
MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ

April/May 2016

Pastor's Corner By Pastor David Galbraith

Dear Friends,

Easter has just been celebrated, our Risen Christ is alive, and we are to share that great news with the world.

We're trying to do that in many ways. The Upward Soccer Program is beginning, and we have children all around the church. We MUST share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. We have Scouts and children in the Pre-School and Childcare. We MUST share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. We have over 100 children in the church every Monday for rehearsal of the Hancock County Children's Choir. We MUST share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

We are being blessed by the folks who are giving of their time and talents to see that Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ is standing up in the community and returning God's love to the community. Not that WE receive the thanks, but that God receive the blessing.

I believe this church is standing on solid ground, and we have a wonderful future serving this community with the love of God.

So the question to ask yourself is this . . . "if not ME, then who?"

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

Kingdom Kids

Here's a new opportunity for you and your children! We have an opportunity to add a ministry for the children of **Mt. Comfort UM Church of the Risen Christ** and give them the chance to learn about Jesus and His great love for them. They will also learn how to share that Good News with their friends and schoolmates.

This will be a program that will look somewhat like a Vacation Bible School. It is currently in the development stages, and it is something Pastor Dave has wanted to start since the day he got here.

Planning is in progress for the following age groups.

Jonah's Troop - Grades 4, 5, & 6

Zach's Band of Kids - Grades , 2, & 3

Little Lambs - Age 4 & Kindergarten

Bible Stories - Crafts-Games-Snacks

Keep watching for further information about Kingdom Kids.

Prayer and Healing Service

The Prayer and Healing services are back at Mt. Comfort UMC, with the next one set for Sunday, April 3, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Joe King, guest pastor, will provide a devotional. Special music will feature The Sinclairs as well as Jean Ellis & Special Chorus. Norietta Miller will share her faith story.

In addition, the service will include Communion and opportunity for prayer for spiritual and physical healing. Please plan to attend, and invite others.





David Morton, Mt. Comfort UMC Director of Music Ministries, leads the Handbell Choir during Sunday worship. Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., and Chancel Choir rehearses at 7 p.m.

Music's Contribution to Worship

By David Morton

So, how does our music function in our worship?

First, music brings to worship an opportunity for participation. The primary instrument in the music at Mount Comfort UMC is our congregation. If our congregation spends more time observing than it does in participating, then our music program is falling short. Participation in worship music offers opportunities for learning, remembering, and reinforcing gospel truth. Perhaps even more significant, participation in music offers our congregation a more direct opportunity for worship than participation in any other aspect of the service. As worshipers lift their voices in praise to God (not *about* God, or *about* each other or each other's spiritual experiences), praise, prayer, and adoration all fuse together, and we as worshipers experience intense intimacy with heaven.

Second, in worship, music functions as commentary. Instrumental music can serve this purpose when it suggests specific texts. But vocal music fulfills this function even better. Think, for example, of musical presentations of the theme of the resurrection. Who can fail to be stirred and to have his or her hope in the resurrection strengthened when hearing "The Trumpet Shall Sound" from Handel's *Messiah*? There is something profoundly supportive of the sentiments of the words in the music itself. A high degree of competence on the part of composer and performer makes for the most effective use of music as commentary.

Third, music is a means of exhortation. The anthems sung during our service each week are frankly exhortation. These songs are developed in

the context of evangelism. They combine expressions of personal testimony with the invitation to the listener to enter into a similar experience with Christ. At this point the singer or the chancel choir is actually sharing in the message or sermon for each service.

Fourth, music establishes mood. At Mount Comfort we favor using music that contains objective points of spiritual reference. Our musical arrangements carry significant, deeply personal, even emotional associations for a worshiper, but ideally, they also carry in the lyrics an objective reference point that anchors our congregation to God.

Fifth, music becomes a means of revelation. Of itself, music will never be a vehicle of special revelation in the same sense that Scripture is. Nevertheless, we as Christians believe in a *general revelation* observed in nature and human experience. Through the use of music, the Scriptures come alive and we can more readily relate and internalize them to better ourselves as we continue to Love God; Love Others; and Serve the World.



MISSIONS UPDATES

The Missions Committee continues to collect groceries for local food pantries and supplies and shoes for Hope House. Place your contributions in the grocery carts in the foyer.

The next opportunity to assist Missions Committee with a Fletcher Place meal for the homeless is Monday, August 29. Mt. Comfort UMC has also signed up for September 12 and October 24. Please contact Rose McKinney for more information.

For an update on the Mt. Comfort UMC June Mission Trip, see the article on page 6.



Monty's View By Monty the Church Mouse

Hi there, all my friends who like to have a mouse as a pet. I am Monty, I am he -- your friend, the church mouse. Don't be afraid of me. I won't hurt you. Oh, I might tickle your toes a little as I am being chased by Homer, the cat next door. I have some stories about some of my relatives from our mouse family

This is a story of how my cousin and his buddies visited the family room which caused my master's family to go into a panic attack because there were mice everywhere.

One night while all were in the family room of the parsonage, every one of my master's family were in their usual places relaxing with an evening of TV and popcorn. Their family dog named Frosty was a big English shepherd and was also in his usual place beside the master. But tonight was different; I knew that my mouse cousin was planning on having some fun with the family.

Everyone seemed a little on edge when the wind grabbed the outside door and slammed it shut hard. I watched my mouse cousin scurry around the room looking for some popcorn. The human family had been looking for my cousins and were trying to get rid of them. They had set a mouse trap the night before. Then it happened; one of my cousins, Romeo, had snooped around and did not see the mousetrap in his path. Everyone there heard the trap snap shut, and my cousin squeal in pain. The reaction of the family was quite interesting; the mother jumped up into the chair with her feet under her. The brother was going to smash the trap with my cousin in it. One of the girls headed up the staircase, but where was the "watchdog," Frosty? He had jumped up onto the master's lap. Everyone laughed. But no one was prepared for what happened next.

The oldest boy had curiously traced the trap and found the mouse in the trap and not dead, but stunned. He released him from the trap; the mouse staggered across the floor. Finally, brave Frosty became so curious; he got off the master's lap and started playing with the mouse like a mouse-toy. Everyone had the biggest laugh of the evening.

It was fun to tell you some of my mouse stories that make me feel a little bit homesick for the country farm house. What I want all my friends to know is that you don't have to be afraid of mice. We really like to have a nice warm place to sleep with our cousins around so that we can play games with each other.

The stories that I have written have a special meaning to not be so afraid of me or my cousins. We all need love and enjoy being loved like being your church mouse at Mt. Comfort Church.

Until the next time . . .

I am Monty, the church mouse.



Let's Paint Event

Plan now to attend the Let's Paint event at MCUMC, Saturday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m. Led by local artist Peggy Brewer, the event is open to everyone age ten and up and will include snacks. No experience is needed; all of the art supplies will be provided, and all participants will be led step-by-step in painting a cross on canvas, as illustrated below, although each painting will be unique.

Cost is \$10 per person, payable in advance to Lori Thompson. This is a community event, so invite a friend. For the event to take place, a minimum of 25 people is needed. Contact Lori Thompson by email for more information. butterflygarden16@gmail.com



DAYTIME MINISTRIES

By Pat Zarse

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for human masters.*

Colossians 3:23

In Billy Graham's column in the *Indy Star* Saturday, March 19, he was asked why he chose religion as a career. He answered, "The only answer I can give is that God called me to be an evangelist, and I could do nothing else but respond to His call. This doesn't mean God doesn't call people to be in business, or politics, or any other vocation (including raising a family) for He does. Always seek God's will for your life."

This brought to mind my graduations and life decisions. My senior year of high school, it was I.U. or Purdue - Music degree or Fashion Design degree? Purdue won!! But it changed from Fashion Design to Interior Design. There were many hours drawing freehand (no computers) until 2 - 3 a.m. in the morning, then to the print shop for blueprints, to class and turn in the assignment, and home to sleep. This continued for four years along with many other art classes.

Upon graduation, I taught a design class, was assistant manager in a retail store to learn running my own business, and finally training tellers at a bank to have hours the same as my husband. Next came our family, "My Three Sons." When they were all in school, I was ready to begin my career in Interior Design.

Guess what? After being asked twice and my refusing twice to accept the Director position with the new preschool being started at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church, I prayed and asked God what He wanted me to do.

You know the answer. I was to provide a happy, safe, learning environment for the children in our community. Along with a wonderful staff, we have been able to accomplish that goal.

Rev. Graham's column also reminded me that May will be here soon, and we will start receiving high school and college graduation announcements. I encourage all of you graduates to seek God's will in deciding your careers.

*Serving Him,
Pat*

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Preschool enjoyed a two-week Spring Break after our Open House and Registration. There are still openings for all ages and plenty of time to register for August 2016. Please tell your relatives, friends, and neighbors and our ministry.

We will be studying Spring, Safety Helpers, and Transportation in April. There also will be Parent Teacher Conferences.

Kindergarten sign-ups will be held this month also. Please check with your school system to learn those dates and times.

May will end our year with Mother's Day, God's critters, Vacation, and I Am Special. Our End-of-Year programs will be held the last week of Preschool in the evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to everyone for your help, donations, and prayers this year, and wishing everyone a safe, fun summer.

CHILDCARE

Mrs. Burke, our lead teacher, is stepping down and continuing with the ministry as an assistant. We want to thank her for her years of leadership and hard work. We are also glad she is staying with the program. Mrs. Jones will be moving from assistant to lead teacher. We are so glad to promote from within. Congrats!!

The children in childcare have enjoyed a one-week vacation for spring break. Welcome back. We will soon be losing our four-year-olds to kindergarten. We have a waiting list and new ones coming aboard in June.

Over break our carpets was cleaned and sprayed for ants. Special thanks to Dave Branson for cleaning the carpet.

We passed our state inspection recently with no problems. YEH!!!

Upward Soccer 2016

Upward Soccer kicks off the season with its first game day April 9. The season will run for eight weeks and conclude June 5 with an Awards Celebration. Upward Soccer is a Christian sports ministry serving children from kindergarten through sixth grade.

To serve as an Upward volunteer, please contact Teresa Sexton (317-716-1282) or call the church office (317-894-8965).

Follow us on Facebook -- Mt. Comfort UPWARD Soccer.

Trustees Update

By Tim Waymire

The Trustees have been extremely busy with church repairs and maintenance. Tim Waymire reported, "Herb Hale, Scott Ellenberger, Mike Penman, just to mention a few, have helped me complete the following list of goals in the church. This is only a part of the tasks, and much remains to be completed. Thanks to everyone who has helped!" The To Do List includes the following.

- Repairing light fixtures: replacing lamps or replacing ballast and lamps. This is a constant challenge.
- Checking for leaks in the ceiling and walls
- Replaced 2 water heaters in the Family Life Center
- Replacing damaged ceiling tiles
- Replacing the electrical outlets and covers
- Installing fire extinguisher signs
- Replacing paper towel dispensers
- Installing heat registers in the Fellowship Hall
- Cleaning all the lights in the sanctuary
- Installing new heating elements in the water heaters in classrooms 202 & 205
- Repairing faucets in classrooms
- Replacing damaged ceiling tiles in the gym
- Installed new LED lights on the front of the church. (You need to see it!)
- Furnace filter changes are coming soon!

Please see Tim Waymire if you want to volunteer, or contact the church office. (Call 317-894-8965 or email office@MCMMethodist.com)



MCUMC has finished Step 1 of the Fruitful Congregation Journey (FCJ). The FCJ team has done a superb job of meeting and sharing how we might be a more fruitful congregation.

Step 2 will involve everyone in the church and will include a weekend of gathering information and learning about who we are and what we are about.

We are also looking for another group of folks to go through Step 1. It is a seven-month-long process starting in the fall of 2016. Participants will meet monthly with other churches followed up by monthly meetings with our own FCJ team. If you would like to be part this new group, please contact Pastor Dave Galbraith.

Shepherding Committee News

By Cindy Kendall

The food ministry of the Shepherding Committee is in need of people willing to take meals to those undergoing difficult circumstances. Your time to help is completely up to you and at your convenience. Pastor Dave usually sends out an email to our church family asking for volunteers to contact me for information and details. Sometimes this may not be possible, so I am asking for all those interested in helping to send me an email so that I have a list on hand. If you have times or days that you know you are unavailable please give me that information. My email is as follows. kendall@myninestar.net

The Shepherding Committee recognized the passing of several loved ones the past two months with white carnations on the altar. They include in February, Beverly June Hoepfner, mother of Ron Hoepfner and Mary Nigh, mother of Tom Nigh. In March, Debbie Gonzales, our dear sister in Christ; James Ellenberger, father of Scott Ellenberger; Becky Witt, sister of Donna Zering; and Earl Eberhart, step-father of Ev Zarse. Our sympathy and prayers go out to all their families.

As always, we ask our church family to keep us informed of situations where we can be of help. Please contact Pastor Dave or call Cindy Kendall at 317-326-8193 with your information. Thank you!

*"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."
Romans 12:11*



Acolytes light the candles at the start of Children's Worship. Children in Grades 4 and under go to the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday Children's Moment.

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip

By Dan Johnson

During the week of June 5, a group from Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church will travel to Frakes, KY, for the 2016 Henderson Settlement Mission Project. Again this year, we will minister to those less fortunate than ourselves and make improvements to their home.

Members of this year's team include Rose McKinney, Dennis Stang, Tim Waymire, Herb Hale, Margo Detzler, Doug Detzler, Joel Humphrey, Caleb Humphrey, Patty Johnson, and Dan Johnson. We still have space for a couple more team members.

Currently, we are finalizing our work project. Most likely, we will be replacing windows and adding vinyl siding to a local family's home.

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

"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 a great deal of need" (www.hendersonsettlement.com).

Donations to 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 and/or praying for our team and Henderson Settlement.

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

Love God
Love Others
Serve the World

Thoughts of Dedication

By Rev. Bob Miller

Following are some thoughts for dedication to a silent but extremely faithful woman of God. I remember when she arrived through the encouragement of another one of our members who stands in the background. This new member dressed kind of peculiar and reminded me of the bag lady. She stayed by herself for the most part. She wanted to fit in but she knew that wasn't likely to happen, for she had tested the water at so many churches, and she could almost recite the theology of each.

I invited her to a Sunday School class, and she didn't spare words in what she believed, but she still listened to other points of view. I knew she was a doer, not just an observer. Someone asked her if she like to work with children and she quickly replied, "Not me!" But we knew she liked to serve others; in fact, she fixed refreshments on her own at any gathering, even though no one even thought of having refreshments. She secretly wanted to serve, and she did just that as a secret angel.

Then, someone asked her to help with the refreshments for SonShine Kids. She loved that; she faithfully drove from her home in Indianapolis each Thursday for over two years. She frequently was the first one here and kept the aroma coming from the kitchen with her homemade cookies for the children.

She liked to make a place look pretty. She had everything you could imagine in her pick-up truck to change the complexion of a room, as we saw her doing while decorating for our birthday/anniversary dinners single-handedly.

Her real calling was to help others who were in need. The word got out that we needed a tuxedo for one the senior boys for prom and clothes for his sister. You never saw someone go into action so quickly. A couple of trips to the old truck and dozens of tuxes appeared along with some good clothes for the girl.

This past fall, the unseen secret angel was not seen at all. Several asked about her, for she was a widow who lived alone. I called and received her word that she was okay, but not feeling up to par. Then Christmas came, and I called again, and she did hint that her ailment did not permit her to go out in public.

Who was this simple bag lady who was more like an angel of mercy? She was Debbie Gonzales, who died on March 4. She was as much of a disciple of Christ and Angel of Love and Caring as I have ever seen. Debbie touched the lives of many of us.

Who will be the one to take Debbie's place as God looks down upon us for volunteers?

Christian Education By Pat Ringer

It's officially spring -- a time of rebirth and hope! Our Sunday School leaders would love to see new faces in addition to the familiar ones in their classes on Sunday mornings from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. A brand-new adult class, Bible 101, will start on April 3, led by Mike Penman in the café. Other classes offered for adults meet as follows: Room 105 - the book of James, led by Dale Dickson; Room 107 -- Adult Bible Studies, led by Jerry Fentz; Room 108 -- Rick Warren video series, *How God Builds Your Faith*, led by Rose McKinney; Room 109 -- Prophets and Prophecy, led by Bruce and Cindy Kendall. The children's Sunday School classes study the Cokesbury curriculum entitled "Deep Blue."

Children's Worship meets in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday worship, following Professor Dale's Children's Moment in the sanctuary. There is always a warm welcome for more children in our big Fellowship Hall for the Children's Worship time!

Summer follows spring, and that means Vacation Bible School is on the horizon! This year VBS, as it's commonly known, will be July 22 - 24. Group's Weekend VBS for this summer is "Pets Unleashed, Where Jesus Cares 'Fur' You," and it sounds fun! The Bible scripture is "Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7

The Nursery is in need of volunteers! Won't you please consider this ministry? The volunteers serve on a rotating schedule, and the more volunteers we have, the less often anyone has to serve. If we have more volunteers, we just may get more little ones! Wouldn't that be great?

*You are invited to the April, May, and June
 Birthday and Anniversary Celebration
 Sunday, May 15, for a pitch-in dinner after worship service.*

BIRTHDAYS



APRIL

- 2 Margaret Harris
- 3 Kenny Thompson
- 4 William Carder
- 12 Austin McClellan
David Springer
- 14 John Bales
Lisa Gerlach
- 15 Geth Linville
- 18 Everett Zarse
- 20 Marty Haymaker
- 24 Heather Meredith
- 27 John Bundy
- 28 Dorthea Smith
- 30 Melody Benson
Hanna Jones
Don Rush
Michael Winterstein

MAY

- 1 John Forcum
Rose McKinney
- 2 J.W. Bright
- 4 Wade Sellers

- 6 Jerry Fentz
Debbie Nieter
Harold Olin
- 7 Tom Nigh
- 11 Hoye Breedlove
- 14 Edward Meek
- 16 Meredith Johnson
- 18 Trinity Bundy
- 21 Pat Ringer
- 22 Jim Farmer
Mark Settlemyre
- 23 Janis Eastes
- 24 Mike Jones
- 27 Mary Catherine Fry
- 28 Frank Denton
Wendy Weatherford-
Marks
- 29 Caroline Gibson
Carson Gibson
Carol Lillyblade
Nathan Miller
Pat Shreve
Lloyd True
- 30 Bruce Kendall

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

- 4 Drew & Jamie
McClellan
- 14 Doug & Liz Hampton
- 16 Lloyd & Leona True
Dana & Sheila Voelkel
- 18 Dan & Patty Johnson

MAY

- 8 Ron & Becky Coffman
Richard & Carrie Griffin
Kenny & Lori Thompson
- 9 Larry & Carol
Simmerman
- 13 Daniel & Tiffane Brown
- 15 Chris & Teresa Sexton
- 25 Tim & Cathy Waymire
- 27 John & Christine Forcum
- 28 Pat & Jerry Fentz



If you are not listed and want to be included, please contact the office.

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

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

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

Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m., Thursdays

Book of Acts Study - 10:30 a.m. or 7 p.m., Thursdays

April 3	Prayer and Healing Service, MCUMC, 6 p.m.
April 9	Upward Soccer, first game day (continues for 8 Saturdays)
April 23	Let's Paint Event, 6 p.m.
April 24	Pre-School children sing, 10:30 a.m. worship
May 8	Mother's Day
May 14	Thrivent Dinner
May 15	Birthday/Anniversary Pitch-In Dinner after worship
May 30	Memorial Day
May	Annual Conference, Indiana United Methodist Church
June 5	Upward Soccer end-of-season celebration
August 29	Fletcher Place missions ministry, prepare & serve meal
September 12	Fletcher Place missions ministry, prepare & serve meal
October 24	Fletcher Place missions ministry, prepare & serve meal

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