



The Voice

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

September 2017

Rally Day, with our return to Sunday School classes and a later worship time, is fast approaching. Summer seems to have passed quickly, and we're hitting the ground running this Fall. The theme for Rally Day is "New Beginnings 2.0," as we continue to celebrate Monroe Street Church's Pentecost.

Plan to stay after the worship service for a **potluck lunch**. The main course will be provided, and we are asking that members whose last name begins with A-K bring a salad and L-Z bring a dessert.

Here are some of the things that are happening this fall. More details can be found in various articles throughout this issue of *The Voice*.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Parables will be reading and discussing *The Bible Tells Me So* by Peter Enns in Meeting Room 1.

Advent-Searchers will start the year with "A Quick Trip Through the Gospels" led by Pastor Larry in the chapel.

Scripture Today (new class) will read and talk about the Scripture text for the morning's sermon in Meeting Room 3.

WORLDS OF BELIEF

September 10 at 5:00 p.m. Visit to Truth in Jesus Church

FALL BOOK STUDY

Saturdays, starting September 9 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Unashamed and Unafraid by Will Cantrell

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, September 30 Widewater Retreat Center "Untying the Knots"

MEN'S RETREAT

Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8 Widewater Retreat Center "Embracing an Adult Faith" and "Everything Must Change"

YOUNG ADULTS

Monthly meeting after worship

September 10, 2017
New Beginnings 2.0
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Potluck Lunch following worship



Some thoughts...

It is amazing how far we've come in the last two years. The sanctuary redesign has brought the congregation, the choir, and the table into closer proximity with each other, making worship a more intimate experience and making it easier to be participants rather than observers. We have more effectively reached out to the community (Freedom School, Church Picnic, Trunk or Treats, the Neighborhood Center, to name a few examples) and have attracted a more diverse group of people than ever before.

There is a new Sunday School class offering this Fall, a monthly young adults study group, new music ensembles, new members, and more children and young adults in worship than we have had in a long, long time. The Gathering Space in the sanctuary has given us an opportunity to connect with visitors as well as a space for weekly fellowship beyond the worship and Sunday School hours. The new Welcome Center proudly displays the wide spectrum of programs our church offers. Worship attendance is up. We have been exploring new relationships with our community partners in an effort to improve the lives of our church neighbors. The value of the leadership provided by Pastor Larry and Pastor Elizabeth, not only in providing a vision of the future but also in inspiring and empowering the laity to join in that vision, cannot be overstated.

Every week we pray the Lord's Prayer together, but when was the last time we really listened to the words, particularly those where Jesus prays that God's Kingdom will come on Earth as it is in Heaven? What do these words really mean? What will the Kingdom of God on Earth look like? Rob Bell, in his new book *What is the Bible?*, references a passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, in which Paul tells us of God's desire to "bring unity to all things in Heaven and on Earth under Christ." Not *some* things, not *some* religions, not *some* people, not *some* cultures, but *all things*, and without boundaries. Paul's words are thus blatantly and unequivocally inclusive.

As Rob Bell observes, the world is fractured and broken, with parts lying scattered all over the place, and it is God's intention to restore, reconcile and renew the world, putting everything back together as it should be. Everything, *all things*, which means no more abuse, poverty, racism, sexism, fractured relationships, strife, pollution, ignorance, hunger, division, intolerance, and war. The question is, do we believe the Kingdom is happening? Do we believe it is even possible? I believe it is certainly happening at Monroe Street, for the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst, and we are the front porch of the Kingdom in our community.

So my prayer, as we move into the third year of Monroe Street's Pentecost, is that we not draw lines and build walls between each other; that we never forget that Jesus told us to love one another as He loved us; that in Christ we are all one; that whatever we do or fail to do to one another, we do and fail to do to Jesus; that if we truly love Jesus, we should feed his lambs and tend his flocks; and that when we welcome a stranger into our community, we welcome not only the stranger but also Jesus and the One who sent Him. May this be your prayer as well.

Lou D'Amato

'Tis The Season for Choirs!

Love to sing? Come join a choir!

Wesleyan Chorus

First rehearsal and "kick-off" picnic will be at the home of Pat McCauley on **Wednesday, September 5** at 6:30 p.m. If you would love to join this adult group but are unsure about how to get to Pat's house, call Denise, and someone will be happy to pick you up and take you home. All choir members and interested persons are welcome to come. Please RSVP to Denise.

Regular rehearsals are in the choir room and held on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. The regular rehearsals begin **September 13**. Wesleyan Chorus sings in worship each Sunday.

For more information about Wesleyan Chorus contact Denise Mathias at 419-473-1167, ext. 230 or email: dmathias@monroestumc.com

Intergenerational Choir

This is a fun group open to folks age 8 to 80! They sing a variety of music and rehearse following worship each Sunday. The first rehearsal is the Sunday following Rally Day, **September 17**. Come join and sing! For more information contact Denise at the information above.

Cantabile

This upbeat group is led by Will Rand, and sings in worship on the first and third Sundays of the month. For more information contact Elizabeth Rand at erand@monroestumc.com.

Angels' Wings

Angels' Wings, our bell choir, will ring in their first rehearsal on **Wednesday, September 13**, at 6:00 p.m. There is an opening for a new ringer—maybe that person is you! This group rings 5 octaves of handbells and handchimes, and has a great time doing it. If you love to ring, or would love to learn how, contact Denise at the information above.

Sundays in September

September 3

Sermon: Embrace Your Gift

Pastor Larry

Scripture: Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

Lay Reader: Chuck Thayer

Altar Flowers: Given by Barbara Coleman in memory of her mother, Edna Bazura

September 10

Rally Day

Sermon: New Beginnings 2.0

Pastor Larry

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2, 4a

Lay Reader: Ed Hafferkamp

Altar Flowers: Given by Ron and Jeri Mellgren in honor of their anniversary

September 17

Sermon: Giving Your Best?

Pastor Larry

Scripture: Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

Lay Reader: Wendy Jackson

Altar Flowers: Given by Dick and Karen Vollmer in memory of Paul and Echo Tovey

September 24

Choir Dedication Sunday

Sermon: Living in God's House

Pastor Elizabeth

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22

Lay Reader:

Altar Flowers: Given by Barbara Coleman in memory of her husband, Walt Coleman



Scripture Today

A New Sunday School class

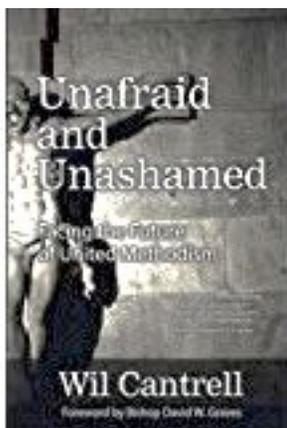
Have you been wanting to spend a bit more time with Scripture? Might you hear the sermon in a different way if you read the Sunday Scripture beforehand? Would you like an opportunity to talk about a Scripture passage with others – in a very easy, friendly way?

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in Meeting Room 3 as we come together to read the morning Scripture passage, ponder and reflect, pray, and talk about what it might be saying to us at this moment in our lives. Questions? Contact Barbara Coleman at babc1743@sbcglobal.net or 419-410-1169.

Fall Book Study

Unafraid and Unashamed: Facing the Future of United Methodism by Will Cantrell

Our fall book study will be held Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, beginning on **September 9** and continuing through November 3. I believe this may be one of the most important books we will ever read.



The book has a five-star rating on Amazon, and here is an excerpt from the review:

Nothing is needed more in the contentious dialogue surrounding human sexuality that threatens the unity of the United Methodist Church than a resource created to nurture the souls of all United Methodists. Through an unflinching look at the challenges facing United Methodism, *Unafraid and Unashamed* by Will Cantrell cultivates faith, respect for disparate opinions, appreciation for the Wesleyan means of grace and

commitment to the church. *Unafraid and Unashamed* has been developed to aid local pastors and church leaders in effectively communicating the issues facing the denomination in a manner that strengthens the church. It is a great resource for any United Methodist seeking a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities before us.

I have had formal training and experience in human sexuality and counseling, and I have a wealth of additional literature on sexuality and the Bible that will add significant depth to the study. It will be another opportunity to learn to live out Jesus' message of love, acceptance, understanding, respect, and grace. As the apostle Paul said in Galatians, "You are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Jesus Christ, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." How can we presume to believe differently?

Call or text at 419-360-3097 or email at Ldamato419@aol.com if you have questions. I will be glad to order a book for you.

Lou D'Amato

Lunch Bunchers

The September gathering of the Lunch Bunchers will be on **Saturday, September 9** at 12 noon at Pumpnickels Deli & Cafe, at 2489 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo. Please notify Kathy Moore at 419-885-3918 by noon on **September 8** if you are planning to attend, if you need a ride or can provide transportation on September 9, and if you will be bringing a guest or one of our new members. Hope you all had some rest and relaxation this summer. It will be good to see you all again. Thanks to Betty for taking care of us this summer. Peace and blessings.

Kathy Moore

Women's Retreat Untying the Knots Saturday, September 30 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

At Widewater Retreat Center
4050 Old US 24
Liberty Center, Ohio 4353
(not far past Grand Rapids on old US 24)



What are the knots in your life? Are you looking for spiritual support in dealing with them? Our retreat will include large and small group work, private and guided reflections, and some hands-on activities.

Our retreat facilitator will be Kris Fauver, a spiritual director who has led many adult Bible studies and other religious education experiences in Bowling Green and Perrysburg.

Reservations are due by **September 15**, accompanied by the \$25 fee for the retreat. This fee covers breakfast snacks as well as lunch. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. To register, contact Barbara Coleman at 419-410-1169 or babc1743@sbcglobal.net.

Men's Retreat

Our annual men's retreat will be held at Widewater Retreat Center on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, **October 7-8**. We will be viewing and discussing two DVD series: *Embracing an Adult Faith* by Marcus Borg and *Everything Must Change* by Brian McLaren. Call Lou D'Amato at 419-360-3097 with questions.

Sacred Stories

Sacred Stories will resume on **September 7**. We gather each week to meditate on a scripture, share stories, and pray. Please join us! Sacred Stories meets in the chapel every Thursday at 11 a.m.

Be Part of our Updated Directory!

It's time for a new pictorial directory, and we need everyone to participate! We have many new members since our last pictorial directory was done three years ago, and this will help us all to connect names and faces. If you will be out of town on the photo shoot dates, it is possible for you to submit a "candid" of yourself. We don't want to leave anyone out!

Photographs will be taken on **Sunday, October 8; Monday, October 9; and Tuesday, October 10**. You can make your appointment on Sundays in September after church.

The new directory will be smaller (about 6 x 9 inches), with a spiral binding. There is also a mobile version available for your smartphone.

Every person or family in the directory will receive a free 8 x 10 print of the photo they choose, as well as a copy of the directory. Naturally, you will have the chance to buy as many copies and poses as you like from Lifetouch, but there will be no pressure to make a purchase. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, you will be able to see immediately how your photos turned out and place your order all at the same appointment.

Lifetouch is offering a 30 percent discount on Christmas cards, so be thinking about that. If you bring a donation of food or a personal needs item for The Bridge, you will receive an additional \$5 coupon toward your photo purchase.

Choir Dedication Sunday

On **Sunday, September 24**, our choirs will be dedicated for service for the coming season.

Please pray for the dedicated folks who faithfully give their time to rehearsal each week, and lend their talents to lead in worship. Soli Deo Gloria!

Volunteers Still Needed for Clean Your Streams 21

On **September 23**, Monroe Street Church will host one of the three volunteer kickoffs on the Ottawa River for the Toledo area's largest waterway cleanup, Clean Your Streams. Clean Your Streams is an annual campaign sponsored by Partners for Clean Streams and is part of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Clean-up, which addresses the problem of marine debris in more than 90 countries world-wide. Approximately 150 youth and their leaders will gather at 8:00 a.m. for registration and a continental breakfast organized by Marilyn Lodge. Orientation at 8:30 a.m. will be followed by the cleanup from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. An appreciation picnic will be held for all participating volunteers at the conclusion of the event at the Lucas County Recreation Center.

In addition to cleanup volunteers, volunteers will be needed to assist with hospitality, to help register participants and to provide leadership as Site Captains to participating groups during the actual cleanup. Site Captains are especially needed because the 50th anniversary of Toledo Campus Ministry will be celebrated the same day. If you can help, please contact Marilyn Lodge (419) 842-0070 for hospitality and Kickoff Coordinator Marilyn DuFour (419) 491-8072 for all other volunteer opportunities.

2017-2018 Concert Series

Announcing the first concert of our Concert Series season:

Sunday, September 17, 3:00 p.m.
Afternoon Music With Friends

- Featuring Toledo musicians Allison Klein, Gwen Senerius, Amanda Stierman, and Karen Vollmer.
- Music includes compositions by both Mendelssohns, Gershwin, Mozart, Mancini, and others.

This is a benefit concert to raise funding for this Concert Series season. The coffers are almost completely empty, so please come and enjoy a marvelous afternoon of music and plan to give generously. For more information feel free to contact Denise Mathias, 419-473-1167, ext. 230 or dmathias@monroestumc.com.

Gifts of Caring

Do you sew, knit, crochet, embroider, quilt or weave? Would you like to learn to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, quilt or weave? Join us monthly to create gifts of caring for variety of outreach/mission projects of Monroe Street UMC.

We have made and distributed prayer shawls, blankets, school bags, lap robes, toys, and baby items. Other possible projects include walker/wheel chair bags; weighted blankets; shorts, slacks, skirts, or jumpers for school uniforms; pillow cases; dish towels; pillows; or items needed around the church.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 1 (formerly Homebuilders).

If you would like to participate but can't attend at this time, please let us know. If there is enough interest, we could also meet on a different day and/or time. Contact Peg Hull @ 419-822-9424, 419-349-7154, mhsld@yahoo.com for more information.

Kairos Cookie Baking Alert!



Please call either Dwight Petty (567-322-1153) or Chuck Thayer (419-508-8913), or

see them Sunday after church, to sign up for baking cookies for the upcoming Kairos XXIX prison ministry weekend. Each of them, like all the retreat helpers, is responsible for lining up 130 dozen cookies!

Homemade cookies are provided throughout the retreat weekend to all of the Toledo Correctional Institution inmates and staff in generous numbers – symbolic of God’s generous love. You too can help spread this caring. Cookies, in 2 dozen bags, are due **September 10 – 14**. Chuck and Dwight will provide you with bags and necessary instructions. The TOCI inmates will be grateful – in more ways than one!

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2018

Pastor Larry would like to lead a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land **February 19 through February 28**. There are many tour companies that take people to the Holy Land; however, they are "Tour" companies, often with weak Biblical interpretation and without much opportunity to learn about the people who live there. Larry works with the Society for Biblical Studies, which is committed to socially responsible travel and quality scholarship. Experiencing the land of the Bible can make it come alive and can transform one's faith.

The basic cost of the program is \$3,000. Domestic travel, lunch, tips and souvenirs can bring the total closer to \$3,500. Larry is looking for a group of 16 in order to craft the trip to our own specifications. Contact Larry to let him know of your interest.

CROP Walk

The 2017 CROP Walk will take place on **Sunday, October 22**, starting at 1:00 p.m. at the University of Toledo. The CROP Walk raises funds for hunger relief activities. A portion of the Walk proceeds (25%) supports the local Feed Your Neighbor program run by Toledo Area Ministry. The remainder is used by Church World Service to support hunger relief efforts in the United States and around the world. If you are interested in participating in the walk and recruiting sponsors, please see Kevin Mulder (419-539-2604).

Volunteers Needed Can you help?

We need for volunteers to help with **counting the Sunday morning offering**. This is an important task that has traditionally been done immediately after the Sunday morning worship service, but a change to Monday or even Tuesday is being considered, depending on the availability of volunteers.

Also, additional **ushers** are needed for Sunday morning worship. Please contact Jerry Charles at 419-872-1289 or 419-345-8791 if you are willing to serve in either of these ways.

Congregational Care

We recently sent "Thinking of You" cards to our shut-ins. Currently we are calling lapsed members to inform them about Rally Day and are making quarterly visits to shut-ins.

Kudos to the people who help with our mailings:

To shut-ins: Gerry young

To college students/military youth:
Ellen Steiner and Elizabeth Mulder

Home Touch newsletter: Stephanie Beckman

Postlude

Worship of God should be a sacred and holy time for congregational members to come together in love for one another and praise to our creator. But what makes it so? It is clearly different for each person. The liturgy, the preaching, the music, the people, all are components. Yet, what speaks to one, may not speak to another. Too often I have found that we make the mistake of thinking that what really puts me into a worshipful place should work for everyone else as well.

As a pastor, I have been in the middle of conversations about worship from my first appointment in 1980. I hear it from many points of view. Sometimes persons have no tolerance for the wishes of others in the congregation. They only see it through their own lens. The United Methodist Church places the authority on the pastor to determine how a worship service will be conducted. It is not an easy place to be, when there are competing ideas about nearly every element of worship in every congregation I have served.

One way that congregations address these differing desires is to have multiple services with different styles. This may work in larger congregations, but not for smaller ones. Also, having different style services often leads to very separate congregations.

Not only as a pastor do I have a responsibility to address the desires of the congregants, but I have to be thinking about the future of the church. I have to understand trends and new directions so that we might appeal to the next generation of members.

When I arrived at Monroe Street two years ago, I was made aware of a desire for a change in worship by a number of people. They asked that we either not have a postlude (music on organ after the Benediction) where people have to sit down or that we just let people get up during the postlude. It was not that any

of them didn't appreciate the work our music director puts into the postlude. They just felt that it dragged out the service. I also heard people say that they did not like the clapping after the postlude. One thing I noticed each week is that even though the bulletin asked people to be seated during the postlude, visitors almost always stood up to leave. They would look around at everyone sitting and then would usually sheepishly sit down. I also felt bad for them. Many would express their embarrassment to me.

I knew that there were many people who appreciated the postlude just the way it was. In an effort to try some sort of compromise, we took out of the bulletin the direction that people were to sit during the postlude. I told some of those who wanted to get up during the postlude that we would no longer require them to sit. So for a period of time some got up and some sat. This turned out to be a very undesirable situation. One person demanded that I make people sit during the postlude. I was told it was disrespectful to our organist. I saw people glaring at other parishioners who were either sitting or not sitting, depending upon their point of view. It was clear that this was not going to work.

I had to make one of those decisions that I knew would not be able to satisfy everyone – that we will no longer have a postlude. I did so for several reasons. I, of course, value and appreciate all who have been part of Monroe Street for many years, and I also have a great concern for always making our visitors feel comfortable. Having visitors telling me about their embarrassment at the end of the service was a concern. Second, our service often runs over an hour. While I don't feel we should always be constrained by the clock, I do believe we should be sensitive to people's time. The postlude extends the time of the service. Third, for those who enjoy the organ,

they hear it many times in the service. Most of the songs that we sing are played on the organ. The prelude is mostly played on the organ, as the offertory is as well. And finally, we have been having recorded contemporary Christian music played as background after the benediction. We have a significant number of members, who while appreciating the classical tradition of Monroe Street, want to hear more contemporary songs as well.

I heard a church growth expert say that if you like every part of the worship service, than you are excluding a large segment of the congregation. His point is that we need to make space for others tastes and desires. I pray that we will be open to the diversity of expressions of worship that are available to us and can celebrate even those things that don't speak to us, but do to others.

Pastor Larry

Partnering with Habitat for Humanity for our Neighbors

Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity has expressed interest in working with our church on a Rehab project in our immediate neighborhood. The project would provide a homeowner with needed home improvements, such as house painting, new windows, etc.

Completed applications from homeowners in our BUMA (Bancroft-Upton-Monroe-Auburn) neighborhood did not arrive in time for a September collaboration as originally hoped. Therefore, the church and the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center will continue to promote the homeowners' application process for a 2018 Rehab project – stay tuned!

Holy Listening with Pastor Elizabeth

As I was preparing for Freedom School, spiritual director Lacy Finn Borgo trained me in a practice she calls "Holy Listening." Holy Listening is a ministry with children and youth that seeks to help young people make meaning out of their life experiences. This year, I hope to be a Holy Listener for children and youth in our church family and in our community.

As a Holy Listener, I will create a safe, holy space for a young person to share his or her stories. I will offer my undivided attention, honor the young person's thoughts and feelings, and then help each one recognize and respond to the movement of God in their lives. Through the process of Holy Listening, we will respond to the Holy Spirit's gentle guidance, and discover how to live meaningfully with God.

Each Holy Listening session lasts between 30 and 45 minutes, depending on the age of the child or youth. The young person, the parent/guardian, and I will determine how often we meet.

Although confidentiality and safety are of the utmost importance, Holy Listening is not counseling, psychotherapy or a "fix it" methodology. However, if abuse is suspected or the young person is a danger to himself or others, I will notify the authorities as required by law.

Young people choose to participate in Holy Listening. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about this spiritual direction experience, please talk with me.

A Thank You Note

Thank you for the beautiful blue prayer shawl. Thank you for praying for me.

Jean Marley

Save the Date for Sacred Grounds Workshop II

Sacred Grounds is a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Garden for Wildlife certification program for faith communities. (For more information see www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife.aspx.) As part of a pilot project in the Great Lakes region, a second Sacred Grounds Workshop is scheduled in the Toledo area on Sunday afternoon, **October 15**. This second workshop will focus on the specifics of implementing the program and answer the question, "How can my faith community do this?" Save the date and watch for details in the October edition of *The Voice*.

Music Initiative to the Community

Young Voices of Greater Toledo, our children's choir in residence, is beginning their 6th season! We would really like to grow our group this year, and are challenging everyone to invite a child to come "try us out."

Enrollment events are held on two Tuesdays, **August 29 and September 5**, at 6:00 p.m. Parents get the opportunity to meet staff and ask questions, and children sing for a brief and friendly vocal evaluation. Two concerts are planned this year and three community performances are in the works.



For more info contact Denise Mathias at 419-473-1167, ext. 230 or youngvoicestoledo@yahoo.com. Check out our website: www.yvgt.org

Monroe Street Receives Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs Grant

Monroe Street Church has been awarded \$34,597 for the purpose of providing Pastor Larry and Denise with a three month sabbatical beginning just after Easter next year. The grant provides not only support for Larry and Denise, but also for the hiring of ministerial support. Rev. Bill Hull has agreed to fill that position for the length of the Sabbatical to work alongside Pastor Elizabeth.

The theme of Pastor Larry's sabbatical is "Journeying with the Children of the Promise." While traveling across country with their travel trailer, Larry will continue his study and writing on the covenant relationship of God with the families of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob from Genesis, which he has entitled "Children of the Promise." On their journey Denise and Larry will also be visiting urban churches to glean ideas and best practices.

Watch for more details in upcoming months.

The deadline for the October issue of ***The Voice*** is
Sunday, September 17

Please send articles
to Barbara Coleman at
babc1743@sbcglobal.net

Recipes from the Freedom School Dinner

Many who attended dinner before the Freedom School closing program have asked for the recipes. Peg Hull prepared the main course and one of the desserts, and is happy to share.

Army Chili Mac with Beans and Cheese

INGREDIENTS:

1 pound ground beef
1-2 tablespoons chili powder
1 onion, chopped
1 teaspoon each cumin & paprika
1 green pepper, chopped
½ teaspoon each-salt, red pepper & garlic powder
3 cups elbow macaroni, uncooked
1 -28oz. can diced tomatoes
1-29 oz. can dark red kidney beans
Grated Cheddar Cheese
1-6oz. can tomato paste
1 small can whole kernel corn
Water or tomato juice



DIRECTIONS:

Brown beef, onions, and peppers in a heavy skillet, breaking up ground beef as it cooks. Drain.

If your skillet is big enough, add all remaining ingredients, except cheese, mix well, and cook for 20-30 minutes adding water or tomato juice as needed. You want mixture moist so the macaroni cooks and mixture doesn't stick to pan, but not too soupy. When macaroni is soft to taste, sprinkle with grated cheese and cover. Let rest until cheese is melted.

If your skillet is not big enough, put everything into a Dutch Oven. You can cook it from here in the oven if you like, but keep checking to be sure you have enough water/tomato juice to keep it moist but not soupy.



Peanut Butter Bars

INGREDIENTS:

¾ cup butter or margarine
1 ½ cups all purpose flour
½ cup sugar
2 cups rolled oats
1 cup brown sugar
2 eggs
½ teaspoon vanilla
½ cup peanut butter (additional to spread on top)
¾ tablespoons baking soda

For Chocolate Frosting:
½ cup butter or margarine
3 tablespoons milk

2 tablespoons powdered cocoa
2 ½ cups confectioner's (powdered) sugar
½ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons vanilla

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9"x13" baking pan.

Cream together butter, sugar, and brown sugar. Add eggs on at a time, beating after each addition. Add vanilla and peanut butter and mix well. Add flour, baking soda and rolled oats. Spread mixture evenly in prepared pan and bake 17-21 minutes. Let cool. For frosting, combine butter and milk in medium saucepan. Heat to boiling. Stir for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in confectioner's sugar and vanilla. Spread frosting over cooled bar. Chocolate will thicken as it cools. I usually refrigerate it, especially in warm weather.

Greetings from the Neighborhood Center:

Busy was an understatement for what we had going on here at the Center and the Monroe Street United Methodist Church. Freedom School ended on a successful note and we are thankful to each and every one of you who made it happen. Your time and efforts helped us achieve our goal of reaching over 50 children.

Adventure Camp concluded on August 11 and served over 45 youth this summer. Again, thank you to everyone who helped keep these two programs on track.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Hats Off Gala which has been moved to Maumee United Methodist Church on Saturday, **November 18** at 11:30 a.m. More information will follow.

Our final Mud Hens fundraiser was on Sunday, August 27. We look forward to sharing our total profits with you in October.

We are looking for a volunteer who would be willing and able to cover the phones for the Neighborhood Center on **Monday, September 18 and Tuesday, September 19**. Please call Clara at 419-473-1167 if you can help out.

The Center has an **opening for a part-time after school gym assistant**. If you know of anyone who could work 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays, please have them call the Center.

Yours in Service,
Clara L. Petty, Executive Director
Monroe Street Neighborhood Center

Freedom School Litany

Our scholars shared with us what they loved about Freedom School. They helped us create this litany based on Psalm 150. Praise God for Freedom School!

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in the sanctuary;

praise God in God's mighty firmament!

Praise God for conversations about books we have with our loving teachers!

Praise God for reading stories that teach us about freedom!

Praise God for our growth as scholars!

Praise God for God's mighty deeds;

praise God according to God's surpassing greatness!

Praise God for our garden!

Praise God for seeing snakes and for wearing snakes around our necks!

Praise God for our field trips!

Praise God with trumpet sound;

praise God with lute and harp!

Praise God for Harambee and for our songs!

Praise God for music class and for playing musical chairs!

Praise God for drumming!

Praise God with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise God for dancing and dance class!

Praise God for Zumba and Tai Chi and martial arts!

Praise God with clanging cymbals;

praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

Praise God for having fun!

Praise God for making new friends!

Praise God for the pastors!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise God for everything about Freedom School!

Praise the Lord!



MONROE STREET FINANCIAL REPORT

Month Ending July 31, 2017	Current Month	Monthly Budget	Year to Date	Annual Budget
	Actual		Actual	
Total Contributions	\$ 29,242.00	\$ 26,859.00	\$ 220,920.00	\$ 337,320.00
Lackland Endowment Match	\$ 220.00	\$ 417.00	\$ 2,089.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total Foundation Subsidy	\$ -	\$ 5,833.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Lackland Bequest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 20,000.00
Total Other Income	\$ -	\$ 91.00	\$ 5,134.00	\$ 1,300.00
Total Rental Income	\$ 1,795.00	\$ 1,053.00	\$ 17,780.00	\$ 32,565.00
Total Income	\$ 31,257.00	\$ 34,253.00	\$ 321,323.00	\$ 466,185.00
Total Operating Expense	\$ 44,356.00	\$ 49,821.00	\$ 320,969.00	\$ 576,829.00

The income for the summer has been very good. The direct deposit of contributions has kept our income very steady, and has made it a lot easier to cover our expenses during the summer period. Our overall summer expenses have been under the amounts budgeted.

Renovation updated expenses.					
Repair Roof on East End				\$ 48,500.00	Complete
Painting				\$ 13,399.00	Complete
Electronic Sign				\$ 30,968.00	Complete
Marble Slab Repair Front Door				\$ 3,827.00	Complete
Sound & Video Equipment				\$ 127,791.00	Complete
Lighting				\$ 4,856.00	
Restrooms Restoration				\$ 325.00	?
Platform and Choir Loft				\$ 18,671.00	Complete
Chairs for Chapel & Sanctuary				\$ 14,528.00	Complete
Carpeting for Chapel & Sanctuary				\$ 34,534.00	Complete
Painting for Video Screen on Wall				\$ 4,180.00	Complete
Miscellaneous Expenses				\$ 8,880.00	
Capital Fund Drive Expense				\$ 32,981.00	Complete
Elevator Restoration				\$ 8,505.00	
Learning Room Wall Construction				\$ 574.00	
LaRue Outside Double Doors				\$ -	
Security System				\$ 1,976.00	
Total				\$ 354,495.00	

Transferred from Foundation				\$380,000.00	
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These are the current renovation expenditures through July 31, 2017. Quotes for updating the restrooms have been received and the quotes for the elevator door updates are coming in. We expect the work on the elevator, bathrooms, and double doors to LaRue auditorium will be completed by Rally Day, September 10.

Jerry Charles, Treasurer

September 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

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Tai Chi Class
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym
 6:00 p.m. Kingdom Harvest Bible Study

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Tai Chi Class
 11:00 a.m. Cardio Hustle
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym
 5:00 p.m. Redeemed by the Blood Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi Club
 11:00 a.m. Zumba Gold
 5:30 p.m. Yoga with Connie
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts
 6:30 p.m. POUND Fitness

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Beacon and Bridge Bible Study
 11:00 a.m. Zumba Gold
 11:30 a.m. Bridge
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts

Saturday

9:00 a.m. Martial Arts (2d Saturdays)
 10:00 a.m. Savvy Seniors POUND Fitness
 11:00 a.m. POUND Fitness
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	2 2:30 p.m. Wedding: Bach/Wood
3	4 Labor Day— BUILDING CLOSED	5 10:45 a.m. Witness Committee 6:00 p.m. Young Voices Enrollment 7:00 p.m. True Colors Chorale	6 6:30 p.m. Wesleyan Chorus First Rehearsal	7 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 p.m. Mountain Mentors Board	8	9 10:30 a.m. Book Study
10 Rally Day— 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. Multifaith Council Compassionate Community Event	11 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:15 p.m. Trustees 6:00 p.m. Election Setup	12 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Elections 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee 6:00 p.m. Young Voices rehearsal 7:00 p.m. True Colors Chorale 7:30 p.m. Cantabile rehearsal	13 6:00 p.m. Angels' Wings Bell Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Wesleyan Chorus rehearsal	14 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories	15	16 10:30 a.m. Book Study
17 Voice Deadline 12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. CONCERT SERIES: An Afternoon with Friends	18 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	19 6:00 p.m. Young Voices rehearsal 7:00 p.m. True Colors Chorale 7:30 p.m. Cantabile rehearsal	20 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Agape Ministers 7:30 p.m. Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	21 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories	22	23 7:00 a.m. Clean Your Streams Kickoff 10:30 a.m. Book Study
24 12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal 1:30 p.m. Worship at Holly Glen	25 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Jobs with Justice	26 10:00 a.m. Fold and Address Voice for mailing 6:00 p.m. Young Voices rehearsal 7:00 p.m. True Colors Chorale 7:30 p.m. Cantabile rehearsal	27 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	28 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories 6:00 p.m. MSNC Board Meeting	29	30 Women's Retreat at Widewater 10:30 a.m. Book Study

Church Staff

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

Church Office:

Mondays through Thursdays.
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Phone: 419-473-1167
Fax: 419-474-5467
Church web site: 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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