
MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mount Comfort United Methodist Church

October/November 2017

Pastor's Ponderings By Pastor Alex Stone

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

Change happens. Change is something that we all go through. We have big changes in our lives, and we have little changes. Some changes are in-between changes. Some of us get so set in our ways that we don't like change and try to avoid it all costs. I'm not saying that all change is good. Neither is all change bad. The fact is that in this life we all go through some type of change, and it affects us in some way or another. Here are some people in the Bible who went through change.

Ruth – Ruth lost her husband, which caused change. The loss of her husband caused Ruth's life to be displaced. I remember when my mother passed away. My father seemed so alone, and it was hard to see him that way.

I know many people who have lost their spouses, and it is such a struggle for them, especially at the beginning right after their loss. They are so used to functioning as a couple that moving on alone is almost unbearable for them. That's where Ruth found herself.

Ruth moved to a different location, too. I've moved many times and know firsthand how difficult that can be. As a result, whenever I see a U-Haul or a moving van, I say a prayer for the family it represents.

Believe me. It's tough to move. Sometimes you move away from family and friends. You may not even know a single soul where you are moving to. It takes some time to adjust to a move, even if it isn't far away and just from one house to another.

Ruth had to learn to adjust to where she was in her life. God blessed Ruth with a new husband because that was God's plan, but that's not always his plan for every widow. He may not bless in that way, but God has a

purpose to everything that happens.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus – Mary found out she was going to have a baby through an angel. Not only was she carrying a child, but it was the Son of God. What a change that would turn out to be in her life!

Becoming a parent always causes change in our lives. No matter what your circumstances are, when you find out you are having a baby, it causes dramatic change.

We may be overjoyed at the prospect of having a child and feel totally blessed about it, but still it changes our whole lives. It is not only a change for you, but it affects everyone in the household. Look at where Mary was in her life. She wasn't even married to Joseph officially yet. I wonder how she felt and what went through her mind when her life was changed so dramatically. We know now how we all have been blessed by Mary carrying our Savior. It was what God had in his master plan to bring salvation to the world.

Paul – Paul's life was changed dramatically when he met Christ on the Road to Damascus. I think we all look at him as this strong Christian who faced life with courage, and he did, but what a change it was in his life. Even his name was changed. Even those we think of as "strong" Christians have struggles when it comes to change.

Look at the things that happened to Paul because of the change in his life by accepting Christ as Lord. Life wasn't easy for him. He was even put in prison, but God had a plan for Paul's life, and we are still encouraged and blessed today by how he lived and what he shared in his letters.

Joseph – Joseph's life changed unexpectedly when he found himself in prison and away from his family and all that he knew. In the end, God blessed his life, but how alone Joseph must have felt when
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Pastor's Ponderings, continued from p. 1

he found himself locked away in a prison far from home.

God had a plan for Joseph, but not only for Joseph but for his whole country, because God used Joseph to build up the food storage before the famine came. God was working in every change that Joseph went through.

Job – Job went through change when God allowed Satan to test him. One of the things that happened to Job was that he ended up with boils - not just a few boils, but from his head down to his feet (Job 2:7).

Losing your health can cause major change in someone's life. It not only affects the person with the health problems, but it can cause havoc on the family as well. The change caused by health problems can veer in all directions.

Change happens. Change can be hard. On the other hand, some change can be easy, but in the end, we can learn from it. Sometimes it helps make us stronger. Sometimes we look back and see how God worked through it, and that is such a blessing. Other times though, we don't know why we had to endure change. Sometimes we can't see God's plan, and sometimes we never will know why He worked in a certain way. Change will happen. In the end, all we can do is trust the Lord and allow His moving and leading, because we know that God always has a plan.

Pastor Alex

Shepherding Committee News **By Cindy Kendall**

In the past few months, the Shepherding Committee has observed the passing of several members and loved ones of our congregation with a white flower on the sanctuary altar. On July 23, the passing of Berniece (Bea) Olson was recognized. Bea was the mother of Rhonda Pleak. In August, the lives of Juanita Jean Morris and Rosalind Stephens were remembered. Both were sisters of Gary Stewart and blessed to live into their 90's. Jack Abel's passing was observed on September 10. Jack was the husband of Sandy Abel. On September 24, the passing of Tim Boyd was observed. Tim was the husband of Bonnie Boyd. Our prayers and condolences are with all the family members of those who passed.

Please remember to share information of the needs of our church family. Without this valuable information, we are unaware of those who need us most. Contact Pastor or Cindy Kendall 317-326-8193.

The Funeral Dinner Committee would like to thank all who gave their time and effort in preparing the recent funeral dinners. Thank you to those who set up chairs and tables, prepared food, worked in the kitchen, or did clean up. Your help was much appreciated.



Kaitlin Smith, R.N., spoke to the MCUMC congregation in August to raise funds for upcoming missionary commitment to Uganda. A graduate of Mt. Comfort UMC Preschool, Kaitlin has strong ties to our community. She will partner with the Church of God in Uganda and coordinate its medical clinics.

Missions Moment **By Rose McKinney**

FLOOD HELP – Thanks to those who contributed items for relief to the flood victims for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). We can all pray for safety, peace of mind, and relief for those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and for those assisting them.

SHOEBOXES – It is time to start preparing for Operation Christmas Child, getting items that can fill shoeboxes to send to children throughout the world. This is a great opportunity to “make disciples of Jesus Christ” because each box contains a book about Jesus and then is followed with opportunities to learn more about Him from local teachers. Please prepare your box(es) to bring to church on Sunday, November 12. The church will be a collection center throughout the week of November 13 – 20. **FYI:** The boxes cannot contain candy or toothpaste. The shipping cost per box is \$9.00 this year.

All Saint's Day November 5

If you have had any loved ones pass away since All Saint's Day 2016 and would like to have their name(s) read and a candle lit in honor or in remembrance of them on November 5, please contact the church office no later than October 31.

Club 56

By George Winterstein

School may have been off for the summer, but Club 56 was as busy as ever, meeting every Sunday afternoon for fun and fellowship. Our biggest event was our trip to the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky. With Neetra DiBartoli, George Winterstein, and Chris Sexton as chaperones, we left the church at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 26, and spent a full day enjoying the overwhelming exhibit, chowing down at the Ark buffet, and finishing with a visit to the petting zoo before the long ride home. We arrived home at 10:00 p.m., tired but truly enlightened at what we saw and learned.

In July, we spent several weeks painting stones with Christian and motivational messages to distribute in the August 5 Sunday morning service. The goal was for those who found a stone to take it with them and put it somewhere for someone else to find. Our hope was to send a message of joy and love to whoever found them.

On August 13, we spent the afternoon on a nature walk at Beckenholdt Family Park, appreciating the marvels of God's gifts to our planet. Of course, a nature walk wouldn't have been complete without a snack of juice and trail mix at the outdoor pavilion.

Our next project is to revitalize the youth game room. The room has everything we need for a great recreation and game room. With some fresh paint, cleaning, and some minor repairs, we expect to have the room up and running in a few weeks. We are planning an open house to show it off when we are done. Watch for the announcement.

Club 56 has been a blessing for the youth of our church, thanks to a group of great young people, the dedication and creativity of the co-sponsor, Neetra DiBartoli, the help of our regular helpers Dale Dickson and Dave Branson, and the support of the loving members of the church family. All we need is more children with whom to share the fun and the love of God's word. If you know any young people, ages 8 to 14, who you think would benefit from this fellowship, please send them our way.



Club 56 members painted stones with Christian and motivational messages and placed them in the church for people to find at Sunday worship. The goal was for the finder, in turn, to place the stone for another person to discover.

Music Notes

By Shawn Gilliland

The handbell and chancel choirs are in full swing once again. If anyone would like to join the chancel choir just show up at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays or for bells at 6:00 p.m. We have plenty of room and music! If you cannot commit to a full season, we will be starting rehearsals for our Christmas Cantata on Thursday, October 5. We will generally start around 7:40 p.m. This year's cantata is entitled *Bethlehem Morning* and will be presented December 24.

SonShine Kids – Year Six

Thursday, September 7, marked the start of the 2017-18 SonShine Kids program at Mt. Comfort UMC. The program is off to a good start.

The program meets most Thursdays when school is in session, from 2:15 – 5:30 p.m. at the church.

Children are escorted by adults from Mt. Comfort Elementary School to the church. In addition, we have a few children from other schools who have joined the program.

The SonShine Kids program includes a light snack, devotions, homework help (if needed), and enrichment sessions in nature, art, drama, and music.

Thanks to the congregation for its financial support and for the donations of snacks as well as arts & crafts supplies.

If you can donate an hour or two to help or are willing to be “on call” when our regular volunteers cannot be present, please call Herb Hale at 317-703-0495 or Rick Aldrich at 317-443-6928.

Charge Conference October 15

Mohawk UMC

On Sunday, October 15, Mt. Comfort UMC will join with nine other Hancock County churches for the district Charge Conference at Mohawk UMC at 6:30 p.m. All members of the Church Council should attend, and all church members are encouraged to attend. The theme, *Together.We.Are.More*, will be the focus of this year's event.

Finance Committee News

By Michael Adkins

Fundraising events have not been a high priority here at Mt. Comfort United Methodist for a couple of decades. It is, however, something we need to take more seriously. We are already a very giving congregation. However, as usual, we just manage to get by. That is why we need income from folks outside of our congregation.

The last two fundraising events, last December's Bazaar and the July Auto Show were not huge money-makers, at least not in comparison to what this church earned back when it ran a 4-H Fair kitchen. But I look at those fundraisers as important and promising. The combined revenues of those two events amounts to roughly two extra Sundays of offerings. That is nearly 4% of our annual tithes and offerings. Imagine how much more we can offer here if we doubled our fundraising efforts. I firmly believe that with smart planning and a little extra effort our future fundraising can equal 10% or better our annual giving.

Thanks to the hard work of Pat Zarse, the December Bazaar was a success. I know she needs more help this year, so please talk with her about volunteering your time and efforts this year. The Auto Show was a great first effort, and the committee on fundraising has already determined ways to improve on it and increase its revenues next year.

Our goal is to implement four quarterly fundraising events annually. The committee will be meeting October 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the church. Anyone who has ideas for additional events is invited to attend or just share ideas with me or committee members. With the efforts of our congregation and the blessings of the Lord, we will strive to improve our finances to better serve Christ.

Worship Committee

By Pat Zarse

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

The worship committee last met September 11. The following Sunday was "Invitation Sunday," with a reception following worship. Pastor Alex reported October 1 will be Communion Sunday, and his sermon series on Stewardship will begin October 8.

We welcome the Bells and Choir back from their summer vacations. Shawn Gilliland reported on forthcoming anthems and the Christmas cantata, *Bethlehem Morning*.

The committee is looking for a new sound person and a new wedding/funeral coordinator. If interested, please contact Roger Hudson, Pat Shreve, or Pat Zarse. The next meeting is Monday, October 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Trustees Corner

By Tim Waymire

The Trustees have been busy the past few months. I am sure I have missed other task and goals in the list below, but this gives you a good idea of what the Trustees have accomplished recently at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church.

Discussion of cost-saving LED lighting in the future.

Painting of the sanctuary exterior beams.

Ceramic tile replacing the old flooring under water fountains.

Planting flowers around the new electronic sign.

Labeling the electric panels circuit breakers so they can be found by anyone, if needed.

Replacing the wood spindle in the nursery rocking chair.

Installing a new paper towel dispenser for short individuals in Joyful Days men's restroom,

Repairing the parsonage air conditioner.

Cleaning a garage bay for Staci Wilson and the Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare.

Planning for the new carpet to be installed in the sanctuary and hallways, which includes moving all pews in the sanctuary three times for the carpet to be installed between October 2-6. (This date is based upon the supplier's delivery.)

Cleaning the garage to allow room for 10 skids of carpet being delivered September 30.

Removing baseboard molding in the hallways, repairing and painting of hallways, and re-painting the men's restroom walls.

Replacing the kitchen exhaust fan; further work is being done to prevent future failures.

Trimming trees around the buildings to prevent future building damage.

Repairing lights throughout the building, an ongoing problem.

Opening the church nature trails in the woods, but more work is still needed.

If you would like to lend a hand in church projects, please see Tim Waymire or any Trustee. If you would like to make a monetary donation for church upkeep and projects, please donate to MCUMC, and note General Fund.



Joyful Days Ministries

By Staci Wilson

Preschool is off to a strong, successful start. We welcomed 60 students to our Joyful Days Preschool at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church on August 14. The children have been learning about the school, their classes, and their teachers. We were very excited to get September started and to begin our fall lessons. The children learned "All about Me" during September, with a focus on their families, pets, five senses, and favorite things. The children also learned about Noah's Ark, participated in pet sharing, and had fall student pictures.

October begins the study of fall and all the wonderful things that go with it. Children will learn about leaves, apples, pumpkins, and the changing of seasons. What an awesome time of year in Preschool. The students will have fall vacation October 9-20; no preschool will be held during this time. The end of October, we will be having our second annual Trick or Treat around the building. We would love for you to join us and help pass out candy and other treats to the children. We will have our costume parade around the entire building on October 31. Please let Carrie in the church office or me know if you plan to participate. Thank you!

Lastly, I would like to introduce our Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare Staff for this school year. Pre-K, 4's Class (Monday – Thursday) Loretta Duncan, Lead Teacher, and Tina Burkde, Assistant Teacher. Michelle McCarthy, Lead Teacher, and Sandy Kingery, Assistant Teacher. 3's Class (M, W, F) Katherine Messier, Lead Teacher, and Madison Barrett, Assistant Teacher. 2's Class (T, Th) Kathering Messier, Lead Teacher and Carmen Law, Assistant Teacher. Childcare – Kristin Smothers, Debbie Kline, Jan Hemelgran, Madison Barrett, Larissa Wright, and Kendra Eberhard. Office Assistant – Leah Sears. Director – Staci Wilson.

We invite you to stop by and say "Hi" anytime. We would also love for you to come and visit the hallways, and see all of the children's artwork/classwork on display. I hope everyone enjoys the fall season as much as I know the children of Joyful Days will.

Blessings to all, *Staci*

Bible Study with Pastor Alex Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

October 4 – no Bible study
October 11 – Begin Genesis study – Genesis 1:1-2:4a
October 18 – Genesis 2:4b-3:24
October 25 – Genesis 4:1-5:32
November 1 – Genesis 6:1-8:22
November 8 – Genesis 9:1-11:32
November 15 – Genesis recap
November 22 – OFF

From the Janitor's Closet

By Dave Branson

What a great summer for Mt. Comfort Church – God is good. We had to say 'bye to Pastor Dave and Myrna, but we are truly blessed with the appointment of Pastor Alex and his wife Carla and three doggies.

Thank you for the volunteers cleaning inside windows in both buildings, #1 and #2: Candy Adkins, Dennis Stang, Jo Sullivan, and Jinny Waymire. Julian Marshall donated his time doing outside windows, and I was his assistant.

Julian and his nephew Amaru scraped and painted outside eaves in front of the sanctuary – fantastic job, men. They did not stop there; they taped walls in the gym and repainted the white bricks by the gym floors. They also sanded down the Men's Room by the church office and put putty in the holes in the walls in preparation for painting.

Jo Sullivan has been one busy lady. Besides teaching Sunday School and SonShine Kids, she has been clearing the path in the Mt. Comfort "jungle" (woods) for the Mt. Comfort Nature Trail. I volunteered to help Jo Sullivan and Roger Hudson with SonShine Kids in an enrichment class called Nature. I have learned a lot in this class, and I know the children, first to fifth grade, are also learning a lot.

Thank you to all of the following people for the things you do for our church. Mrs. Carrie Smith for all your hard work in the church office, you are amazing. The church is getting a much-needed face lift, and we are truly blessed with a kind donor who is donating carpet and installation for building #1. Connie DeAngelo, Ev Zarse, and Herb Hale have been painting hallways in building #1. Tim Waymire and Scott Ellenberger got on the roof and replaced the fan for the kitchen stoves. Roger and Sandi Hudson always do a fantastic service running sound booth for Sunday worship. Neetra Debartoli and George Winterstein took the youth group to see the Ark in Kentucky – incredible youth leaders. Connie DeAngelo planted flowers around the new electronic sign and put down mulch – looks beautiful! Pastor Alex did a wonderful job with the John Wesley sermon series the last six weeks.

Dave Branson

Janitor, Trashman, Environmental Services
P.S. If you see anything needing attention, fixed, or cleaned, call me, and I'll see what I can do.
317-626-6226

MCUMC Mission Statement

We are committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Pastor Alex Stone concluded the Wesley sermon series on September 10 with Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service and invited Christians to commit themselves to Christ as His servants.

Fall Sermon Series

Pastor Alex Stone will begin his next sermon series, "Enough," on October 8 at MCUMC.

Scripture and Sermon Titles

October 8, When Dreams Become Nightmares,
Matthew 6:19-21; 24-34

October 15, Wisdom and Finance,
Luke 15:11-17

October 22, Cultivating Contentment,
I Timothy 6:6-11

October 29, Defined by Generosity,
James 2:14-18

November 5, Salvation Belongs to God,
Revelation 9:9-17

November 12, Destined for Salvation,
I Thessalonians 5:1-11

November 19, A Thankful Heart,
Luke 17:11-19

November 26, Seeing Jesus in Others,
Matthew 25:31-46

A Letter from the Extended Cabinet of the Indiana Conference

Subject: Speaking Out Against Hate

Members and Friends of our United Methodist Churches throughout Indiana:

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Reflecting upon recent actions and unrest across our nation, we the Extended Cabinet of the Indiana Conference, collectively, speak out against the Ku Klux Klan, all white supremacist groups, and all others that have adopted their philosophies.

Groups such as these, as well as those persons who refuse to speak out against their racist ideologies, are in fact, enemies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and their inflammatory rhetoric is inconsistent with the witness of Holy Scripture found in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." -St. Paul to the Galatians (Galatians 3:28 NRSV)

As Christians in the United Methodist faith tradition, we believe that all persons regardless of their race or ethnicity, are created in the image of God; they are all of sacred worth and therefore are to be affirmed, appreciated, and received as our sisters and brothers of the human race.

As our Social Principles state: "Primary for us is the gospel understanding that all persons are important— because they are human beings created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ and not because they have merited significance. We also encourage all individuals to be sensitive to others by using appropriate language when referring to all persons. Language of a derogatory nature (with regard to race, nationality, ethnic background, gender, sexuality, and physical differences) does not reflect value for one another and contradicts the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Further, "We affirm that no identity or culture has more legitimacy than any other. We call the Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities. Through relationships within and among cultures we are called to and have the responsibility for learning from each other, showing mutual respect for our differences and similarities as we experience the diversity of perspectives and viewpoints." (Paragraph 161, *The Book of Discipline*)

Therefore, we call upon all United Methodists of the Indiana Conference to join us in living according to this Gospel and to behave according to these Social Principles, so that our witness will have integrity, and bring healing and hope to our broken world.

As members of the Extended Cabinet, we are committed to praying for a world where all are valued and viewed as equal, and living out our learning of becoming more culturally competent leaders, and advancing our missional focus throughout the Indiana Annual Conference. We invite each of you to join us in prayer, learning, and building relationships that help us to know all of our neighbors as people of worth.

In service together,
Julius C. Trimble, Resident Bishop, and the Members of the 2017-2018 Extended Cabinet

Holiday Bazaar Set for December 2

By Pat Zarse

The sixth Annual Holiday Bazaar will be Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. I already think it's going to be bigger and better than last year. Vendors have been contacting me since January and weekly the last month. I plan to send out registration forms by e-mail by the first of November. Please give my name and number to anyone interested in participating. I will be contacting businesses in October and November for donations for our Silent Auction.

Hopefully, you are making crafts and art to sell at the church booth. Everything will be the same as last year – vendors, silent auction, luncheon, and sweet shop. Around the first of November, I will put out sign-up sheets in the narthex requesting your assistance with donations for sweet shop and for workers for set-up, cashiers, greeters, helpers, booth-sitters, and clean-up. It requires a lot of help that day, so please mark your calendars and reserve the first Saturday in December. Also, anyone wishing to help prior to that day, please contact me.

Remember, all proceeds go to the church, so you will be supporting a good cause with your donations and your participation.

Pat Zarse
317-496-1009

October Birthdays

- 3 Cheryl Bunten
- 4 Carla Stone
Jon Yanan
- 5 Becky Gibson
- 6 Justin Pope
- 7 Irene Beeson
Kevin Heckman
Kylie Meredith
- 8 Laurel Hoepfner
Wilson Hoepfner
Linda Neer
Donna Weiler
- 12 Morgan Phillip
Linda Yates
- 14 Kathy Aldrich
- 16 David Morton
- 19 Brandon Ludlow
- 23 Richard Griffin
- 26 Jay Kleine
Bob Ewing
- 27 Morgan Deno
Debby Dunn
Angie Ludlow
- 28 Dana Voelkel
- 29 Jodi Watkins
- 30 Max Marsh

November Birthdays

- 3 Casie Copeland
Amber Branson Dixon
Tom Seng
- 5 Joe Byers

November Birthdays

- 5 Carol Seng
- 6 Susan Parry
- 7 Daniel Brown
Dan Johnson
Teresa Sexton
- 8 Myrna Galbraith
- 10 Barbara Gioe
- 11 Marcy Green
- 13 Tom Dickson
Gene Springer
- 14 Seth Lee Rujiraviriyapingo
- 15 Bradley Gibson
Lucas Gibson
Jessica Vadas
- 16 Dave Branson
Alan White
- 17 Leona True
- 19 Ben Parry
- 20 Mel Branson
- 22 Michael Adkins
Sherry Hutchens
- 23 Darla Gibson
- 24 Mary Springer
- 26 Bill Yates



November Birthdays

- 27 Becky Coffman
Larry Hodson
- 28 Gary Johnson
Linda Perry
Craig Sheets
- 29 Mark Piercy
- 30 Megan Benson



October Anniversaries

- 1 Chip & Wendy
(Weatherford) Marks
- 8 Bob & Julie Ewing
- 15 Rudy & Janet Nylund
- 16 Jim & Sharon Farmer
- 26 Jarrod & Janet Beeson
- 28 Wayne & Sherry
Hutchens
Max & Thelma Marsh

November Anniversaries

- 1 Mark & Julia Settlemire
- 19 Maurice & Jane Jarrett
- 20 David & Barbara Gioe
- 21 Scott & Joyce Ellenberger
- 22 John & Karen Stumph
- 23 Mel & Connie Branson
- 25 Austin & Shelbie
Heckman

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church
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Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study at Bloom's Care
Wednesdays, 3:00 p.m. – Bible Study w/ Pastor Alex Stone
Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – Women's Bible Study

October 1	Worldwide Communion Sunday
October 7	Laity Day w/ Bishop, Christ UMC
October 9 – 20	No Preschool, Fall Vacation
October 15	District Charge Conference, Mohawk UMC, 6:30 p.m.
November 23-24	No Preschool, Thanksgiving break
December 2	Holiday Bazaar, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
December 3	Advent begins
December 7	Infant Memorial Service, 7:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas cantata, worship service
December 24	Christmas Eve service, 7 p.m. (only)

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