



# The Voice

of Monroe Street United Methodist Church  
*a Beacon and a Bridge for our community*

**February 2017**

## **From the pastor's desk...**

### **2016 – A Year of Blessing!**

As I reflect on 2016, it has been quite a year in the life of Monroe Street United Methodist Church. We have embraced the future and are moving forward!

We have made major repairs to the building. We have added a digital sign to announce all the great programs that are happening. The Sanctuary renovation is nearly complete. We have conducted a very successful capital campaign. And we took a leap of real faith to bring Pastor Elizabeth to our staff. What a blessing she has been.

We are beginning to see the fruits. Worship attendance has been increasing. We are seeing many first-time guests, with many of them returning. We also took in a new membership class!

As exciting as 2016 was, I believe 2017 will be even more of a blessing. I have preached that we have entered into a Jubilee Year – the Year of the Lord's favor. In the Year of Jubilee, God's grace and mercy are fully seen.

I ask for your continuing prayers as many new opportunities and blessings are coming our way!

**Larry**



Have you seen our MSUMC Facebook page?

Please **like us and follow us** at *Monroe Street Church Toledo* to stay up to date on what is happening! Please also share our posts with your friends.

**Monroe Street Church Toledo**

## Campaign Celebration

Celebration Sunday was a success! We thank everyone who attended and contributed to the First Fruits offering on January 15. Our total Capital Campaign commitment stands at \$289,000, almost three-quarters of the way to our goal of \$400,000. Our First Fruits offering was \$25,000, so we're off to a good start.

Many of us have yet to make a commitment to the Capital Campaign to empower our ministry for the future, and we are optimistic of reaching our goal. We still have work ahead of us, but with the Spirit leading us, how can we possibly fail?

A special thank you goes out to Peg Hull and the Capital Campaign team for hosting the potluck. We hope all of you felt the love and care we have for our church and for each other. Let us continue to pray for the future of our church and to give thanks for our abundance, as we work toward the coming of the Kingdom in our community and in the world.

*Not to us, O Lord, but to Your name give glory.*

**Lou D'Amato**  
**Kevin Mulder**  
Campaign Co-Chairs

## Call for Callers

Help is needed to fill the Evangelism Caller opening recently left by Pat Schmiege's departure. This is an opportunity to show our first-time visitors the genuine warmth and friendliness of our church, as well as possibly making a new friend – and we can never have too many friends.

Callers simply make a visit to drop off homemade baked goods and information about our church. Call Marilyn Lodge at 419-842-0070 to discuss how you can help either on a monthly or an occasional basis.

## 2017 Lackland Match

As you probably know, we were blessed to receive a sizable bequest from the Lackland family. Reverend Lackland was a pastor here at Monroe Street many years ago and our beautiful chapel was named in his honor.

For the last two years, we have had a program where contributions over and above annual pledges are matched by the Lackland Fund. Your generous contributions have made this program a major success.

The Finance Committee has approved an enhanced program as we face a challenging budget year. In addition to the match for contributions over and above our pledged amounts, each of the special offerings for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be matched dollar for dollar. Specific goals will be established for each of these special Sundays.

All of these contributions will go toward the operating budget for 2017.

Blessings to an amazingly faithful congregation!

**Dave DiManna,**  
Finance Chair

## Lunch Bunch

The next gathering of the Lunch Bunchers will be **Saturday, February 4,** at 12 noon at Sam & Charlie's, 2334 West Central, Toledo.

Since it will be just two days after Ground Hog's Day, if you have any funny stories about that day, please bring them with you. Any woman in the church or who is a friend of the church, is invited to join us for food, fun, fellowship, and devotions.

Please notify either Betty Nicolen or Kathy Moore by Friday, February 3, if you are planning to join us, if you need transportation or if you can provide transportation. Until then, be a blessing.

**Kathy Moore**

## Sundays in February

### February 5

**Sermon:** Raising the Widow's Son  
Pastor Elizabeth

**Scripture:** Luke 7:1-17

**Lay Reader:** Tom Senerius

**Altar Flowers:** Given by Ron and Jeri Mellgren in memory of their mothers

### February 12

**Sermon:** Are You the One?  
Pastor Larry

**Scripture:** Luke 7:18-35

**Lay Reader:** Dave DiManna

**Altar Flowers:** Open

### February 19

**Sermon:** Forgiven at Jesus' Feet  
Pastor Larry

**Scripture:** Luke 7:36-50

**Lay Reader:** Bill Hoover

**Altar Flowers:** Open

### February 26

**Sermon:** Transfiguration  
Pastor Elizabeth

**Scripture:** Luke 9:28-45

**Lay Reader:** Pat McCauley

**Altar Flowers:** Given by Wendy Jackson in honor of the February birthdays of Grace Jackson and Ashton Kolb

## Blanket Sunday

On **February 12** we will celebrate Blanket Sunday. Donations made on Blanket Sunday will help Church World Service provide blankets, other relief



supplies, and basic agricultural tools in times of natural disaster.

## Thank You

Thank you to the lovely ladies who brought cookies and a poinsettia to me at Swan Creek early in December. The cookies were delicious, the poinsettia was cheering, and the act of being remembered brightened the Christmas season for me!

Blessings,  
**Beverly Warner**

## Our Heartfelt Thanks

The Leadership Team members join me in a hearty thank you to our congregation, past members, friends, pastors, church secretary, and Capital Campaign Team for this fall's empowerment of our future ministry. The campaign team listed below embraced our crucial goal -- to reimburse our Foundation's funding of \$400,000 in long overdue repairs and renovations as we empower our ministry for the future.

Campaign Chairpersons  
Lou D'Amato, Kevin Mulder  
Coordinator  
Sarah Twitchell  
Communication Team Leader  
Barbara Coleman  
Prayer Team Leaders  
Peg and Bill Hull  
Advance Commitments Team Leaders  
Shirley and Keith Schlender  
Connection Team Leader  
Bill Hoover

Their diligent work since September has given all of us the opportunity to prayerfully reconsider our gifts from God and our stewardship. We are very grateful for their invaluable help and the many faithful responses of time, talent, prayers, and dollars for the palpable ongoing movement of the Spirit here.

**Sue Thayer**

## Searchers/Advent Class

Please join us in the chapel at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings as we learn about Holy Currencies. As we move into a new year here at Monroe Street, we are excited to continue our mission of serving our neighbors in our community.

Rev. Eric Law is an Episcopal priest and the director of the Kaleidoscope Institute. Eric has written a book titled *Holy Currencies* that offers a beautiful model for creating ministries that are missional and sustainable.

Pastor Elizabeth will teach us about each currency and help us identify how these currencies are flowing within our ministries. Once we learn to speak in the kingdom language of Holy Currencies, we can also create new ministries, such as our Freedom School, in a way that promotes wellness for our community and for our church.

Our Holy Currencies classes begin on **January 29** and will continue for six weeks, ending on **March 5**.

## Meet a Holly Glen Resident Joann Hammer

I have been at Holly Glen for 10 years. I like the nurses and the health care.

I like attending services here by Monroe Street Church. I enjoy the music and singing. I also enjoy the sermons.

I like eating at special events, especially outside. I like prayer time for my needs and the needs of my friends.

Would you like to meet Joann and other Holly Glen residents? Join us on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. as we provide a worship service for the residents.

## It's February! Spread the Love!

While writing our valentines, we also want to wish a few special people Happy Birthday:

<b>February 6</b>	Gloria Grant
<b>February 16</b>	Marion Steiner
<b>February 20</b>	Ellen Steiner and Donna Chambers
<b>February 22</b>	Robert Bringe
<b>February 25</b>	Mary MacDonald

If you know others, let's celebrate them on Sundays!

Special thanks this month go to our volunteer counters – those dedicated volunteers who share the responsibilities of carefully counting and depositing our weekly offerings: Ralph Homan, Barbara Coleman, Betty Nicolen, Jerry Charles, and Bill Coger.

## Healthy Recipe to Try Chickadoodle Soup

4 cups low-sodium chicken broth  
7 oz. shredded leftover roasted or rotisserie chicken (1 ½ cups)  
7 oz. sugar snap peas trimmed and cut in thirds  
3 cups uncooked egg noodles  
2 medium carrots, chopped  
2 scallions, chopped  
¾ cup mixed herbs such as parsley, tarragon and mint.  
Salt and pepper to taste

Place the broth in a Dutch oven and bring to a boil. Add all ingredients except the herbs. Simmer 10 minutes, then add the herbs. Season to taste. Enjoy!

## Concert Opportunities

Rehearsals for the Palm Sunday Chorus begin on **Saturday, February 4.**

On **Saturday, March 4,** Monroe Street Church will host the American Guild of Organists Choral Festival. Singers from all over the area will come for a day of choral singing with Bradley Pearson, professor of music at the University of Toledo. The concert is at 3:00 pm.

On **Friday, March 17,** Brian Rotz, organist, will be with us in concert at 7:30 p.m. Brian is a former Director of Music at Monroe Street Church, and a beautifully accomplished performer on the King of Instruments.

For more information about any of the above events, please contact Denise Mathias, at 419-473-1167, ext. 230. or [dmathias@monroestreetchurch.org](mailto:dmathias@monroestreetchurch.org)



## Young Voices of Greater Toledo

*Young Voices of Greater Toledo* has experienced 100% membership growth this year! This music initiative to the community from Monroe Street Church was begun to provide low cost, high quality music education to our community in a loving, caring environment. We anticipate more growth during this second semester, and invite some of our loving, caring folks at MSUMC to help provide healthy snacks for our students.

This music ministry from the church is offered at a low cost, much lower than the great majority of comparable

programs. Our staff all have music education degrees, many years of teaching experience, and advanced music degrees, as well. In addition, they work for low pay, or no pay, because they believe in our mission.

Could you help provide a little nourishment for the children on a Tuesday evening? There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the choir room, or contact Denise at 419-473-1167, ext. 230, or [dmathias@monroestreetchurch.org](mailto:dmathias@monroestreetchurch.org).

## Trustees Update

Planning is underway for the renovation of three bathrooms – the two mid-level bathrooms in the narthex area and the present women’s bathroom under Circle drive. Funds are not available for this work at present and Trustees will await the outcome of the Capital Campaign and the completion of the sanctuary renovation before proceeding.

The pastor and his family currently renting the Drummond Road parsonage will be reassigned by the Bishop in July. Trustees will consider whether to rent the parsonage to another family or put it on the market to sell in the late spring or early summer. The increasing trend across the West Ohio Conference is to provide pastors with a housing allowance rather than maintain a parsonage.

Trustees have opened the safe in the main kitchen for the first time in about 10 years. We are seeking help from an interested church member in assessing the value of the contents – candlesticks, tea service, silverware, etc. These items have not been used in over 10 years and don’t seem to have been missed. Once the value has been estimated, Trustees will determine how to best proceed. Anyone interested in helping with this project please call Chuck Thayer.

## Greetings from The Neighborhood Center:



On Saturday, January 7, 30 women came to pound it out at our open house to introduce **Pound/Cardio Drumming**. The excitement and energy in the room was contagious as the participants moved to the beat of the music. Pound is a full-body cardio jam session, inspired by drumming. Using Ripstix, lightly weighed exercise drumsticks, you use calories and gain tone while rocking out to your favorite music. Class times are **Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.** The cost is \$39 for 10 classes or \$5.00 a class if you come as a drop in. Come check it out!



Please join us **Friday, February 17** for our annual Valentine Theater fundraiser. This year the featured movie is *To Catch a Thief*. Put on your thinking caps as you look for clues to find the identity of the jewel thief and the missing jewels. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. The mystery game begins at 6:45 p.m. and the movie will start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Please see any Board Member or Toni at the Center office. There will be a cash bar and pizza available for purchase. All funds raised will benefit our Freedom School.

We are looking for **volunteers for our Adventure Camp**. If you have a heart for children, please let Clara know. We could use help with field trips over the summer. Maybe you enjoy the art museum and want to sign up to attend that trip with our campers, or maybe the zoo is your thing. Come join us.

Thank you for your continued support of the Center and for all you do to make our programs happen.

Yours in Service,  
**Clara Petty**



### **Elder Beerman Community Days**

The Monroe Street Neighborhood Center and Elder-Beerman department store would like to invite you to take advantage of the fantastic deals during their Community Day Sale. We will be selling coupon books online and to the public for \$5 each, keeping 100% of the proceeds for the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center. Each booklet contains coupons valid during the Community Day Sale, February 23 - 25, 2017.

To purchase booklets online, please place [communitydayevent.com](http://communitydayevent.com) into your web browser, select support organization, and locate the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center. Select how many booklets you'd like to purchase and they will be shipped to you with no cost for shipping.

We also have booklets available at the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center.

Thank you for your continued support!

#### **HAVE INFORMATION TO SHARE?**

<b>Sunday bulletin, Weekly email</b>	Lanette Cornwell	<i>info@monroestumc.com</i>
<b>Prayer Chain:</b>	Kathy Moore	<i>kathymoore@buckeye-access.com</i>
	Sue Thayer	<i>thayer@accesstoleado.com</i>
<b>The Voice:</b>	Barbara Coleman	<i>bab1743@sbcglobal.net</i>

**The deadline for the March 2017 issue of The Voice is Sunday, February 19**

## Freedom School Site Coordinator

Our Freedom School families and teachers will be led every day by our Site Coordinator. The Site Coordinator manages the day-to-day activities of the school and ensures that the teachers have the materials they need for their classrooms. The Site Coordinator also supervises the teachers, providing them with guidance, support, and tools to work with their students. Every week we will offer workshops for parents, which will be designed and facilitated by the Site Coordinator.

We are delighted to welcome the Site Coordinator for our 2017 Freedom School.

**Deborah Kofa Nimely-Washington** is the daughter of Mr. Boe and Anna Nimely of Liberia. Dr. Washington remembers that her mother Anna often said, "To whom much is given, much is required of you at all times."



Dr. Washington is a lifelong resident of Toledo, Ohio. She graduated from Scott High School, and received a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees at the University of Toledo. She has a specialist degree in special education and a Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University. After a long career in the Toledo Public Schools, Dr. Washington retired. She served as the principal of Harvard Elementary School and as an adjunct faculty member at BGSU and at Owens Community College. She is a Ohio Department of Education Credentialed Teacher and Principal Evaluator and an Educational Consultant.

Dr. Washington says that the accomplishment she most cherishes is marrying her wonderful and loving husband, Mr. Leonard J. Washington, Sr. They have been married for forty-two years and have four children and eight grandchildren. As a longtime member of Warren A.M.E. Church, Dr. Washington serves on the Steward Board, the Minute Ladies Organization, and the Lay Organization. She sees her leadership at the Freedom School as ministry, and is holding our church and the families we will serve in prayer. Dr. Washington told me, "Don't ask me to sing, but I love to pray!"

We join her in prayer, and give thanks that she is offering her gifts and her heart to our first Freedom School!



# From the Treasurer

## MONROE STREET FINANCIAL REPORT

Month Ending December 31, 2016

	Current Month Actual	Monthly Budget	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$ 32,089.00	\$ 35,927.00	\$ 360,949.00	\$ 381,432.00
<b>Lackland Endowment Match</b>	\$ 2,980.00		\$ 19,917.00	
<b>Total Foundation Subsidy</b>	\$ -	\$ 5,837.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
<b>Lackland Bequest</b>	\$ 10,917.00		\$ 19,917.00	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	\$ 130.00	\$ 128.00	\$ 1,624.00	\$ 1,200.00
<b>Total Rental Income</b>	\$ 3,110.00	\$ 4,354.00	\$ 44,010.00	\$ 44,015.00
<b>Total MSNC Reimbursement</b>	\$ 300.00	\$ 319.00	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 3,850.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 49,526.00	\$ 46,565.00	\$ 581,717.00	\$ 500,497.00
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	\$ 47,091.00	\$ 50,843.00	\$ 578,133.00	\$ 598,903.00

The figures for the year are finalized and with prayers and giving of many devoted members, we have had a very successful year. The Foundation contributed \$60,000 over their subsidy of \$70,000. The Lackland Endowment Match was almost \$20,000 which doubled helped us cover our expenses. Thank you everybody for your financial support throughout the year.

Thank you,  
Jerry Charles  
Treasurer

### Renovation update expenses.

Repair Roof on East End			\$ 48,500.00	Complete
Painting			\$ 13,399.00	Complete
Electronic Sign			\$ 30,968.00	Complete
Marble Slab Repair Fron Door			\$ 2,568.00	Complete
Sound & Video Equipment			\$ 127,697.00	Complete
Lighting			\$ 210.00	
Restrooms				
Platform and Choir Loft			\$ 15,881.00	Complete
Chairs for Chapel & Sancutary			\$ 8,782.00	
Carpeting for Chapel & Sancutary			\$ 34,534.00	Complete
Painting for Video Screen on Wall			\$ 4,180.00	Complete
Miscellaneous Expenses			\$ 5,205.00	
			\$ 291,924.00	

These are the current expenditures through Decemberr 30, 2016 for the renovation. Lighting, carpeting, sound and video system and platform construction are completed.

Transferred from Foundation			\$320,000.00	
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## The Lord is my Shepherd

We invite you to spend some quiet time with these two versions of Psalm 23, reading the words silently or aloud, and perhaps pondering the three questions.



### Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

1. Listen for a word, a phrase, or an image.
2. What does this psalm say to us about living our lives with God?
3. What is God inviting me to do, to be, or to change as a result of hearing this passage?

The Lord is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush;

He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind, and his guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for his presence is here; his timelessness, his all importance will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in midst of my activity by anointing my mind with his oils of tranquility.

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours, for I shall walk in the pace of my Lord and dwell in his house forever.

English translation of Japanese version of Psalm 23

# February 2017

**Sunday**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 12:30 p.m. Kingdom Harvest Church  
 12:30 p.m. Redeemed by the Blood of Christ Church

**Monday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care  
 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi Club  
 11:00 a.m. Soft Zumba  
 5:30 p.m. Yoga with Connie

**Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care  
 9:30 a.m. Tai Chi Class  
 10:00 a.m. Computer Lab  
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym  
 6:00 p.m. Kingdom Harvest Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts

**Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care  
 10:00 a.m. Computer Lab  
 10:00 a.m. Beacon and Bridge Bible Study  
 11:00 a.m. Soft Zumba  
 11:30 a.m. Bridge  
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym  
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts

**Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care  
 9:30 a.m. Tai Chi Class  
 10:00 a.m. Computer Lab  
 11:00 a.m. Cardio Dance  
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym  
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts  
 6:00 p.m. Redeemed by the Blood Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. Zumba  
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

**Friday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care

**Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Martial Arts (2d Saturdays)  
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  11:30 a.m. Needlework Social 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	2  7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 p.m. Mountain Mentors Board	3	4
5  8:00 a.m. Intercessory Prayer 12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal	6  9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Trustees	7  10:30 a.m. TUSA Board 5:00 p.m. Finance 6:00 p.m. Young Voices	8  6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	9	10	11
12  12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal	13  9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	14  6:00 p.m. Young Voices	15  11:30 a.m. Needlework Social 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Agape Ministers	16  7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	17	18
19  Voice deadline 8:00 a.m. Intercessory Prayer 12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal	20  9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	21  6:00 p.m. Young Voices	22  6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	23  6:00 p.m. MSNC Board	24	25
26  12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal 1:30 p.m. Worship at Holly Glen	27  9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 Jobs with Justice	28  10:00 a.m. Fold & Address VOICE				

**Church Staff**

Larry Clark, Pastor  
Elizabeth Rand, Pastor  
Lanette Cornwell, Administrative Assistant  
Denise Mathias, Director of Music  
Tessie Studer, Building Superintendent  
James Krohn, Custodian

**Church Office:**

Mondays through Thursdays.  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Phone: 419-473-1167  
Fax: 419-474-5467  
Church website: www.monroestreetchurch.org

**Services**

**SUNDAYS:** Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Prayer Groups**

Intercessory Prayer Service  
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 8:00 a.m.

Men's Prayer Breakfast  
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:00 a.m.  
Uncle John's Pancake House, 3131 Secor Road

**Mission and Vision Statements**

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world  
Celebrating the love of Christ by serving as His heart and hands*

*Monroe Street United Methodist Church's vision is to minister to a great diversity of people, accepting and celebrating their lifestyles and circumstances. Our church will be both a beacon and a bridge for those desiring a connection with God and for those who make service to others a priority. We will compassionately meet people's needs, both within and outside of our congregation, with focused programs, increased partnering, and open communication.*

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