

MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church (of the Risen Christ)

August/September 2016

Pastor's Corner By Pastor Dave Galbraith

Dear Friends,

You are a blessing to Myrna and me. We are so blessed to be allowed to share our lives with you. These past four years have gone by really fast. We have accomplished some things, and others still aren't quite where I'd like to see them. However, it's not what I want, it is what God has planned that matters. Please pray that God's will, will be done in the lives of each of us here at **Mt. Comfort UM Church of the Risen Christ**.

Your prayers and your willingness to be the church will result in an overwhelming love poured out on our neighbors and on us. A friend of mine would always say, "If not me, then who?" I am aware that some of you are getting worn out doing the work of the church. There are others who have given for years and have earned a rest.

We all have a responsibility to offer Christ to this hurting world and to follow these three simple rules.

1. Do good.
2. Do no harm.
3. Stay in love with God.

Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for God.

God bless each one of you,
Pastor Dave



STEP 2 IS ON THE WAY

We are on the way to Step 2 of the Fruitful Congregation Journey (FCJ.) The first thing you can do is go online and fill out a survey so that the team coming in September will have YOUR input. It is important that everyone participate in the survey. Below is a link to the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FCJStep2Fall2016>

If you are unable to do the online survey, please call Pastor Dave for other options.

**August 20 and September 23 - 25
Save the Dates!**

The FCJ Step 2 Pre-Consultation All-Church Meeting is set for August 20, 9 - 11:30 a.m. September 23 - 25 will be the Consult Visit, and we need everyone to plan to attend the scheduled events, Friday night through Sunday.

Friday the 23rd will begin with leadership team interviews. Friday night, everyone who is not part of the interviews will be needed for a Focus Group, 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Saturday begins with a Church Council meeting at 9:00 a.m., followed by an All-Church Workshop, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch (pizza) will be provided. On Sunday the Lead Consultant will deliver the sermon and afterwards share the consultation report with the congregation. (See related story, page 7.)





Meet Staci Wilson, Director of Daytime Ministries

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church welcomes Staci Wilson as Director of Daytime Ministries. Staci is a Hoosier, born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she attended Emmaus Lutheran School and graduated from Concordia Lutheran High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in Communications and Public Relations from Purdue University - Fort Wayne.

Staci stated, "Growing up, I always wanted to be a wife and mother. I love children and all the fun they provide." She and her husband Randy have three children, Riley, Adrienne, and Sydni. All three are very involved in sports and many other extra-curricular activities that keep the family very busy.

Staci's past experience includes Information Technology specialist for five years followed by school secretary for four years at New Palestine Elementary School. She most recently served as a substitute teacher for students of all ages, from preschool to high school.

Staci stated, "I am very excited to join the Mt. Comfort Daytime Ministries as the director. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the families and working with the children in both the preschool and childcare. I cannot wait to meet all of the children, as they are all in my favorite age group -- 2 - 5 years of age. Thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to meeting everyone."

Creative Bible Study Begins

A Bible Study on the Prophet Isaiah begins July 25 at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. The study will examine why Isaiah is the most quoted of the major prophets. The Rev. Steve Ellis, a retired pastor, will lead the study. Ellis served in the United Methodist Church for 27 years and is a friend of Rev. Bob and Norietta Miller, who will assist in the Bible Study.

Plan to join the group on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Contact Rev. Bob or Norietta at 317-435-0405 for information.

Shepherding News By Cindy Kendall

Sunday, June 12, the Shepherding Committee recognized the passing of Dusty Chase, brother of Shelbie Heckman, as well as the passing of Vicky Thompson, sister of Don Rush. On July 10 we observed the passing of Edward Fentz, brother of Jerry Fentz, and the passing of Esther, sister of Bill and Ruth Carder. On July 24 the Shepherding Committee recognized the passing of Kathleen Fry, daughter-in-law to Cat Fry.

These loved ones' lives were celebrated with white flowers on the sanctuary altar. Our condolences and prayers go out to all their families.

Please keep in mind that the Shepherding Committee is here to serve you. Please contact Pastor Dave at the church office or Cindy Kendall (317-326-8193) with information concerning any needs.



SonShine Kids Seeks Volunteers

The SonShine Kids program for 2016-17 will soon begin Year Five. Volunteers are needed for this after-school ministry which meets on Thursdays, 2 - 5:30 p.m. Around fifteen adults are needed to run the program, which includes devotions, homework assistance, character development, snacks, and enrichment sessions. Children also go to the gym for some physical activity and to burn off some energy. If you can help, even for one or two hours, please contact Herb Hale at 317-703-0495.

Christian Education By Pat Ringer

On July 22-24, many unfamiliar paw prints were in evidence around Mt. Comfort Church of the Risen Christ, when this year's Vacation Bible School, "Pets Unleashed" took place. Station Leaders, Crew Leaders, Directors and the many volunteers who assisted had a dog-gone good time helping the children learn about Jesus, who cares "fur" us. The Bible lesson point, "Jesus cares for you!" is based on I Peter 5:7 which states, "Give all of your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." If you happened to be in the church during VBS, you probably had a glimpse of Goldie Retriever, who was helping the children learn some new songs. The children's special projects including making dog pull-toys, which will be donated to an animal shelter. The children also made wild flower seed balls to give to friends and family. Children learned that God cares for the earth. He takes care of the plants and the animals, and he cares for us. The children concluded VBS with a program in Sunday worship July 24. Pets Unleashed was definitely a fun time for all!

Promotion Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, August 28. All children who are entering the third grade this school year will be promoted to the Grades 3-5 Sunday School class and will be presented with a Bible during the Worship service. On September 4 these children will begin attending their new class. Please let the church office or Pat Ringer know if your child will be entering the third grade when school resumes in August.

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ offers a number of adult Sunday School classes from which to choose. We invite you to visit one or more of these classes and consider joining one of them. We have children's classes from Pre-Kindergarten to high school, and we welcome everyone who would like to learn more about our amazing God!



At VBS, Pets Unleashed Bible Adventures, children learned some of the things Jesus taught at the Sermon on the Mount. Pictured here is the Salt and Light station. Crew Leaders and Helpers met for prayer before each session. Through stories, Bible lessons, songs, and activities, children learned, "Jesus cares for us!" Thanks to Jo Sullivan, coordinator for VBS 2016, and to the many volunteers who made the program possible. (Photo, Jason Pope)

Missions

By Rose McKinney

The twelve people who went to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY, for the annual Mt. Comfort UMC Mission Trip successfully completed the work projects that were selected. They removed the skirt from a trailer home and put a new one around it with a door way to access the underneath area of the trailer. Also, they removed seven old windows in the trailer and installed new windows with finished trim and newly painted shutters. The trailer was home to a disabled man, his wife and three children.

In the evenings the groups of volunteers attended sessions that (1) informed about the

people, the area, and the services provided by the Settlement; (2) entertained with a local music group that played gospel and bluegrass music; and (3) provided a worship service followed by an homemade ice cream social.

Thanks to Dan Johnson for planning and guiding us through the projects.

The dates for serving hot meals to the homeless at Fletcher Place for the rest of this year are Monday, August 29; Monday, September 12; and Monday, October 24. If you would like to help with this mission, you may accompany the committee and help prepare and serve the meal and do clean-up, or you may offer to make cookies, cupcakes, or brownies, etc. for our desserts. Please contact Rose McKinney to volunteer. The Mission group leaves the church around 1:00 p.m. and returns around 5:30 p.m.

The Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection is scheduled for November 13 through the 21. Now is a good time to think about purchasing some of those supplies that can go into the boxes since it is nearing the time for school-supply sales. Think “inside the box.”



The Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church Missions team traveled to the Henderson Settlement June 5 - 11 and completed a work project for a family in need. (Photo, Tim Waymire)

GOODBYE, BISHOP, AND HELLO, BISHOP

During the Annual Conference, Bishop Michael Coyner was recognized in a celebration of his service to Indiana United Methodists. He will be retiring on August 31, 2016.

Bishop Julius C. Trimble will begin serving Indiana on September 1, 2016. Trimble is a graduate of Illinois State University and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and received his Doctorate of Ministry from Ashland Theological Seminary. After serving in Northern Illinois and East Ohio (as District Superintendent of Cleveland District 1996-2003), he has served as Bishop of the Iowa Area for the past eight years. He is married and has three adult children.

Trimble states his purpose is “to encourage all people with a love of Jesus Christ to use to their highest potential.”

--- Rose McKinney, Lay Leader

Daytime Ministries Updates

By Pat Zarse

DAYTIME MINISTRIES

We welcome on board the new Daytime Ministries Director, Staci Wilson!

CHILDCARE

Summer numbers were down as usual, due to kindergarteners and children with older siblings staying at home for the summer. The big event is Friday "Water Days." The children come in their bathing suits and play in wading pools and sprinklers. They have had fun topics for curriculum such as ice cream week and camping week.

Mrs. Jones, the lead teacher in childcare, has resigned her position. She had been with us several years and recently moved from assistant to lead teacher. We thank her for all she has done and wish her the best in the future.

PRESCHOOL

The first day of preschool is Monday, August 15. Orientations will be held the week prior for all 4's and 3's classes. Orientations for 2's will be held the evening before their first day of class. Dates were announced at the end of May, and all families will be re-notified of those dates and of payments before school resumes.

Bonnie Boyd, longtime employee with 24 years of service who most recently taught the four-year-olds, has resigned. She will be greatly missed. Bonnie not only taught, but at one time was also our local purchaser and assisted with the three-year-old classes. We wish her the best in the future and thank her for her many years of service with this ministry. She has touched many lives!



The Retirement Reception for Pat Zarse held July 10 gave tribute to her 28 years of service to Mt. Comfort UMC.



Monty's View By Monty the Church Mouse

Monty is back!!!

My name is Monty. I am a church mouse. Would you like to be a church mouse? What are some of the qualifications to be a church mouse?

First, a church mouse must have a sense of humor. For example, when I am chased by Molly, our cat, I sometimes run so fast I can't make the turn and run right into the wall. Well, Molly goes crazy with laughter at my expense.

Second, a church mouse needs to be nosy. In other words, I need to follow up on each piece of gossip. Did you know that Lady Mary Deen has some bowel problems and may need surgery?

Another important characteristic of a well-qualified church mouse is to be friendly to all the fellow mice and treat them all fairly. If you don't, you will have the biggest mouse scuffle you have ever seen. And that won't be a pretty sight!

Want to be a Church Mouse? It may sound like a perfect job for you. But step back and take another look. You may want to consider a job deep in the jungles of South Africa. I'm willing to give your job offer a try.

I am MONTY, I AM HE!! (Your friendly church mouse) I look forward to your call.



Kingdom Kids Train Ride Contest

Have you ever been on a train ride? Most of us haven't, and it's a shame. It really is a blast. The new children's group, Kingdom Kids, has started a contest for the different age groups. Children earn points for attending Kingdom Kids, bringing guests, completing projects, and attending Sunday School and Sunday worship. The contest runs through September 25, when the prizes will be awarded. Ten prizes will be presented with the grand prize a ride in a real train.

Kingdom Kids meet at Mt. Comfort UMC on Sunday afternoons from 4 - 5:30 p.m. Age groups include Ages 2 - Kindergarten, Grades 1 - 3, and Grades 4 - 6. Children - talk to your Kingdom Kids teacher to get on board the Mt. Comfort Express!

Thank you, Pat Zarse, 28 Years

Pat Zarse, Director of Daytime Ministries for the past 28 years, retired July 1. On Sunday, July 10, she was presented a gift of a love offering in appreciation for her dedication to this Christian ministry. At an afternoon reception in her honor, Pat greeted friends, family, staff members, as well as former students and their parents who came to express their appreciation for her service. Director since the inception of Mt. Comfort Preschool, Pat has guided the program foremost with Christian principles, but also with the added touch of her wisdom and creativity to make the program one that is recognized for excellence.

Here, Pat will give her retirement remarks as she hands over the reins to Staci Wilson, who joined the staff on July 11 as the new Director of Daytime Ministries.

Some Words of Thanks *By Pat Zarse*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!

*From the fullness of His grace we have all received
one blessing after another. John 1:16*

I want to thank everyone for their love and support over the last 28 years. I have been blessed over and over and over again. All this would not have been possible without the wonderful staff that has served alongside me. Thank you for your cards and gifts, the reception, and your financial gift. As usual, you are all too kind. Thank you to everyone who helped with the reception. It was so exciting to visit with previous children and their families and previous church members that I had not seen in a while. The cake was beautiful and yummy! I'd like to share with you an article I found years ago and had kept. The author is unknown.

A CHILD'S VIEW OF RETIREMENT

After a Christmas break, the teacher asked her small pupils how they spent their holiday. One little boy's reply went like this.

"We always spent Christmas with Grandpa and Grandma. They used to live up here in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. They live in a place with a lot of retarded



Kenny Thompson, Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee presented Pat Zarse with a gift of a love offering at Sunday worship, July 10.

people. They live in tin huts. They ride big, 3-wheel bicycles. They go to a big building they call the wrecked hall, but it is fixed now. They play games there and do exercises, but they don't do them very good. There is a swimming pool and they go to it and just stand there in the water with their hats on, I guess they don't know how to swim. My grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. They all go to restaurants that are fast. Nobody cooks there anymore. As you come into the park, there's a doll house with a man sitting in it. He watches all day, so they can't get out without him seeing them. They wear badges with their names on them. I guess they don't know who they are. My Grandma says Grandpa worked hard all his life and earned his retardment. I wish they would move back home, but I guess the man in the doll house won't let them out."

(Posted at <http://thecitizenonline.com/?p=8778>).

Ev and I are not moving to Florida and live in a retardment community. We are staying right here and we will continue to serve HIM in other capacities.

Love you all,
Pat

Fruitful Congregations Journey -- Step 2 Details

In fall of 2015, Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ committed to become part of the Fruitful Congregation Journey, a process to help churches more effectively fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In Step 1 the church established a leadership team. This team joined with five other area churches and attended seven workshop sessions and read six books, discovering what it means to be a fruitful church and to become outwardly focused. A second group will go through this training starting this fall.

Step 2 now is in progress. At the end of Step 2, MCUMC will receive a Ministry Action Plan, tailored to its unique context. Mark Eutsler, PhD, has been assigned our Coach. Dr. Eutsler will be introduced to the church at a Pre-Consultation meeting on Saturday, August 20, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

All of this leads up to the big weekend, September 23 - 25, when the consultation team will come to Mt. Comfort. Everyone is asked to reserve these dates for some all-church meetings.

- Friday evening, 7 - 8:30 p.m. All-Church Focus Group (except for those already interviewed)
- Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., All-Church Workshops (lunch provided)
- Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Worship. Dr. Eutsler will deliver the message, followed by the Consultation Report.
- Sunday, November 13, after Worship service. Step 2 will conclude with a Charge Conference.

Pastor Dave and the FCJ Team ask for your prayers and participation in Step 2, as MCUMC seeks to fulfill its mission and purpose, as revealed to us by God.

Happy Birthday -- Happy Anniversary

August Birthdays	August Birthdays	September Birthdays	August Anniversaries
1 Jennifer Benson	26 Jerry Satterly	19 Julie Ewing	17 Bruce & Cindy Kendall
2 Sandi Hudson	Wanda White	Cathy Waymire	25 Norman & Melody Benson
3 Vickie Miller	27 Austin Heckman	20 Chuck Sullivan	27 Jack & Sandy Abel
Dennis Stang	28 Linda Fugate	21 Rick Aldrich	Harold & Barbara Olin
4 Ethan Ludlow	28 Margaret Rujiraviriyapingo	22 Patrician Adkins	31 Roger & Sandi Hudson
Don Waymire	29 Jarrod Beeson	Bennett Romeril	
5 Dale Dickson	Robyn Hendrix	24 Frank Bunten	
Dan Linville	30 Paul Lillyblade	Emily Richardson	
6 Jerri Stang	William Meredith	25 Chris Gibson	
10 Ben Thompson	Amy Waymire	26 Aiden Grubb	September Anniversaries
11 Joyce Ellenberger	31 Bonnie Boyd	Grant Hoepfner	7 Ken & Jerri Fry
12 Mike Gibson	Tyler Heckman	Connie Jones	15 Jack & Donna Zering
13 Chris Sexton		Laurie Ransford	18 Matt & Tiffany Kelly
14 Delores Breedlove	September Birthdays	Matia Marie Rujiraviriyapingo	21 Dick & Jackie Gast
Mitchell Gibson	2 Linda Creed	28 Gale DeWitt	23 Kevin & Michelle Sheets
Kevin Smith	4 Kyle Banayote	Pat Grinstead	24 Herb & Bodonna Hale
16 Austin Phillipp	7 Nancy Grandstaff	John Stumph	25 Mark & Dottie Copeland
17 Alison Copeland	8 Steve Ringer	29 Barry Cook	
18 Lindsey Helling	Laura Roberson	30 Tim Boyd	
David Murphy	9 Jim Waymire	Pat Montgomery	
Gail Rush	10 Pat Bright	August Anniversaries	
21 Lilly Vasquez	Brad Estes	8 Gene & Mary Springer	
23 Jordan Kendall	Drew Malloy	12 Dale & Debra Dickson	
Cynthia Winterstein	11 Jamie McClellan		
25 Norman Benson	12 Herb Hale		
Ron Hoepfner	Tim Waymire		
Gail Malloy	14 Deanna Keene		



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

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

Bible Study, Isaiah	Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
Men's Bible Study	Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study	Resumes in Sept., Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.
August 15	MCUMC Preschool begins this week
August 20	All-Church FCJ Pre-Consultation Meeting, 9 - 11:30 a.m.
August 21	Birthday/Anniversary Celebration, Pitch-in after Worship
August 18	Down Syndrome East, 6:30 p.m.
August 26 - 27	Common Threads Quilt Show
August 29	Fletcher Place Meal -- prepare and serve
September 12	Fletcher Place Meal -- prepare and serve
September 15	Down Syndrome East, 6:30 p.m.
September 23	Step 2 FCJ Leadership Team Interviews, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
	All-Church Focus Group, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
September 24	Church Council, 9:00 a.m.
	All-Church Workshop, 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (w/lunch)
September 25	Consultation Report presented, Worship service
October 24	Fletcher Place Meal -- prepare and serve
November 13	Charge Conference, after Worship
November 20	Birthday/Anniversary Celebration, Pitch-in after Worship
December 3	Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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