

## Minetto United Methodist Church

Accomplishments of the past year, October 2008–September 2009

### 1. Ministry to our parish

- a. Adopted a church mission statement: **Our Mission:** As Christ's disciples, we are called to advance the church's ministries through prayer, worship, education, and community outreach. We welcome, accept, and support all people into the fellowship of our church family.
- b. All financial obligations have been kept current.
- c. Laity, especially Steve Salisbury, Jim Sokolowski, and Mary Lou Carpenter-Bjorkman, carried out the work and ministry of our church during the period February through June, 2009, while we were without a pastor.
- d. Developed a transition strategy in preparation for a new pastor.
- e. Sunday school class was restored.
- f. Prayers & Squares Ministry has made prayer quilts for 60 people and at least 40 comfort pillows over the past three years and presented them to people locally and beyond.
- g. Gifts were made and delivered to shut-ins during Advent and Lent. Cards and notes are regularly sent to shut-ins and those who are ill.
- h. Prayer Circle meets every Thursday morning to pray for people in the local parish and beyond, including Upper Room prayer requests, which are received electronically each week.
- i. First Tuesday women's group of 11 to 14 met monthly last year without even a snow day. They have been using a Women of Faith book entitled, *Cultivating Contentment*. It is a biblical study along with discussion. This was the third year of First Tuesday and a new study will begin in September, entitled, *Living Above Worry and Stress*. The sessions are such that one can join the group at any time during the year. Study materials are distributed ahead of time. June Tryon (343-9692) facilitates the group.
- j. Book chat is a monthly gathering of women who have been discussing a book by Patsy Clairmont entitled, *I Second That Emotion*. Wynnette Dohse leads the discussion, which consists of study questions, video clips, and Bible readings. The group will likely continue with another book.
- k. Blood pressure screening is offered monthly and records of the results are kept.
- l. Laity and pastor have made many visits to shut-ins.
- m. Safe Sanctuaries policy was adopted and is being implemented.
- n. Eight of our members completed a First Aid Course in our building and are now certified to administer first aid.

### 2. Ministry beyond our parish

- a. Shared ministry apportionment payments have been kept current in 2009.

- b. Collected \$120 in contributions to the Heifer Project to purchase two Dream Baskets containing shares of a sheep, heifer, goat, rabbits, and a flock of ducks and chicks.
- c. Non-perishable food has been taken to the Salvation Army each month.
- d. Prepared and served two Saturday meals at the Salvation Army.
- e. Thirteen sewing kits were sent to UMCOR to be distributed to third world countries where people are in need of supplies like these for everyday survival.
- f. Thirty-one UMCOR health kits were assembled and sent. The kits contain everyday hygiene supplies such as nail clippers, combs, washcloths, band-aids etc. to be used when a disaster occurs here in the USA, and throughout the world.
- g. School supplies were collected for students of the Minetto Elementary School.
- h. Children's books were collected for Brown Memorial UMC in Syracuse.

### **3. Services to our community**

- a. Osteoporosis exercise group has been meeting in our building. Gloria and Frank Bickel and Marilyn Stephens have received Osteo Leadership training and are leading the group.
- b. Concinnity, New Horizons Band, and New Horizons Chorus, rehearse here. Several members of our parish are members of these groups.
- c. Hosted a band and choral concert in the sanctuary and operated a refreshment stand in the park as part of Magic in Minetto.
- d. Working cooperatively with the nurse at the Minetto Elementary School, we provided Christmas gifts to two Minetto families with special needs. Funds were raised with a freewill offering and dinner at the Joy of Christmas program and other donations.
- e. Our annual Harvest Turkey Dinner has become a well-anticipated experience for many people of the community. Nearly 900 dinners were served in 2008.
- f. Our twice-a-year rummage sales provide good used clothing and other items at reasonable prices.

### **4. Property maintenance**

- a. Parsonage bathroom walls were replaced.
- b. Repainted some walls in parsonage and church windows.
- c. Volunteers keep our gardens blooming and lawns trimmed throughout the summer and walks cleared during the winter.
- d. Volunteers, especially Rick VanPatten, provided custodial services when we were without a paid custodian.