Missions Giving

The members of the Mission Committee were blessed with an awesome responsibility at their recent meeting. They were given the honor (by the Finance Committee) of deciding where to send the remainder of the birthday and anniversary money collected in 2009; were informed that the Concession Committee had tithed from their profits to the Mission Fund; and informed by the treasurer that there was a balance in the mission fund carried over from before the merger of the two churches. Since there is such a need at this time, especially locally, it was decided to send the following monies to these missions in December, over and above our pledged giving:

- Christmas Through April: \$900.00
- WAMA (Warren Area Ministerial Association): \$500.00
- LOVE, INC: \$500.00
- Bread of Life Food Pantry: \$500.00
- A Friend's House: \$300.00
- Stephensons (Covenant Missionaries): \$467.53
- Haiti (UMCOR): \$421.24 • All Tribes Mission: \$200.00 • Henderson Settlement: \$200.00 • White's Institute: \$100.00

• Bashor Children's Home: \$100.00

• UM Children's Home: \$100.00

Thank you for all your giving to the various missions. We are the hands and feet of God on earth. May those in need feel His love through our giving and shar-

Music Ministry

Marcia Jackson and Barbara Hart would like to express their appreciation for all those who shared in the Music Ministry each Sunday morning during the worship service. Throughout the year we have been blessed with the Women's Choir, the Men's Choir, the Mixed Choir and the Cantata which was presented December 19, all under the direction of Tamara Spahr, accompanied by Lois Walter.

Others who shared their gift of music were the Senior Choir, God's Call Quartet, Alison Spahr, Mindy Rider, Myrna Neff, Candy Smith, the Praise Team, John Mills, Matt Walter, Bill Couch, Bible School Children, LeAnn Schultz, Randy Hensley, Stacia Dupre', Lisa Voss, and Tamara and Perry Spahr.

To each we say "thank you" for blessing us with your message in music. If you or someone you know would like to share in the Music Ministry please contact Marcia or Barbara.

UMYF

Last month we were able to crank out some great lessons. We talked about honoring our parents and how this is the first command that has a promise with it, and that promise is that if we honor them we'll be blessed. We also had an inductive Bible study in Genesis about the story of Abraham sacrificing Isaac and made a movie in our heads as we worked through the passage. In addition to all of that, we explored 2 Corinthians through a lens of our friends and what it means to be yoked to someone and who we should be yoked to.

I'll be gone from December 20 through January 20 due to Christmas break, and then a class I'm taking in January when I'll be in L.A. for a couple weeks, so Jeff and Marie will be running the show while I'm away.

Upcoming Events:

- January 9: Pizza/Sledding?, 11:30-12:30, East of Chicago
- January 16: Meeting with Sponsors, 4:00-5:30
- January 23: Bible Study, 11:30-12:30
- January 30: Meeting, Worship, 4:00-5:30

Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship met on December 16. Marion Bell provided devotions.



I don't recall making a New Year's resolution last year. I know I have in the past, and year after year I miss the mark.

"Because of Him I again I fail to stick can know that no matter how many times I miss the mark Jesus will never leave or forsake me."

Time and time to whatever I resolve myself to do or not do. How grateful I am that Jesus NEVER misses the mark. Because of Him I

can know that no matter how many times I miss the mark Jesus will never leave or forsake me.

Yes, my friends, neither will He leave or forsake you. What a wondrous promise we have to depend upon. For me this is the best way to start the New Year, basking in the assurance of Jesus' promises. When I feel disillusioned in myself, and this happens quite often, I simply remember that Jesus loves me and gave Himself wholly for me, and try as they may there is NOTHING that can come between Him and me. In Romans 8:38-39 the Bible says, "I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!" (Romans 8:38-39) Therefore, go into this New Year with the joy of your salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

> Shalom, Pastor Kathy

Randy Hensley brought a recommendation for a Christmas family for the group to sponsor. The single mother has a serious illness and is raising two young boys. Randy will meet with her to determine what needs we might meet.

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News deadline for the January newsletter: December 19

United Methodist Women

The Solid Rock UMW met on December 2. Myrna Neff shared a devotional, "I Knew You Would Come." Mary Emma Holmes shared a Mission Moment based on readings from Response magazine.

New business was discussed regarding a means by which our unit might sponsor an activity to earn some money for our mission-directed purposes. A motion was made and passed to sponsor a bake sale and jewelry sale. A date will be established for the new year.

A program of "Advent" was presented by Freddie Couch. Members shared many and varied individual stories of our current and remembered practices in our lives and families as Advent again leads us to the birth of Jesus and the joys of Christmas. We listened again to the various scriptures' recounting of the wonderful gift of God in his Son, then sang the hymn of the Silent Night.

There will be no unit meetings in January and February.

Prayer for the New Year

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow

in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish

blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully. Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember

this year that I am a pilgrim on the

sacred path to You. Amen.



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