girls who participate.

One Mt. Comfort Elementary School staff member commented that she has seen a big change for the better in the attitudes of some of the children who participate. Another staff member stated that the students talk about SonShine Kids all of the time!

Herb Hale said, "I want to thank all of the adult volunteers who make the program possible. We couldn't do it without them." SonShine Kids is always looking for volunteers; it takes 14-15 adults to staff the weekly program, which runs from 2:15 - 5:30 p.m. Even if your schedule will allow you only an hour or two during this time, your help would be welcome. Please contact Herb Hale or call the church office (317-894-8965) to volunteer.

*You are invited to the January, February, and March  
Birthday and Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday, February 21, 2016, for a pitch-in dinner after worship service.*

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>
<p><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>1 Clover Boyd</p> <p>2 Tiffane Brown Linda Triarsi</p> <p>4 Janet Nylund Nathan Weiler</p> <p>5 Tracy Henry Norietta Miller</p> <p>7 Christina Bundy Nancy Holder</p> <p>8 Terry Beeson Christa Watson</p> <p>11 Amalia Moss</p> <p>13 Ruth Carder</p> <p>14 Jerry Henry Madelyn Ludlow</p> <p>16 Tom Hillsman Blake Johnson</p> <p>18 John Phillipp</p> <p>20 Bruce Heckman</p> <p>21 David Sutherlin</p> <p>25 Alicia (Adkins) Pierce</p> <p>29 Harry Hensley</p> <p>31 Bill Moore</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>	<p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p>1 Elizabeth Hampton Gregg Henry Jane Jarrett</p> <p>2 Jack Zering</p> <p>5 Alex Sayre</p> <p>8 Pat Zarse</p> <p>9 David Gioe</p> <p>11 Kenneth Fry</p> <p>13 Ashley Malloy</p> <p>16 Melissa (Ayers) Bayles Douglas Hampton</p> <p>18 Amy Allen Taylor Gibson</p> <p>20 Taylor Grandstaff</p> <p>22 Maureen Bowery Nicole Gibson Paul Sutherlin</p> <p>23 Erin (Sullivan) Effner Tena (Hampton) Jones Patrick Ross</p> <p>24 Abigail Brown</p> <p>26 Nalani Vasquez George Winterstein</p> <p>28 Mark Batta</p> <p>29 Matt Thompson Jacob Yanan</p>	<p><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>15 Dave &amp; Elaine Holloway Bob &amp; Norietta Miller</p> <p>18 Bill &amp; Linda Yates</p> <p>26 John &amp; Maureen Bowery</p> <p>27 Jerry &amp; Mary Satterly</p> <p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p>3 Jack &amp; Rose McKinney</p> <p>7 Austin &amp; Nicole Gibson</p> <p>12 Steve &amp; Pat Ringer</p> <p>17 John &amp; Libby Bales</p> <p>26 Michael &amp; Candy Adkins</p> <p>28 Harry &amp; Sharon Hensley</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>

**Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church**  
**3179 North 600 West**  
**Greenfield, IN 46140**

**Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!**

Men's Bible Study, Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

- November 29 Advent begins
- December 3 Infant Memorial Service, 7:00 p.m.
- December 5 Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- December 6 Christmas Caroling, 2:00 p.m.
- December 12 Fruitful Congregations Journey meeting, 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- December 19 Prayer Team (all invited to pray for our church), 2:30 p.m.
- December 20 Christmas Cantata, *Mary, Did You Know?*, 10:30 a.m.  
Christmas gifts due (giving tree); School family food donations due
- December 24 Family Christmas Eve Service, 5 p.m.; Candlelight Service – 9 p.m.
- December 25 Christmas
- December 27 School family food donations due
- January 9 Fruitful Congregations Journey meeting, 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
District Leadership Development Day, Castleton UMC, 8:30 -12:30
- February 13 Fruitful Congregations Journey meeting, 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- February 21 Birthday/Anniversary Pitch-In after Sunday worship
- February 29 Fletcher Place Meal - prepare & serve

Visit our website: <http://www.MCMethodist.com>