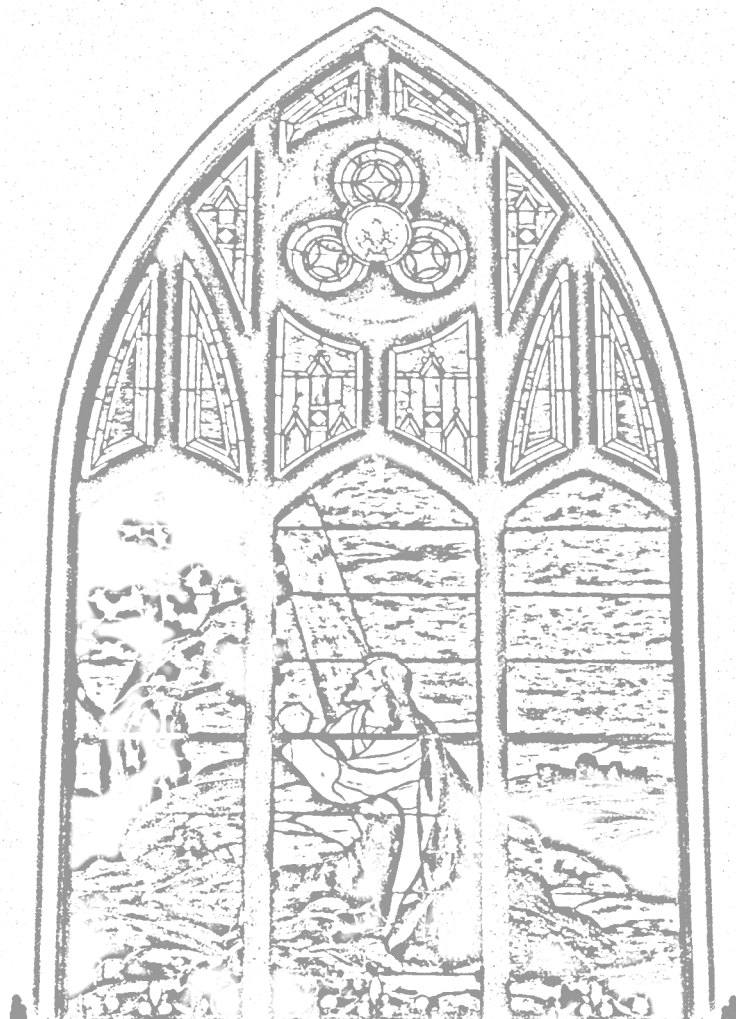


# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**Annual Report 2009**

# Annual Report to Central United Methodist Church

## Rev. Douglas A. Clark, Pastor

January 11, 2010

I should probably start my report by noting the difficult economic times the triple cities and the nation are in, *but there's something about Central Church*. I could dwell on the cutting back of staff in 2009, *but there's something about Central*. Maybe next note that several of our active families have been laid off and some have moved away, *but there's something about Central*. We could think about the large number of people who have died last year, *but there's something about Central!*

There is a spirit at Central that will not be discouraged or defeated. People have banded together in new ways to see that even more people are served in Shepherd's Supper and the Clothing Center. More children were sent to Sky Lake church camp than in any year in a long time. UM Women served within the church, in the community and around the world through their generous pledge to missions. Central continues to assist people in need, offer hope in times of trouble, teach children and adults to grow in faith and offer praise and worship to God.

Especially in the middle of a recession, the people of Central have been very generous responding to the financial crisis last summer and made it possible for the church to meet all our commitments to the larger United Methodist Church around the world !

*There's something about Central!*

In the accompanying reports you will read about the details of the ministries above. I will focus on my own particular ministries.

A highlight of my spring was the School of Congregational Development in Evanston, Ill. Some of the brightest and best of United Methodism around the world lead sessions. Many of the ideas were studied by Central in the Five Practices book. It was great to be with people who had actually tried some of the ideas I had only read about. Particularly salient for me was "worshipping with all the senses" and "get to know your church's neighborhood and find a need and meet it."

In worship we have tried several ways to get the congregation more involved and to include sounds, sights, and smells. We are blessed to have a dedicated and talented worship team, nearly 100 people put the different aspects of worship together.

At church conference we heard from Jenny F Snapp middle school about the needs and opportunities among those teens and their families. The Mission Council is following up with people they know at JFSMS.

I had the genuine pleasure of teaching a study series on “7 Ways to Pray” during adult Sunday School and more recently in Sunday School, I taught an Advent series, “What do You [really] Want For Christmas?”

Confirmation Crew is still a bright spot in my ministry. With the Hammersleys we went to Washington, DC and had a field trip to a synagogue. They also produced a film. These young people keep the energy level high and spiritual curiosity right up there with it.

We said goodbye to Patty Klafehn as office manager and welcomed Pat Breneman into the office. Pat has been very active at Central for decades and has been a great addition to our staff. We also said goodbye to Annette Snedaker as Education and Youth Leader so she could become pastor of Flemingville and Fairfield UM Churches. Erica Heier, long a fixture at Sky Lake, grew up in Chenango Bridge UMC and is now leading Education and Youth. She also shares her husband Brian with us as well as her daughter Charlotte and the newborn Maddy.

In the Wyoming Conference I continue as the Pastor’s Continuing Education Scholarship coordinator until June 30, 2010. Then the new conference will begin and who knows what responsibility, if any, I may have in it.

Speaking of the new conference, all of the UM churches in upstate New York will be joining to form the “Upper New York Conference” on July 1. It’s hard to know exactly what that will mean for us, but there will certainly be a potential for really big events, maybe 10,000 people in attendance! A website has been set up to follow the progress:

[www.uppernewyork.org](http://www.uppernewyork.org) There is also a questionnaire if you’d like to express your opinion about what you want/need and don’t want from a new conference.

Starting last fall I have been taking a course called Clinical Pastoral Education at University Hospital in Syracuse. The focus is on offering pastoral care in a health care setting and much of what I have learned helps me right here at Central.

With God’s grace to provide and the caring, serving people of Central, there will be a blessing on the corner of Nanticoke Ave and Union St for years to come.

*There’s just something about Central Church!*

# **Central United Methodist Church**

## **Annual Report of Programs and Ministries**

Central Family,

The Annual Report is the report of the programs and business of Central United Methodist Church. We are blessed at Central to have such a devoted congregation who work diligently to live the mission of Central. Please read through all the reports. You will see that a lot of work goes on behind the scenes, as well as what you do see, to make all the ministries of Central possible. A huge thank you is in order for all the efforts by all the members of all the councils, committees and teams for their devoted work and faithfulness. Much has been accomplished in 2009, with continued plans for 2010. There is always need for others to help. If you would like to be involved more in the ministries of Central, please contact Doug Clark or the Church office.

In Christ's Service,

Knud Hansen

Chairperson, Church Council

### **Staff/Parish Relations Committee**

The SPR Committee had a busy year. We met with the pastor just about every month with dialogue back and forth regarding the outreach of our church, pastoral visitations, attendance at services and the work of the church staff. In late February we received a letter of resignation from Patti Klafehn and then proceeded to advertise the job opening of Administrative Secretary. After interviewing interested applicants, the committee hired Pat Breneman to fill the position. She has done an outstanding job.

In May the SPR committee received a letter of resignation from Annette Snedaker, our Director of Christian Education and Youth. We again advertised the open position and after interviewing the two candidates who applied, we hired Erica Heier for the position. A reception was held as we bid farewell to Annette and she was given a gift certificate to Barnes and Noble and a journal. Annette was later appointed as pastor to three churches by the Wyoming Conference.

In September and October the committee met and established a budget for the coming year. We also completed a Covenant Together with our Pastor. In November we met briefly with Reverend David Masland before the Charge Conference and the following week we met again and submitted our recommendation to Reverend Masland for the appointment of the pastor for 2010. These recommendations are confidential in nature. We feel fortunate to have an excellent staff at Central Church who work hard to fulfill our mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Arthur

### **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility to manage, supervise, oversee and care for the property of the church. Additionally, the Board of Trustees must ensure the adequacy of property, liability, crime and personnel insurance and receive and administer all bequests and trusts given to the church.

### **Caring for the property of the church:**

- We started the year completing the replacement of the furnace that provides heat to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. This work was begun in 2008 and took additional time and work to fine tune the system to the point where the new furnace is now working very well. We owe special thanks to Terry Cole who spent countless volunteer hours in getting the new system up to speed.
- Roof leaks in the Education wing, north side of the sanctuary, and eaves troughs took a great deal of our time this year. When the work was completed, we learned that a recent wind storm caused damage to the parsonage roof and will need additional work next year.
- The Handicapped Bathroom off of the Fellowship Hall got a much needed face lift under the leadership of Tom Hall. Funding for this project was provided by the Memorial Fund.
- A signage committee led by Bob Devine has been improving the signs inside and outside of the church to make the building more user friendly.
- Snow removal is a part of our responsibility. The parking lots are currently being cared for under a contract with Kyle Wood. Sidewalk clearing on week-ends is being done by volunteers.
- We welcome Bev Cosimano as new chairperson of the Parsonage Committee. Bev has conducted a tour of the parsonage with her committee and Jan & Doug and is working on making the parsonage a better place to live.
- A sunken drain in the parking lot became a dangerous situation and bids were put out to make the necessary repairs. The company that we contracted with also gave an excellent price for resealing and striping the lot and we went ahead with that work also.
- Central adopted a Safe Sanctuaries policy that recommended putting windows in the corridor doors of the offices of the Education Director and the Pastor. Thanks to Bob Devine for doing a beautiful job at a low cost.
- An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was purchased in 2008 and a plan was put in place. Judy Davis conducted the annual review.
- Outside sanctuary doors and trim were worn and needed a sprucing up. Ron Briggs, Tom Hall and Vito Longo put in many hours scrapping and painting to make the church look so much better. Good work!

### **Ensuring the adequacy of property, liability, crime and personnel insurance:**

- Our 3-year contract with Church Mutual Insurance was up for renewal on 1/1/2010 and we decided to put the insurance out to bids. Don Annis, a former Trustee, agreed to head up this project for us. A decision was made to change to Utica National Insurance based on coverage provided and cost savings. Thank you, Don, for your leadership.

### **Administering bequests and trusts given to Central:**

- Central's policy is to place bequests received in the church's Endowment Fund. Investments of the fund are done by Jim Scott; Gail Scott, Treasurer of the Trustees, reports the status of the fund to the Board of Trustees each month. A review is given to the Church Council annually. In 2009 we received no bequests or trusts.

Submitted by: Gail Scott

## **Finance Committee**

As many of you are well aware, 2009 was a challenging year for Central, but as a result of the giving of you all the faithful Christian family, Central met all of its commitments for 2009. This was made possible due to an increase in the support of Central by its members, a reduction in the cost of staffing and the very conservative use of allocated funds by our councils and missions. However we did have to utilize \$13,000 from the Endowment Fund to meet all our commitments and to fully pay Ministry Shares for the year.

2010 again appears to be a challenging year for Central. Accordingly the budget has been reduced as much as feasible. The 2010 Stewardship campaign focused on the program of Central, and what Central means to us. While all the pledges are not in yet, early indications are that we will generate approximately \$305,000 in giving and donations for 2010 which again is less than the budget.

Finance also encouraged changing bookkeeping entries to reflect more accurately expenditures and reported giving amounts.

Many thanks for your financial support in 2009 and for your continued support in 2010.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Weston

## **Education and Youth**

This year brought many changes to the education program. We started a new curriculum with PowerXpress! and changed the way Sunday School has traditionally been done here at Central. The kids have really enjoyed this program, but it was felt that they were not learning as much as they should be- and the teachers felt that they were not able to make a personal connection with the kids. So, as a result, we are returning to a more traditional model of Sunday School. Each class will have its own set of curriculum geared toward that age level.

The Sunday School kids participated in the "CHOW down" and helped bring in canned goods and other non-perishable items for the Harvest Home collection. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade class has won the competition hands down and will be celebrating with a party. We are looking forward to continuing this year and are already beginning to research programs for VBS.

A survey was done during the open house examining the interest in different adult Sunday School classes and educational opportunities. 18 surveys were returned and as a result, we are taking into account the interests expressed when determining classes being offered.

The Davis' and Westons' offered a class in the beginning of the year which was well attended and generated much discussion. It was determined that there is a definite interest in the more 'liberal' side of Christianity. We will continue to offer these types of classes.

Nancy Jones will be leading an adult class on Revelation and I look forward to hearing about the discussion that ensues!

The youth have also experienced many changes in their program- a new youth leader brings its own challenges and rewards.

We had an overnight, went to the Fall Festival at Sky Lake and participated in the scavenger hunt, hosted "Trunk or Treating" (which was very well attended- mostly by non-church kids in the community!), attended Youth Alive at Camp LaDore, and adopted a family for Christmas.

This year we look forward to many 'annual' events (the Valentine's Day cookie bake!!) and some new ones (think cardboard boxes in the parking lot... more to come on that!).

It is also my intention to gather a group of dedicated volunteers to help lead the various aspects of the youth program (events, fundraising, etc.).

In all of this and in every aspect, may Christ be glorified.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erica Heier

### **Worship Council**

Like the rest of the world, 2009 ushered in a year of change for Central Church. The economy in our area is certainly not what it used to be. Gone are the days of EJ, IBM, GE and the certainty of government contracts at Lockheed Martin also appears to have vanished. Many from our church have lost their jobs and have been forced to look outside our area for employment. Combining this with the normal "attrition" that a church goes through, it would appear that Central's days are numbered and this has caught the attention and concern of many long terms members. So, what is the Worship Council doing to stem this trend?

First and foremost, we on the Worship Council believe that Central has always had a healthy worship schedule and presentation. The amount of people involved in putting on worship at Central is amazing in and of itself. Ushers, Communion Stewards, Liturgists, Lay Readers, Altar Guild, Church Office Staff, Choir and music group members, not to mention Pastor Clark all have a weekly stake in what is visible on Sunday. These individuals put in countless hours and when things look easy, this is something that should be celebrated! If you haven't lately, Worship Council encourages you to say "Thanks" to any and all who contribute to worship activities.

Worship Council saw fit to propose to Church Council that we should try a single "combined" service in the months of July and August this year. The rationale for this proposal was to have a larger than normal crowd in what are historically low attendance months of the church year. Also, in the spirit that people lead very busy lives, this allowed many who attend the 11am service to be able to have more of the day of rest to do just that, rest. Further, many who are "regulars" at 8:30 or 11 rarely see each other so

this combined service allowed us to get acquainted again. Survey results are still being gathered but the opinion so far has been overwhelmingly in favor of doing the combined service again in 2010.

Other “scheduled” activities for Worship Council include (but are not limited to): Preparing a meal for a Lenten Supper; Hosting and preparing breakfast for the Music Appreciation Breakfast between the Easter morning services; enlisting and scheduling lay readers; meeting at least once a month except for July and August, organizing Christmas Caroling event in December, and spear heading the decorations in Fellowship Hall for the Advent Celebration breakfasts.

A special recognition and thanks go to Norm Pickering who “retired” as our head usher in early 2009—Norm was in attendance almost every Sunday while in town at both services. Also to Annette Snedaker who served as Central’s Program Coordinator until her appointments as a pastor in several local churches in July.

Here are the current members of Worship Council entering 2010 with an optimistic view ready to take on the challenges the new year will bring:

Tat Baine (Organist & Music Coordinator), Bruce Bishop (Chair), Pat Breneman (Administrative Assistant), Tom Hall (Head Usher), LaVon Hausamann (Communion Stewards), Cherie Heald (Greeters), Jeff Heald (New Beginnings Contemporary Service), Erica Heier (Program Coordinator), Connie Lamando (Chancel Choir Director), Beth Moffitt (Youth Representative), Shirleenn O’Brien (At-large member and Eucharistic Ministry), Carla Wood (Altar Guild)

Respectfully submitted:  
Bruce Bishop (748-6150)

### **Beautification Committee**

The scope of the Beautification committee is to identify, plan, manage, and implement improvements, within and outside the CUMC property, that enhance the physical appearance of the Church property and/or improve the comfort and utility for its membership.

During 2009, our most significant efforts included:

- A kitchen cleaning session where we were able to clean the cook tops, ovens, air filters, pot rack, and pots. Additional sessions are being planned for this spring. Thanks to John and Kate Hess and Bob and Robin Devine for helping our committee accomplish this. Planting flowers in the flower boxes and urns. Thanks to Pat Breneman and Vito for helping with this project.
- The usual maintenance of the landscaping to keep the weeds in check, shape the shrubs, renew the mulch, and edge where needed.
- Replacing over 50 light bulbs in hallways, exit signs, classrooms, fellowship hall, and in the Sanctuary.

- Leading the renovation of the bathroom off Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Knud Hansen, Dave Weston, Ron Briggs, and Logan Hall for their support to this needed upgrade. The \$900 funding for the renovation was provided by the Memorial Fund (Thanks Dick Sprague, Jean Oney, and the Memorial Fund team).
- Decorating the Church with the Seekers the Advent season. Other decorating was provided in Fellowship Hall for Lent and other seasonal celebrations. Thanks to Sharon Kresge and Shirlenn O'Brien for leading this effort.
- Purchasing low cost but tasteful greenery and all hangings to beautify the entranceways and lounge. Thanks to Shirlenn and Jean Rusnak for their dedication towards making this happen.

We look forward to continued cooperation with the Trustees and support from the Church Council as we identify improvements for 2010.

Your participation on our committee, or with any of our projects, is welcome and encouraged. A few dollars and many hands can have a big impact towards keeping the blessing we call Central comfortable and beautiful!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Hall

### **Missions/Social Concerns Council**

The Missions/Social Concerns Council continued its responsibility of overseeing and supporting Central's two major social concern programs: the Clothing Center and Shepherd's Supper. Both of these programs have been in operation for many years.

The Clothing Center supports 80 to 100 families each week with free clothing and some household goods. A staff of volunteers opens the center for clients four hours per week (10-12 Noon on Tuesdays and 1-3 PM on Thursdays). The center accepts clothing, shoes, dishes, bedding, and toys, almost anything the people can use. Clothing that cannot be used by the Center is picked up weekly by the Salvation Army and taken to their sorting station in Syracuse, NY. The Clothing Center does not charge for anything, but does accept donations from the clients and members and friends of Central.

Shepherd's Supper provides a free, well-balanced meal every Thursday from 5 to 6 pm. From 60 to 80 persons are served each week. Five weekly teams involve about 55 workers plus substitutes; each team is organized as a Captain and crew with specific duties. The program is run economically using cash and food donations from parishioners and persons outside the church.

We encouraged parishioners to donate to the following UMC Special Sunday Offerings:  
Human Relations Day (January)  
One Great Hour of Sharing (March)  
Peace with Justice (May)  
World Communion (October)  
UM Student Day (December)

We advocated for donations to Central's Lenten Offering, which was devoted entirely to Central's World Service Ministry Shares paid to the Wyoming Annual Conference.

During the Lenten period, we provided one of the Lenten Wednesday meals (chicken and biscuits) for the persons gathered there for a meal and an education program.

During the period between Easter and Pentecost we advocated for donations to the Wyoming Conference's Great 50 Days Offering, which went to support the Wyoming Conference's work in Haiti and Zimbabwe.

We also sought and obtained Allocations to UMCOR Advance Special programs that provided relief to victims of storms on various Pacific islands and in Western New York State.

As an outgrowth of the Five Faithful Practices study, we conducted a drive in November and December to purchase baby products for use by the Tree of Life Ministry (a United Methodist Advance Special project which works on the Rosebud and Crow Creek reservations in South Dakota). The drive netted over \$800 to purchase five specific items (baby power, baby oil, baby ointment, baby shampoo, and baby wipes) through the Dollar General store nearest to the Rosebud reservation.

In December, we conducted a gathering of children's cold weather items (mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, etc.) and diapers (and wipes) for children associated with the Children's Home of Wyoming Conference. This drive was inspired by Pastor Jan Clark's involvement in the Preventive Services work of the Children's Home.

In addition to the above actions which were done by the Council, individual members of the council worked on the following projects:

- Celebration of the Life and Work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January. This effort involves cooperation with other area churches.
- Blood Drives for the Red Cross throughout the year. Central members have significantly enhanced the blood drives through providing meals to donors and registering donors. A typical Saturday drive obtains about 50 units of blood.
- Monthly newsletter articles regarding current topics in Social Justice.

As the year went on we found it necessary to reduce our council's portion of Central's Current Expense budget. We also reduced our budget request for the 2010 year.

At Central's Church Conference, we learned from the Principal of the nearby Jennie F. Snapp middle school about difficulties that some children face in Endicott. Our work in 2010 will include seeking to address some of those needs.

The following is a list of outside agencies that use Central's building for periodic meetings and providing services to the community. These activities are not under the control of the Missions/Social Concerns Council, but these activities are additional examples of the types of services that Central provides to the community. Many of these activities involve members and friends of Central:

- Alcoholics Anonymous

- Hearing Loss Association of America
- Ahwaga Canoe Club
- Sierra Club
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) program
- Broome County Board of Elections

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Scott, Chair

### **SHEPHERD'S SUPPER**

In 2009 Shepherd's Supper completed its 17<sup>th</sup> year of operation with another very good year. The program served 3,432 guests at an average cost of \$1.02 per guest. Attendance was up over 300 more than 2008. In fact this year's attendance is the highest since its inception in 1993.

Our attendance has increased because of the economy being so bad for we provide a very well balanced meal at no cost to our guests. We also have two very important ministries that promote our Shepherd's Supper: the Clothing Center and Blood Drive .

Meals were served every week except one week (December 24<sup>th</sup>) because of religious services at our church. We had two very special meals on Thanksgiving Day and during December prior to Christmas. Our Thanksgiving meal was turkey with all the traditional trimmings. We were able to serve over 100 people which included our guests and our volunteers led by Paula Russell and her family. Our special meal in December, the week before Christmas, was a ham dinner with all the fixings. On December 31<sup>st</sup>, New Years Eve day, we broke with tradition and served at 1:00 pm. The timing of this meal coincided with the opening of the Clothing Center at 1:00 pm.

2009 was a difficult year for our nation, our community and our church. Our donations were very good but still we are down over \$350 from 2008. In addition, our expenses were over \$200 higher than in 2008. We have no control over the increase in food and gas prices. What we have control over is how we spend to purchase what is needed to make our program successful. We were able to lower the cost per guest from \$1.10 per guest to \$1.02 per guest. Through economical purchasing and our annual Harvest Home donations, our team was able to maintain a very successful Thursday meal program

The Shepherd's Supper team not only provides a nourishing meal to people who are hungry but we provide a place for fellowship, security, and a place where they feel they belong and can know God. Before every meal we have a short prayer and blessing which is led by our pastor and if he is unable to attend, a member of the present team leads us in prayer. Presently we are being led by Christine Fellows who prepares a short prayer with a very good religious meaning.

In 2010, Shepherd's Supper will continue to be focused on maintaining the level of high quality in the meals it serves and to promote God's word. . We are open to and encourage fresh ideas to keep the level of enthusiasm high and also to increase the level of individual donations. Would like to have youth involvement in the program, for there are many family guests whose children would be able to converse with our youth. What is very important that has kept Shepherd's Supper going strong for 17 years is that our Church and volunteers are here for them. By being able to connect, we provide them access to faith and reassuring them that we care... that God cares.

A very big thank you goes out to our five teams and over 60 volunteers. Each team is led by a captain and has between 12 to 15 team members. The team members duties are: kitchen help, dishwashing crew, meal servers, and clean-up crew. We welcome very much those who would like to volunteer at least one Thursday a month for a couple of hours. I always think back to what my grandmother said, "Many hands make for light work".

We presently a volunteer sub list of over 50 people willing to fill in for a team member. If you have ideas or would like to join a team or be put on the substitute list, please contact Pat in the Church Office at 754-6060, or you might want to talk to a team captain directly. The captains are 1<sup>st</sup> week -Ron Briggs, 2<sup>nd</sup> week LaVon Hausamann, 3<sup>rd</sup> week Robin Devine, 4<sup>th</sup> week Nancy Jones, and 5<sup>th</sup> week Maggie Hungerford. . Our hours of operation are one to two hours per Thursday. Time served would depend on what your duties are for that Thursday.

We encourage you to come to Shepherd's Supper (5 to 6 pm) to have a wonderful meal and to experience our ministries spreading God's Word. May God bless you, "In God We Trust".

Submitted by Ron Briggs

### **Fellowship**

The Fellowship councils goal is to offer opportunities for Christian fellowship for the Central family. With the kickoff of the program year in September, we had a brief survey at the Open House, which gave us an idea of what activities would garner the most participation and with some great suggestions for activities the congregation would like to see in the future.

Activities that the committee has sponsored in 2009 were covered dish dinners in the spring and fall. The combined covered dish / Trivia night was well attended in November. We also hosted a game night. In December we sent Pick-Me-Up boxes of goodies to 12 of our College Students to help them through Exams.

Throughout the year the Council sponsors 'We Care Sundays' which prepares addresses of our shut-ins and cards which are handed out to the congregation after each service. Then the person who picks up the address will send a greeting to the shut-in. In Dec we were blessed with dozens of Hand Made Christmas Cards from Melissa Heald's Third Grade Class to send out for 'We Care Sunday'.

Fellowship Council also sponsors each New Member Class. These are held throughout the year usually after the 11:00 AM Service. People who are interested in learning more about Central are provided an information session with members of Central to help them decide if they would like to become a member.

Additionally the Fellowship Council arranges for the Church Picnic each year. This year, we tried something new by having the Service and Picnic at Sky Lake. It was a beautiful setting overlooking the Lake. It was well attended for the first time trying it there.

While we will continue to do the 'We Care Sundays' and the Church Picnic we are always looking for new ideas for opportunities for Christian Fellowship. Some plans for 2010 are to build on the success of the recent cover dish/trivia. This time will be to have it immediately following the 11:00 Service, rather than on a Sat night.. We also will be having 'Dinner with Friends' again in the spring. Additional plans for 2010 include:

- Road Rally
- Central Fest or some other out door activity to reach out to the neighborhood/community
- Outreach to Jennie F Snapp students
- Tailgate Breakfast in Central Parking Lot, prior to a summer Sunday Service
- Continue to seek ways to increase our outreach to visitors and improve hospitality

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda Holly

### **Central United Methodist Women**

"...to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

These powerful words are but a portion of the underlying foundation of Central's United Methodist Women. The executive board is comprised of women selected to represent those in our church family.

Each year we vote to provide a \$5000 pledge to mission, which helps to supply local, national and international needs of people.

Other mission outreach programs include:

- Least Coin - \$80
- Toothpaste kits - \$45
- Church Women United - \$40
- Minister's Conference - \$300
- Lukens/Jackson Camp - \$315
- Haiti Mission Trip - \$400
- Shepherd's Supper - \$300
- Children's Home - \$300
- Pledge to Mission - \$5000

A World Thank Offering is received in November. The gifts received are used to help alleviate hunger and injustice wherever they exist.

Our 'circles' meet monthly for Bible study. They provide feedback to the board on activities and programs in which they participate, and offer ideas, suggestions, and critiques for us in order to better meet the goals as stated in our "Purpose."

God's work is evident in all that these dedicated women do, in group or in their own personal experiences. Through prayer, our journey with God continues.

I am humbled and honored to have been elected to serve a third term as Central's United Methodist Women's president. Thank you, everyone, for your continued support and participation in His Name.

Respectfully Submitted;

Debbie Fisher

## **Allocations Committee Annual Report.**

In 2009, CUMC's Allocations gifts touched a range of people both abroad and locally reflecting our commitment to mission and local community projects with \$3600.00 given in both categories. Donations included supporting flood victims in the Philippines and in western New York. In our local community we supported orphans of the Binghamton ACA shooting tragedy and helped send over 30 campers to the Lukens-Jackson camp at Sky Lake. Within our church itself we also augmented fundraising efforts of the youth by providing gas money for their mission trip to Salem, Maine and support for the annual confirmation class trip.

To ensure that we can provide transportation for worship and missions well into the future, \$2000 was approved as seed money to restart the Van Replacement fund.

Allocations also invested in the future of the church by sending two volunteer leaders and one staff member to a seminar focused on sharing ideas and accomplishments in making the church more fruitful, vibrant and successful.

Allocations is also providing support for the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in January.

In conclusion, the Church's Allocation Committee has touched a broad range of people and finishes 2009 gifting approximately 75% of their total budget.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Robin Devine, Allocations Chairperson

## **LUKENS-JACKSON SKY LAKE COMMITTEE**

### **GOALS**

One of our goals is to recruit low income children for Sky Lake Camp and to raise money to send the children to camp. Our other goal is to encourage children from Central Methodist Church to attend Sky Lake Camp. The Lukens-Jackson Camp was named for the late Rev. Bob Lukens and the late Everett Jackson, who along with others created a one week camp. The camp brought children from differing economic backgrounds and races together with the goal of achieving better relations between all children and adults associated with the camp. We no longer have the Lukens-Jackson Camp, but we recruit children from low income backgrounds and from our church for Sky Lake Camp.

### **RECRUITMENT**

On Sunday, February 1, 2009, we had a program for the Sunday School children and youth and their parents to encourage them to attend Sky Lake Camp. They learned about the many interesting camps at Sky Lake. Several children and youth shared about their experiences at Sky Lake. We showed a power point about camp. Bryant Clark told about Music Camp and working at Sky Lake. Barrett Snedaker told about SNAP Camp and working at Sky Lake Camp. A DVD was shown of the excellent Music Camp concert. Many children and youth and four parents attended our program.

In March, Peggi Eller, pastor at Endwell Methodist Church and director of the Try Camp wrote an article about the value of Sky Lake Camp and encouraging children and youth to attend camp for a meaningful experience.

April 26 was Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Sunday. At Cafe Central, we had a table with a poster about Sky Lake Camp made by Shari Garris and Sky Lake Camp brochures, campership forms and discount forms. Our committee talked to children and their parents about Sky Lake Camp. In the Church service, the Minute Person was Shari Day Garris, a former counselor at Sky Lake Camp. She talked about the value of Sky Lake Camp. During the Children's Time, Pastor Doug came out with a kayak paddle and shared with the children the fun and meaningful experiences they can have at Sky Lake Camp.

On September 13 at the Sunday School Open House, we also had a Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake table at Cafe Central.

Through the support of individuals, organizations at Central, and the Allocations Fund, THIRTY-ONE children were able to attend Sky Lake Camp this summer. Because of Central Church, these thirty-one children enjoyed hiking, swimming, boating, cooking out, and learning about their Christian faith. Thirteen of these children went to elementary camps and eighteen children went to junior high and senior high camps. Five of these children were at the Music Camp directed by Pastor Jan Clark. Pastor Douglas Clark is a counselor at the camp. Four children went to the Creative Arts Camp that Annette directed. In addition eight church children went to camp with discounts provided by Allocations of \$40.00 for the 3 day camp and \$100.00 for a 1 week camp.

Claire Labbe recruits children for the elementary camps and Carla Wood recruits children for the junior high and senior high camps. They send Sky Lake Brochures and forms to the families. They talk to the families they are recruiting a number of times both to sign them up and to remind them about camp and what to bring, how to get there, etc. Phyllis also helped with recruitment especially during March this year.

#### PUBLICITY

Barbara Jones wrote a number of articles for the Church Newsletter to promote Sky Lake Camp and to raise money for our Sky Lake Camperships for low income children. Mary Belle Mitten wrote an article for the September Newsletter expressing appreciation to four people who have been on the committee for many years (Barbara Jones, Phyllis Beech, Claire Labbe, and Carla Woods) plus our new member Shari Garris. She thanked the many people who have helped with the Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Camp and Camperships over the 30 plus years we have been sending children to Sky Lake Camp. She also shared about the importance of Sky Lake Camp. In November, Clare Labbe, who recruits elementary campers wrote an article about some of the experiences of the children at camp.

## INCOME

We were concerned that we would not have enough money for Sky Lake Camperships, because the Shalom Fund was unable to give any money due to reduced funds this year. However, we received \$3,000 from Allocations, and \$622.00 from the runners donations at the at the June Vestal XX race sponsored by the Triples Cities Runners Club. Barbara and Alan Jones both help with this race. In May, we were concerned we would not have enough money for all the children who wanted to attend camp. So Phyllis asked for and received financial help for camperships from several church organizations and The Owego Methodist Church. In addition, the people of Central Church were financially supportive of the Campership Fund. It was a miracle that the church organizations and members were generous enough to the Sky Lake Campership fund that thirty-one children were able to attend camp. We appreciate the wonderful financial support given to the Sky Lake Campership fund.

The members of the Lukens-Jackson Committee are Claire Labbe, recruiter for the elementary camps; Carla Wood, recruiter for the junior and senior high camps; Phyllis Beech, treasurer; Shari Garris, creator of power point programs to encourage children to attend camp, and Barbara Jones, chairperson.

We look forward to recruiting low-income children for Sky Lake Camp in 2010. We hope to have more church children attend camp in 2010.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Barbara Jones

## Van Committee

Compared to 2008, 2009 was a welcomed and uneventful year for the Van Committee. No vans were replaced and, for the most part, both the vans were in good working order during the year. The "Sunday driver" crew of 6 individuals remained unchanged as it has for the last several years. Our "borrowers" continued to be serviced providing donations that keep the van operating fund healthy enough (as it always has been) that the vans are NOT part of the annual Central budget. All told, about 25,000 miles are put on the vehicles in an average year and they once again traveled to several states other than New York. Various groups within the Central community also use the vans.

Since Labor Day and for the first time that any of us can remember, we went more than 2 weeks without having any "regular" pick-ups on the Sunday route. There are several individuals who are interested in being on the route again once the snow flies.

Regarding serious maintenance issues, in early November the newest van had a problem that is forcing a replacement of its engine. Thanks to the vehicle's warranty plan this is not expected to cost Central anything.

The Van Replacement Fund will end the year with a balance after being depleted from the purchase of the new “tan van”. The funds came from the Trustee’s Allocation Budget and un-needed funds in the operating fund. This means that the van program at Central is planned to go on and on.

2010 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> year that Central UMC has had a van. We are recognized by many in the community as a church “with wheels” and also that we are willing to share this capability with others.

The following individuals are members of the Van Committee:

Bruce Bishop, Doug Breneman, Dave Henderson, Dick Place (Vestal UMC), Gregg Wood

Respectfully submitted:

Bruce Bishop (748-6150)