

*In the heart of Lewis Center for 150 years.*



# Lewis Center

## United Methodist Church

*real life. real impact.*



The original church was dedicated in 1866.



The new church was dedicated in 2000.



Our Church Today

# History of the Lewis Center United Methodist Church

assembled by  
G. E. Burkholder

## DELAWARE COUNTY

Much of the city Delaware's growth, prosperity and status as a cultural center has to be attributed to the co-existence with with Ohio Wesleyan University. The abandonment of Mansion House and its sulphur springs as a commercial venture plus suspension of operations at Augusta College in Kentucky were the two factors that enabled Delaware to obtain a new Methodist college, Ohio Wesleyan University. The strategic move came from the imaginative mind of Delaware's Reverend Adam Poe who conceived the idea of purchasing the abandoned spa property and presenting it to the Ohio and North Ohio Conferences as a potential site for a Methodist College.

The Mansion House and sulphur springs property was appraised at \$25,000 but owner, Judge Powell, offered to sell out for \$10,000. Interested citizens were confident they could raise that amount once the two Methodist Conferences agreed to accent the site for establishment of a college thereon. A joint committee of the two Conferences, meeting in Delaware, accepted the citizen's offer on September 1, 1841. Delaware population at that time was 890, out of which 200 subscribed a total of \$9,000. Ministers of the two Conferences added \$500 and campaign leader, and Adam Poe, gave a personal note for the remaining \$500.

In 1958 a campaign among Ohio Methodists to raise money to establish a needed theological school in Ohio was successful. The Methodist Theological School in Ohio was built south of Delaware near Stratford. Here the 75-acre campus of rolling hillside country provides a beautiful setting for the school and its nine buildings. The school, designed for 150 students, was opened in 1960. By 1976 there were nearly 250 students, most of whom live off campus. Faculty numbered 25 with operational and maintenance staff of 35 more.



## ORANGE TOWNSHIP

The territory of Ohio became a state when the territorial government, in convention, adopted a constitution on the 29th of November 1802.

What is now called Orange Township, was, before the pioneer's ax disturbed the native quiet of the woods, an unbroken forest of heavy timber. Oak, ash, beech, elm and hickory abounded, indicating a generous variety of soil. Sloping up, on either hand, from the Alum Creek on the east, and from the Olentangy on the west, the land forms a ridge of some elevation, nearly in the middle of the township, and is now traversed by the track of the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Railroad.

Orange Township was a part of the United State Military Lands, identified in the survey as Township 3, Range 18. It was initially named Virgil Township. This severely classical name was endured by the plain settlers just six days, when a petition praying for a change of name to the more prosaic one of Orange was granted in september 9, 1816

Lewis Center as a village dates from the completion of the railroad through that point in 1850. The earliest settler in or very near that spot was John Johnson, who built his cabin in 1823, just east of the railroad, in what was then but little more than a body of water diluted with a little bit of earth. The first store kept at this place was by McCoy Sellers, and stood near the railroad track when it came through. This building was later occupied by Mrs. Colflesh. The name was given by William L. Lewis. At the time the railroad was built, the company desired to make a station at that point, if the land could be donated. Mr. Lewis and his family had lived there, but at this time he was in California, his family being in the east, the property being left in the custody of Mr. Elsbre. After Mrs. Lewis was informed and consulted with friends, gave her consent, and it was decided to make this the stopping-place in the town. Mr. Lewis returned soon afterward and found great objection to the location of the depot so the company abandoned the site. Through influence of friends he afterward waived the objection.

In 1880 Lewis Center contained a good cluster of residences and a wide range of businesses. W. B. Gooding and A. C. Barrows operated a spacious country store which came close to being like the deparment stores in larger communities. John O. Gooding had an elevator and an implement store. T. H. McMann and Bert Steele were village blacksmiths. E. R. Case sold hardware and groceries. Frank Slack manufactured gloves. W. F. Justice was a shoemaker. William Epler had a grocery. R. C. Hall was postmaster and druggist. An early physician was Dr. P.W. Willey. There was also a warehouse and a coopershop (which turned out 6,000 flour barrels during a year), a good sized school building, and two churches, a liquor saloon eked out a scanty subsistence here. Good schools were a trademark throughout the area.

A lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized in 1870, a hall constructed for their meetings but some mismanagement resulted in the surrender of its charter.

The Methodist denomination was probably the first church influence that found its way into the wilderness of Organge Township. A Methodist settlement on the east of Alum Creek is among the earliest traditions, and a church of that denomination was established in this neighborhood as early as 1823. Later, another was organized at Williamsville, but seems to have died out at an early day. In 1843, the fierce agitation of the slavery question in that body throughout the land, culminated here, as in many other places, in separation--the antislavery protion organizing the Wesleyan Church. This church was started with a membership of 29 and in 1876, they built a modest building on the hill, at a cost of \$800.

In 1864, a Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at Lewis Center, with a membership of 12 (or 18). By 1880 its membership had increased to 90. Their building, which cost at

war prices \$2,600, was dedicated Nov. 4, 1866. In 1871 a parsonage was built, at a cost of \$2,000. Since its organization, the church maintained a Sunday School without a break, which numbered about 50 members in 1880.



**A HISTORICAL SKETCH**  
**Of The**  
**LEWIS CENTER METHODIST CHURCH**

**Prepared in large part in 1928 by Mrs. Mary E. Gooding, who passed  
away December 11, 1933, in her ninety-seventh year.**

Soon after the close of the Civil War, the Reverend James Mitchell came to the village of Lewis Center. He came as the first preacher to a new Methodist Circuit, but he came with a vision – that of building a church. He had served as a chaplain in the Army, and during the first year he traveled the circuit riding horseback his faithful army horse, “Old Sergeant.”

The four-point circuit which included Lewis Center was formed by an action of the Ohio Conference in 1865, taking Emery Chapel, which is now Powell, and Hammonds, afterwards Heath, then Gardner Chapel; and Williamsville (the lumber of which was later built into Orange Friends) from the Worthington circuit, Ohio Conference; and Stratford from the North Ohio Conference.

During the winter of 1865 the Lewis Center Society, consisting of eighteen members, held their meetings in the now-defunct school-house located on the corner of Old State Road and Lewis Center Road.

In the Spring of 1866 the foundation of the Lewis Center Church was laid. The lot was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. William T. Lewis, in whose honor the village had been named, and whose descendents are still living in the community. The building committee was composed of Daniel Kelley, Matthew Gooding, Russell C. Hall, S. Lorenzo Eaton, and Andrew Havens.

The estimated cost of the building when completed and furnished was \$2500. There were four plain windows on the East and West: the pulpit was in the South, and the entrance was in the center of the North end of the sanctuary. The church was dedicated on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1866, the sermon was eloquently delivered by the Reverend L.D. McCabe, D.D. Much interest was manifested, and during the following winter the church experienced a great revival, with the result that the membership was largely increased.

Mr. R. C. Hall was the first Sunday School Superintendent, and served faithfully in that office for a number of years. His zeal and enthusiasm in the Sunday School work was an inspiration to both old and young. Mr. Hall also served as janitor for many years.

Preaching service was held on each alternate Sabbath in the afternoon. As there was a time limit in those days the much beloved pastor, Brother Mitchell was called to other fields of labor at the end of the third year. H. Z. Adams took his place, and he too lived in Delaware.



The next one to come was S. M. Bright, who lived in Lewis Center, and during his stay in 1870 and 1871 the parsonage was built. Each of the four points was interested in a home for the pastor, and one for the building committee was chosen from each place. They were (with S.M. Bright, chairman) Peter Praul of Stratford; Jonathan T. Gardner of Powell; Alden B. Gooding of Lewis Center, and James M. Phinney of Gardner Chapel. The estimated cost of the parsonage was \$1800.

O. J. Nave was the first to occupy the new parsonage. Then came B. Tressenrider (who used to eat a sandwich lunch on the church steps at Powell), A. R. Miller, d. Mann, J. E. Moore, G. W. Lott, then S. M. Bright again in 1885, and following him, Rev. James Mitchell for a second time – older, but still strong in faith, hope, and the love of God. William Abernathy came next, then A. A. Sayre.

During the ministry of A. A. Sayre in 1890 or 1891, Mrs. Sayre helped to organize a Ladies' Aid Society. Previously there had been an organization known as a Mite Society, when the meetings were as an evening social. These organizations have both been of help in the church for the cultivation of sociability as well as a help financially. Funds were raised from such things as oyster dinners, quilt sales, necktie and apron socials. In June, 1899, the Ladies Aid Society paid \$9 for insurance on the church; as well as providing \$5.00 per quarter toward the Pastor's salary.

Our next preachers were J. M. Adams and George A. Spence, who was appointed in 1896 for the second year. The churches paid his fare to Arizona for his health, and there he died. He had been receiving \$650 a year from the four churches, Powell's share being \$230, while Lewis Center paid \$145. J. B. Bradrick followed, then Charles H. Borrer (now living in Florida, having retired in 1939), L. B. Bradrick, Charles Longman, and Thomas H. Housel, who stayed for three years, and died nine years later of appendicitis, minister of Williams Street, Delaware.

In the pastorate of Mr. Housel, in 1901 the church was remodeled, the West Sunday School room added, new pews purchased. The church was decorated with art memorial windows, and the pulpit was centered on the East side. Two coal stoves were brought in to replace the former wood stoves.

The next pastors were Charles M. Hartshorn, F. B. Davis, Peter L. Mark, F. I. Tyler, A. R. Farrar, Dr. Edmund Soper, Ray L. Cross (one of 11 children, who threw away his pipe and tobacco on his conversion, and W. H. Mitchell. About 1907 Gardner Chapel was taken from the Lewis Center circuit and added to the Worthington circuit.

Dr. E. D. Soper of the faculty of Ohio Wesleyan favored the people for a time by his presence among them as pastor – a regular preaching supply at a dollar a week – leaving to teach in Drew Theological Seminary, and later in Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He was later inaugurated President of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware.



Around 1913 the Church adopted the Duplex Envelope financial system. Beginning in 1902 in succession to her father Matthew Gooding, Mrs. Anna Hughes was treasurer for upwards of 24 years, and was later succeeded by Lester Neese. Others in line to the present day are Pete F. Moyer, Harry E. Bell, Birney McKee.

About the same time the Powell Church was taken from the Lewis Center Circuit, and in 1914 Stratford and Lewis Center separated, each having its own preacher. At this time, an adjustment of claims on the parsonage was attempted with the other points of the circuit. On February 24, 1916, the will of J. J. Post gave to the church an endowment fund of \$300, the annual interest to apply to salary. This sum was borrowed by the Ladies' Aid (Mrs. Wm. Hokum, treasurer) for the front porch of the parsonage. The work was done by Lester Nease, but the women had a hard time repaying the loan.

Fred Alkire came next as pastor, then Lewis R. Kennard, who doctored the maple in front of the parsonage with cement; Lorenzo D. Phipps, then Noah Good, organizer of the Men's club, which met in the old schoolhouse in Lewis Center. "And of all the men on this long list, whose names on the Roll have stood, we find in making our history, just one who was always Good."

The next ones to come were Charles A. Hughes, Fred E. Roe, C. C. Underhill (who boarded in Worthington) and Willard S. Fisher, who died in Delaware in 1926, where Mrs. Fisher still lives. Mrs. Fisher organized the Women's Home Missionary Society.

Much could be said of the fine merits of all, but neither time nor space will permit. There have been and still are earnest workers in the church whose faithful service and help are worthy of mention. One of the attractive features of the church has always been the music, of which many have expressed deep appreciation. Among the Sunday School Superintendents have been Rolla Willis, Clyde Bricker, and later Frank Windle, Maynard Slack, Willis English, Mrs. Laird Rickle, the present one.

Gardner Chapel in 1922 was restored to the Lewis Center charge. In 1927 Hyatts and Stratford were added to the Charge, but dropped in 1931. Formerly part of the old London District, Lewis Center has variously belonged to the Delaware District, the Zanesville District, and the present Columbus District.

All Pastors and District Superintendents worked for the encouragement of and for the best interests of the church and its cause. The value of the influence of the church to its community cannot be estimated. Many have gone out from the Lewis Center church, who have received their only religious training there, and some hold positions of honor and trust, who have been made stronger and better because of the Church and its influence for good.

The responsibility and prosperity of the church of the future rest with the young people of today. May they ever be ready to respond to any call to service.

The writer of this history, in her 93<sup>rd</sup> year, is the only charter member of the church now living. She is only waiting till the shadows are a little longer grown and until her last day's work is done, to join those who have gone before.



The remainder of the record has been in the hands of two sisters, each the widow of a former pastor of the Lewis Center church, whose life interest it has been to serve God and His Church, Mrs. Charles Hughes and Mrs. Charles Hartshorn.

Following Robert Reed, a student pastor from Ohio Wesleyan University, E. T. Acord came for one year. Powell and Hyatts were from this time with the Lewis Center Church. James F. Olive, a retired minister, was followed by Harold Weaver, a student at Capital University, who did good work for one year, "switching" sometimes with his brother in the McKendree Church. B. Baughn came, then Leonard Klotz from Capital. September 1939. He was succeeded by Mr. Hilgeman, who left after a few months to take up other work, to be succeeded by C. H. Borror, an old friend now retired, till Supt. Dr. Albert G. Schatzman appointed Paul Angell in June 1940. What more could we ask or desire? Since his coming the church has been redecorated, recurtained and recarpeted.

We have had the funeral of both Ladies Aid and Missionary Societies and have organized the Women's Society of Christian Service as ordered by the authorities of the Methodist Church. The charter membership numbered forty women, hoping and praying for a revival in our church such as it had seen in 1867.

Rev. Charles A. Rowand, a retired minister, living in Delaware, came in 1943, and ministered till June 1945, when on Children's Day he was killed as a train struck his automobile at the crossing in Lewis Center. He had been appointed minister-in-charge of the Delaware Parish, with Prof. Kolb of Ohio Wesleyan, and Odell Fitch, a student, as assistants. Ben T. Crawford took his place, and first preached on September 2, 1945, preaching every second Sunday at 10, with Professor Kolb and Odell Fitch alternating on the other Sundays. In 1945 the Delaware Parish included Lewis Center, Stratford, Powell, and Hyatts.

In 1946 Russel Bayliff was made head of the Delaware Parish, assisted by students Eldridge Holland and Arthur Reith.

In 1947 Rev. Alfred J. Sodeman came to Lewis Center as a one-point appointment, the other points being similarly treated. During the pastorate of Mr. Sodeman, a Building Fund was established to "remodel the parsonage and fix the church", and received \$2327.33 in the first two years. The parsonage had been rented to other families, but Rev. and Mrs. Sodeman, with their daughter Connie, occupied from July 1947, till Mr. Sodeman resigned in 1948, and Calvin Zimmer, an Ohio Wesleyan senior, completed the year, graduating in June 1949.

In that year Rev. Ian Bisset, coming from the Newark, New Jersey Conference, was sent as pastor to the Lewis Center and Powell Churches. The Lewis Center Society cleaned up the parsonage, and the Powell Church gave furniture. He preached for the first time on June 26, 1949.

During that summer, the Lewis Center Church installed a bathroom and sink in the parsonage, and dug a large cistern, at a total cost of \$1345.38. The Kitchen as later rejuvenated, an electric stove added, new ceiling and walls, linoleum rug.



Building plans were altered, and plans for a new educational building were drawn by W. Harold Phinney, for an estimated \$12,000 building. Ground was broken by District Superintendent Dr. Warren W. Wiant in May 1950, and on April 29, 1951, the new building was officially opened.

The Lloyd Zimmer room was so named for the soldier son of Otto and Lydia Zimmer, whose long service to the church in many capacities keeps them in high regard.

To complete the total cost of \$20,864.73, for the new building, kitchen fittings, \$2800 furnace, indoor toilets, decoration and landscaping, the committee had borrowed from the Methodist Union the sum of \$5,000 at 4 percent. The last payment is due December 1, 1955.

But at this date, October 4, 1953, the last check is already in the hands of the Methodist Union. Thanks to the devotion and sacrifice of the people of the congregation, the closing payment was possible before it fell due, with a saving in interest of about \$240.

On this date, we are happy to welcome Dr. Warren W. Wient one more, to warm our hearts, as it were, on the fires of a burning mortgage.

On Monday September 28, the Official Board of the church voted unanimously to add the remaining \$112 of the Building Fund, to the present \$648 of the Organ Fund, in order to make possible the earlier fulfillment of another undertaking.

What shall we say then, to these things?  
If God be for us, who can be against us!

Prepared in the Parsonage,  
Ian Bisset,  
Lewis Center, Ohio

(Original dated October 4, 1953)



### **Additional Historical Information**

This written history was published in a picture directory of the church published between 1965 and 1969. It is interesting to note that in photos of family units, only the name of the man is listed. However, in the address section at the back of the directory, the wife's name is added, but not those of the children.

After Rev. Bisset, Irvin Miller lived in Powell while serving both Powell and Lewis Center during 1955-1957. Rev. Miller was followed from 1957-1960 by Rev. S.R. Martin, retired, who lived in the Lewis Center parsonage until his illness, when he moved to Carrollton, Ohio. Rev. John Priest, Professor of Religion at OSU served the remainder of Rev. Martin's appointment and by appointment of the Ohio Conference for a year until 1962 when he moved to Hartford Seminary in Connecticut.

Donald Sloan, a student at Ohio Methodist Theological Seminary was appointed after Dr. Priest (1962-1965) and was the first occupant of the new parsonage which was built at a cost of \$23,500. The Parsonage Fund was augmented by chicken barbecues at the Delaware County Fair and at the Farm Science Review at OSU which was managed by Willis English. Laird Rickle drew the plans for the parsonage and WSCS paid for the carpet and draperies from funds earned at the annual turkey dinners.

### **Personal Reflections from Glenna Zarbaugh - written in October 2003**

The educational building that opened in 1951 was the addition built on to the church, the kitchen, fellowship room and Sunday school rooms. The bathrooms were built in 1951 added to the Narthex. Kenny and I were married July 19, 1952 in the former church and our reception was held in the "Education Building." We were the first ones to use it and the new kitchen for a reception.

Rev. Ian Bissett married us. I can remember updating the parsonage with running water and a bathroom. Rev. Bissett's wife, Molly and two daughters, Ann and Margaret, were from Scotland and this was his second church. Majel and Cheryl Gooding lived next door to the parsonage in the farm house and they were very close to the Bissetts and their daughters. My brother helped them financially when they got here. You see even over fifty years ago this church was noted for helping others in a time of need.



## LCUMC MINISTERS

Mitchell - 1865

H.Z. Adams

S.M. Bright (during his stay 1879-71 the parsonage was built at a cost of \$1800)

O.J. Nave

B. Tressenrider

A.R. Miller

D. Mann

J.E. Moore

G.W. Lott

S. M. Bright (second time 1885)

Mitchell (second time)

Wm. Abernathy

A.A. Sayre (in 1890 his wife helped organize the Ladies Aid)

J. M. Adams

Geoarge A. Spence (1896 second time – salary \$650 from the four churches)

J. B. Bradrick

Charles H. Borrer 1899 d. 1958

L. B. Bradrick

Charles Longman

Thomas Housel (in 1901 during Housel's stay the church was remodeled and the West Sunday School room was added. New pews were purchased. The church was decorated with art memorial windows and the pulpit was centered on the east side. Two coal stoves were replaced with wood stoves.)

Charles Hartshorn

F.B. Davis

Peter Mark, d. 1939

F.E. Tyler

A.R. Farrar

Edmund Soper d. 1961

1916 Ray L. Cross d. 1946

W. H. Mitchell

Fred Alkire around 1914

Lewis R. Kennard 1918

Lorenzo D. Phillip 1919

Noah Good (organized Men's Club, met in schoolhouse in Lewis Center)

Charles Hughes

Fred E. Roe

C.C. Underhill 1924

Williard S. Fisher (his wife organized the Women's Home Society)

Robert Reed (student pastor from O.W.U.)

E. T. Acord

James f. Olive (retired minister)

Harold Weaver – 1935-37

B. Baughn

Leonard Klotz (1939)



Helgeman

C. H. Borror

Paul Angel (1940-43 ,by this time the W.S.C.S. had been organized with a charter membership of 40)

Charles Rowand – 1943 (retired – killed by train in Lewis Center June, 1945)

Prof. Kolb and Odell Fitch (student)

Ben T. Crawford – 1945

Russell Bayliff – 1946 (also Eldridge Holland and Arthur Reith)

Alfred Sodeman – 1947-48

Calvin Zinner – 1948-49 (bathroom and sink in parsonage and cistern – cost \$1,345.38)

Ian Bisset – 1949-55 (died 1986 – had Lewis Center and Powell churches. Building addition in 1951

Cost \$20,864.73. Furnace \$2800 – restrooms, kitchen and landscaping)

Irvin Miller – 1955-57

S. R. Martin – 1957 (retired) –60 d, 1960

John Priest – 1960-62

Donald Sloan – 1962-65 (First occupant of new parsonage. New parsonage 1964-65 \$23,500.)

Fred Hodges – 1965-69 (1968 Friendship Class gave cross, candles, vases and offering plates to Church. Dedication May 19.

David Harper – 1969-71

Harry Zech – 1971-1980

James Spears – 1980-85

David Elliott – 1985-87 (grandson of S.R. Martin, pastor in 1957)

J. Hughes Price – 1987

Loren Miracle – 1987-1997

Mark Damschroder – 1997-2003

Lynette Decker – 2003- 2012

Assistant Pastors: John Girard

Casey Wilson

Dan Metzger – 2012 -2016

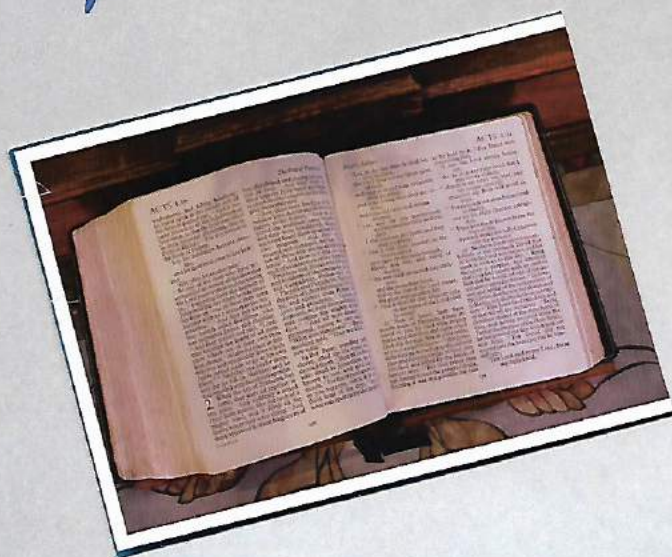
Assistant Pastor: Kristen Lawson

Claudine Leary – Interim Pastor

Tom Hanover - 2016

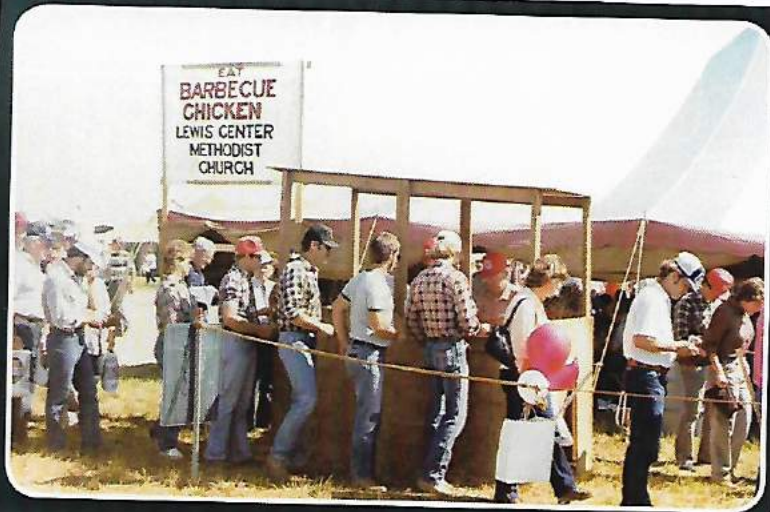


This Bible was  
Presented to the  
Lewis Center Methodist Church  
November 8, 1941 A. D. by the  
Young Peoples Class.





- **1964** - The vision of the Lewis Center Congregation was to build a new church to accommodate future growth. The Congregation sold barbecue chicken dinners at the Delaware County Fair and later at the Farm Science Review to purchase the land for the new church. Land at the corner of Lewis Center and North Roads was purchased.



*Chicken dinners were sold to raise money to purchase land.*



# The Vision

It has long been the vision of the Lewis Center United Methodist congregation to build a new church. In 1964 land was purchased at the corner of Lewis Center Road and North Road. Money for the purchase was raised through the sale of barbecued chicken at the Delaware County Fair and later at the Farm Science Review. Working long hours, at times in the heat, rain and mud, the tired but willing members of the congregation always kept their eyes on "the vision."

In 1996 architects were hired to draw up plans for the new church. Ground breaking took place April 18, 1999. We were dreaming BIG with hope for a large sanctuary, education unit and an all-purpose building. Following the capital campaign, we realized we had to think smaller, and started looking at different types of buildings.

Of primary importance was that the new church have a sanctuary with pews, not folding chairs. Although it caused some dissention because of cost, the congregation insisted that the stained glass windows become part of the new building. They were removed, repaired, framed and installed by Franklin Art Glass of Columbus.

The brick sign in front of the new church was designed to hold the bell from the original church, and was paid for by the Douglas Gooding family.

On January 16, 2000 the vision became a reality as the congregation began the worship service in the Franklin Street church one last time, and then carrying the cross, Bible, candle holders and offering plates, paraded on foot to the new church where the service was concluded. A long awaited and joyous day for the congregation of Lewis Center United Methodist Church.



# Lewis Center UMC: a church built on purpose

By TOM SLACK

Dreams may be deferred, but they will not be denied.

For three and a half decades, the people of Lewis Center United Methodist Church dreamed of a new building that would support the ministry they wanted in their small town.

The six and a half acre plot was purchased 35 years ago, but the congregation continued to worship in its historic facility. Long-time members wondered if their church would lose its comfortable family feeling if it relocated into something new and larger. Many lived in the small town, within easy commute of Columbus, because they could spend their days taking advantage of the employment opportunities in the city and their nights and weekends enjoying a way of life that hadn't changed much in generations.

The church was part of their nights and weekends.

Younger and more enthusiastic pastors enlivened the worship, perked up the preaching, and brought new families into the congregation. It was clear that a new building would be needed, but for then, what they had was good enough.

"When I came here [in 1997]," said Lewis Center UMC pastor the Rev. Mark Damschroder, "the congregation was paying its bills out of the former building fund. It was clear that people wanted to build, but it also seemed that the reason to build was because they wanted to build, and somehow that wasn't enough reason to build."

## A purpose

The young pastor, a newly minted deacon and probationary member of the West Ohio Confer-

ence, was coming home after his years of seminary study at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. A graduate of Otterbein College in nearby Westerville, he had been a student there while his father, the Rev. Linden Damschroder, was pastor at the Church of the Master.

Within six months, "Rev. Mark" had coaxed church leaders to read Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose-Driven Church*, and took them on a retreat to discuss the idea.

Together they hammered out a purpose for Lewis Center UMC: "Energizing Disciples for the Growth of the Family of Christ."

The purpose is everywhere. Damschroder quotes it in his sermons. It appears at the top of every newsletter; on the front of every pamphlet on the Guest Table; and on signs throughout the building — including in the restrooms!

"It's what drives us," he said. "And it built the church. The people didn't build the church. The ministry built the church."

## The ministry

On this December Sunday, the congregation's commitment to ministries is evident wherever a visitor turns.

A table of brochures and information waits inside the front door. "Christian Education News" offers nursery care, three Sunday School classes for children, and classes for middle and high school students. The church has 13 people, a tenth of its membership, enrolled in Disciple Bible Study.

"If you are not praying for your child, who is?" asks the Moms In Touch International folder.

Jim Fischer's 18-member adult class meets around a large table in

the church kitchen, which will double as food gift basket packing space when Glenna Zambaugh and a half-dozen other women from the church prepare Christmas gifts for shut-ins after the service.

Apples, baskets and bananas line the serving counter as intent young adults discuss steps in Christian life.

Christian education activities took a leap in May when the church hired Methodist Theological School student Kate Parks as Christian Education Director. The program doubled in participation, and the congregation began a "Mother's Day Out" program as outreach to its community.

Church visitors receive a staged welcome: a personal note from the pastor and one from a long-time member at the first visit; a packet of material about the church with a pen and a sun catcher after the second; a personal visit from the pastor after the third; a fourth Sunday results in an invitation to dessert at the parsonage.

By then, the visitors don't feel so much like visitors, and they may have been recruited for some kind of ministry activity. Mission Outreach Committee chairperson Sarah Wilson, a 28-year member, may have even suggested one in the original welcome note. "We're just thrilled with these young people who are coming in from our community," she said, seated by a table that invites members to contribute to or volunteer for one of 14 projects that will help families in need through the Christmas holidays.

## Building

The new Lewis Center UMC looks like a pole barn with brick accents and a steeple. It ought to. It is. Designed to be cleared of inte-





NEWSHOUND PHOTO

**"It's my Dad in me," says pastor Mark Damschroder, who prefers a traditional robe and stole for worship leadership.**

rior partitions when the Lewis Center congregation constructs a permanent worship facility, it will eventually become the church's Family Life Center.

At first, the congregation had a four-stage building program: permanent worship space followed by classrooms, more classrooms, and finally a multipurpose building.

"We built the fourth stage first," Mark Damschroder said. Specialized spaces will come later.

For now the inside is warm and inviting. The sanctuary seats 200 in a fan shape, comfortable for preachers, singers and worshipers alike. Art glass windows from the church's older building hang on the walls, warm and glowing in the subdued light in the room. A large T-shaped gathering room leads to entrance doors and into the worship space. It's the only area not occupied by one or another class during the Christian Education hour.

While seating for 200 is twice the old church building's capacity, the pastor said, it's already well filled on most Sundays. Worship attendance averaged 115 during the year 2000, growing toward the end of the year.

There is no high-tech projection system. "Traditional worship suits my style," the pastor said, tugging on his black robe and straightening his stole. "It's my Dad in me." But even if there are no screens on the sanctuary walls, colorful banners are a feast for the eyes in the space above the chancel. "These are new for Advent this year," he said. Three are hanging for this Sunday. A fourth will complete the set on Christmas Eve.

Traditional worship doesn't mean lethargy, however. Jim Louellen's keyboard accompaniment slides gracefully between praise songs and music from the hymnal, as Jim Fischer directs a robed chancel choir.

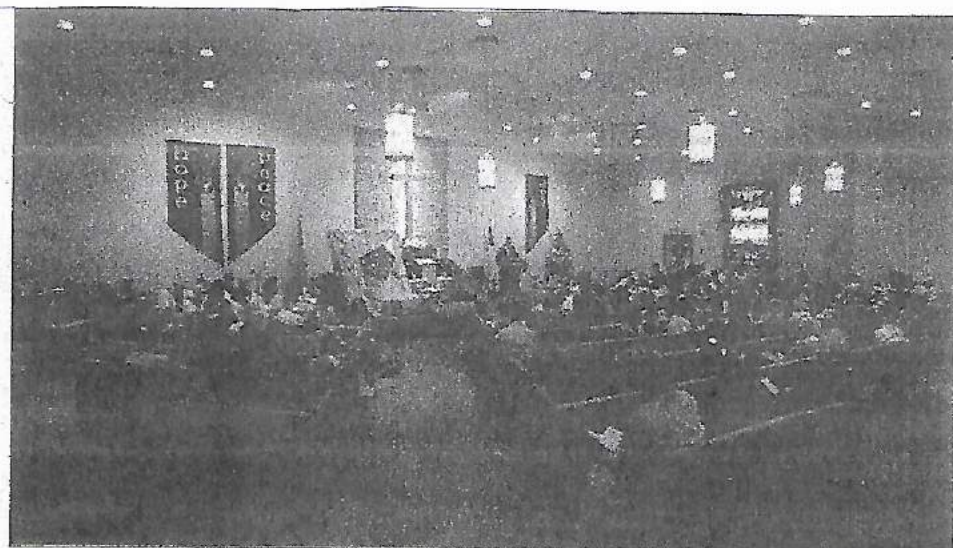
The mix of the traditional and the innovative may be what sets a long-time congregation in a brand-new building apart; that mix and a purpose that shows up everywhere one turns: Energizing Disciples for the Growth of the Family of Christ.

"We're starting the new building committee in the first month of 2001," the pastor said.

*Tom Slack is editor of West Ohio News. He worshiped with the people of Lewis Center UMC on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2000.*

Besides the congregations's gifts and pledges to the building program at Lewis Center UMC, connectional support for the church included a three-year grant totaling \$75,000 from the West

Ohio Board of Congregation and Community Development and a five-year grant totaling \$50,000 from the Mission Society of the Columbus Districts. When we give, everybody gains!



NEWSHOUND PHOTO

**The new sanctuary at Lewis Center UMC has a wall for banners and a semicircular shape for Family togetherness.**



- **1966** - Royina Circle was formed to develop supportive fellowship and expand participation in the ministries of the church. The group was named in honor of Royina Taylor who was very active in the Lewis Center Church.



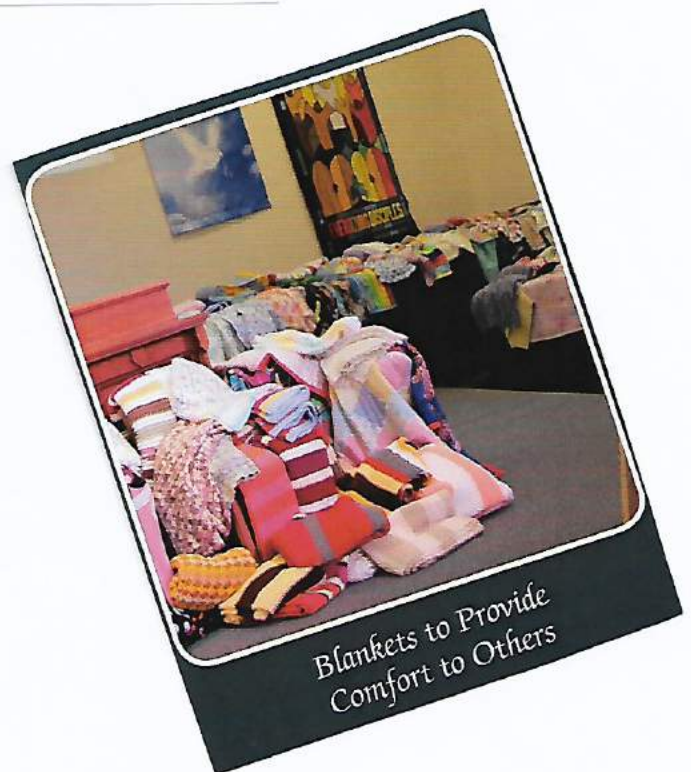
MRS. ROYINA TAYLOR



75 years of Turkey Dinners



Cookie Tray Proceeds Fund  
Bibles for our Third Graders



Blankets to Provide  
Comfort to Others



## *Royina Circle*

*In 1966-67 Dorothy Gooding and Helen Williamson worked to start a circle for young mothers and those who found an evening meeting convenient. The circle was named in honor of Royina (pronounced Roy-eye-na) Taylor, mother of Mary Lou Inglish (Mrs. Willis Inglish).*

*Royina was very active in the Lewis Center Church and was affectionately known throughout the community as "Grandma Taylor." She and her husband owned the grocery store and lived where the Mercantile Building and the barbershop are located in Lewis Center.*

*In the fall of 1972 the Women's Society of Christian Science (WSCS) became the United Methodist Women when the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren (EUB's) merged. The participants were members of the Circles and any woman who indicated her desire to belong. The United Methodist Women met quarterly on Saturday mornings at the church with a business meeting and programs with guest speakers.*

*In 1996 the Royina Circle changed its meeting time from evenings to 12:30 with lunch, program and speakers. Money making projects include the Christmas cookie sale, help with annual turkey dinner, and pledge money from members.*

*Since 1967 the Circle has collected baby clothing for needy mothers giving birth at Grady Memorial Hospital. They prepare fruit and cookie trays to be delivered to our shut-ins at Christmas. They also create handmade quilts for Aids babies, battered women's shelters and homeless shelters. Monetary donations are made to Red Bird Mission, the Christmas Clearing House, Southside Settlement, and the Salvation Army.*

*Recent donations have included 40 Bibles for Sunday school children, four rugs for Sunday school rooms, money for our youth to take Baby Sitting Certification., and the closure between the kitchen and fellowship hall. Over the past 40 years they have been responsible for up-keep on the parsonage.*

*The purpose of Royina Circle is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church. We pledge \$435 to the district each year for missions and thank offerings.*

*All women of Lewis Center United Methodist Church are cordially invited to attend these monthly meetings. Please come join us.*

*The Royina Circle*



**History of Mite Society and Ladies Aid Society  
Provided by Opal Hardin**

The Lewis Center Mite Society was organized **December 27, 1865** at the corner of Lewis Center and Old State Roads with 18 members.

President – Mrs. Mathew Gooding                      Vice President – Mrs. Wm. L. Lewis  
Secretary – Miss Mary P. Lewis                      Treasurer – Mrs. Alden Gooding  
Managers – Mrs. Elyria Wood, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Milton Thompson, Miss Mary Waterfield, Miss Jennie Elliott, Miss Helen Post, Elizabeth Kenyon, Mrs. Charles Dewitt, Mr. J.J. Post, Mr. Andrew Havens, Jr.

**February 2, 1866** – Mite Society to give a supper. Proceeds to provide a belfry for the contemplated church.

**February 15, 1866** – Oyster supper

**May 8, 1866** – Organized Centenary Society. Society to have President, 2 Vice Presidents, 1 Secretary, 1 Treasurer, 10 Managers. They are to pay 10¢ per evening - 25¢ to become a member.

Members: Geo Henderson, Matthew Gooding, David Ross, Joshua Pennell, G.W. Willison, Emma Bright, Mrs. Matthew Gooding, Lide Lewis, Edith Hall, Adelia Hall, Arsenic(?) Lewis, Ellie Pennell, Mary C. Pennell, Flora Brown, Rebecca Hall, Phoebe Gooding.

**March 18, 1871** – By laws amended. Members can pay 5¢ instead of 10¢ or 10¢ if they want to.

**June 18, 1871** – Decided to buy a bell with mites from ice cream festival - \$5.48

**June 30, 1871** – Met at Parsonage. Decided to have another festival.

**July 28, 1871** – Arrangements made to purchase bell.

Constitution and By-laws adopted at the M.E. Church Lewis Center **April 3, 1874**. The organization is to be called The M.E. Church Social." Officers same number as before but 6 managers instead of 10. Dues at regular meetings 5¢ or larger.

Rev. Tressenrider, Matthew Gooding, Mary E. Gooding, Julia Brown, Edwin Goodwin, Heath Hall, Cynthia Brown, Lula Pennell, M.A. Gooding, E. Armstrong, Mrs. R. Hall, D.M. Gooding, R.C. Hall, Mrs. H.L. Baker, Ella Rummely, Delia Hall, Ella Gooding, Ella Granges, Dora Mercer.

New members: Mrs. Rilla Scott, Wm. Tuller, B. Honery. L.J. Honery, C.M. Leonard, James Ross, Mell Pennell, Martin Conklin, C. Manter, M. Barnwell, John Irwin, Charles E. Case, L. Slatterbeck, Aly Hall, Prosser Searles, James W. Allace, Alden B. Gooding.



**May 3 1874** – Mrs. H.L. Baker should procure a cover for the organ.  
Nellie Roger, Eli Elliott, John Leonard, Tucuro Eaton, Richard Waterfield, Clara Eaton, T.B. Justice, C.A. DeWitt, Gilbert Slack, Mrs. Tuller, W.F. Baker.

**June 1874** – Paid \$5.85 for organ cover. Paid \$2.00 on Sabbath School organ. Pay \$3.00 for quarring (sic) stone. Mush and milk served to 25 people at meeting.

**November 7, 1874** – Meeting at J. Dickersons

**March 26, 1875** – Miner Case, Secretary – Miss Lida Green, Manager

**February 25, 1876** – Money for social to be used to pay interest on parsonage debt and to buy Sunday School song books.

Last minutes in this book **November 25, 1880**. Met at home of T. Taft.

New book started **January 1898**. Ladies Aid Society L.C. Church (1890 Mrs. A.A. Sayre, minister's wife organized Ladies Aid)

**June 1, 1899** – Former Pastor Re. Sayre. Rev. Bradnick was pastor 1899.

Experience Social	Album quilt	Necktie and Apron Social	Conundrum Social
Oyster Supper	Husbands	Box Social	

Insurance on church \$9.00

**1900** – Pastor Rev. Longman – Will pay \$5 a quarter toward pastor's salary

**1901** – Rev. Hasell (Housel)

Weaving parsonage carpet \$5.36 for warp and weaving.

Powell and Stratford on circuit; also Gardner, Flint Aid, L.C. Aid, Pike Aid, State Rd. Aid.

Had lunch counter at Matthew Gooding's sale

Will paper the church – make sunbonnets. Farewell to Rev. Housel

**1905** – Pastor Charles Hartshorn. Wife died. President Miss Annie Gooding April 1905

**1906** – Mrs. Hall, Historian                      Mrs. Delia Goodiing, First President died 1906.

**1907** – Rev. F.B. Davis, Pastor

**January 3, 1908** – Rev. T. B. Davis

**June 6, 1912** – Rev. Farrar

Calling Committee                      "Society Bank" – Put in 1¢ a week or more for one year. Trying to raise one mile of pennies – 16 pennies to a foot.

Painting parsonage kitchen \$8.35 proceeds of sale and sale of quilts.

Pay \$8.00 per quarter on Pastor's salary.

\$2.00 from sale of comfort. Gave a comfort for inmates of Hartupee Hall, Delaware.

Save all waste paper. Proceeds of sale of it to go for the Society.

Society will pay whole amount of parsonage insurance \$1.65.

Apron sold 50¢.

Whole amount for wallpaper for parsonage \$14.95.

Each member to piece one 16-patch for comfort.

Will have a chicken pie supper. Charge 25¢ for chicken dinners served non-members.

Each member to earn \$1.00 to help in repairing inside of church.

Rev. Tyler **1909** Put locks on church doors.

**1910** – Made donation to family at Orange Station name of Plaul.

Paid \$40 per year on Pastor's salary

**1911** Meets some at the church instead of homes. Pastor suggests Society buy a vacuum cleaner.  
Not acted on. Discussed buying individual communion set "Woodoleum"

**1912** – Discussed "contracting" for seats for church.

Rev. Farrar (about 24 members at meetings)

\$9.75 turned in from sale of old church seats.

Decided not to serve lunch at Pumpkin Show.

**1912** – New Pastor

**1913** - \$50 paid on piano. Society gave not for \$200 to Mrs. Barnes?

**1914** – Motion to buy 24 new Hymnals 48 yards gingham cost \$3.00

Motion to buy lunch cloth and napkins for communion service.

Motion to roof the church.

Sold 11 dozen cream whips Net proceeds \$42.48

Entire cost of roof \$117.71

New pastor cleared \$18.25 at the Pumpkin Show.

**1915** – Motion to pay \$75 on new church lights.

Ordered 50 free copies of "Today's Magazine"

June – Profit \$15.63 for dinner served at Town House.

**October 1915** – New Pastor

**1916** – Voted to pay old bill for furnace repairs \$29.70.

Built porch on front of parsonage.

**1917**– Carbide \$8.15. Will pay \$15 a quarter on Pastor's salary.

Bazaar, Fish Pond, Fancy Table, Total Receipts for year \$287.62.

Voted to pay NO bills incurred by church and parsonage trustees unless previously consulted.



**Mother-Daughter Banquet  
Women's City Club  
Delaware, June 21, 1972  
(Written by Dorothy Gooding)**

W.S.C.S. 1941

(Louise Viers' diary gives the date – the Angels' baby and Allen Viers were both born then.)

Louise Viers' first meeting was at the home of Dorothy Gooding in 1940. At first the organization was called Social Endeavor – in the interim between joining the Mission Society and the Ladies Aid to form the Women's Society of Christian Service.

Some of the members who are now gone, but whom you may remember were:

Wilma Callahan, who made the dossal hanging		
Grace Britlinger, in whose memory the Bible was given		
Okey Gooding	Grace Gooding Hartshorn	Anna Gooding Hughes
Ruby Joslin & Mrs. Lee Grove (sisters)		Mrs. McCain
Ella McKee	Bessie English	Berniece Radebaugh
Faye Gooding	Floy Gooding	Kit Gooding
Callie Moreland	Millie Slack	Gladys Newkirk
Grace Anderson		
Royina Taylor, for whom the circle was named		
Edith Ross, Eva Desgrange, Helen Williamson (moved)		

Then to go back a way, Delia Matoon Gooding, was the first president of the Ladies Aid. Her sister, Mary Matoon Gooding, was the mother of four daughters who were all active in the work of the ladies and two of them were wives of ministers who served Lewis Center. Anna was treasurer of the church for years.

Also, there were two sisters named Slane, who lived on Hyatts Road, where I attended one of my first meetings.

Floy Maddox Gooding and her sister, Kit Maddox Gooding, were also members.

Probably many of you have Cradle Roll Certificates signed by Lydia Zimmer, who always had fresh flowers in church when the season permitted.

Former ministers' wives to mention a few of the more recent ones were Mrs. Angell, Myra Miller and Nancy Hodges. Joyce Sloane, who was the first to occupy the new parsonage. Mollie Bisset, who helped so industriously in all our projects. (Remember her rolling out pie dough the whole day long for the tent at the County Fair?) Presently the minister's wife is Edna Zech, the first former E.U.B. member and a returned missionary from Puerto Rico.



Many of the active workers of today go back to the 1940's:

Maxine Ball	Betty Gooding	Alice Gooding	Opal Rae
Beulah Gooding	Lenore Smith	Dorothy Gooding	Myrtle Gooding Smith
Ruth Stannard	Freda Sutton	Louise Viers	Nellie & Edith Davis (sisters)

Mary Marshall was a member of King Avenue Church when W.S.C.S. was organized and she transferred her membership and strong interest to Lewis Center. Beth Worth joined when she joined Lewis Center, even before joining the church. Millicent Lafler, too, came from Worthington.

In 1966-67 Helen Williamson and I worked to start a circle for young mothers and for those who found an evening meeting convenient. We now have an active circle, the Royina Circle, which includes you ladies present tonight.

June 16, 1966 at a meeting at the church which seventeen members attended, Alice Gooding had baked a beautiful birthday cake to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Society of Christian Service.

A highlight in our history is when Lewis Center was hostess to the District Meeting, when the addition to the church was new (1951).

Another is the Centennial Celebration (1965) in which the women played a big part.

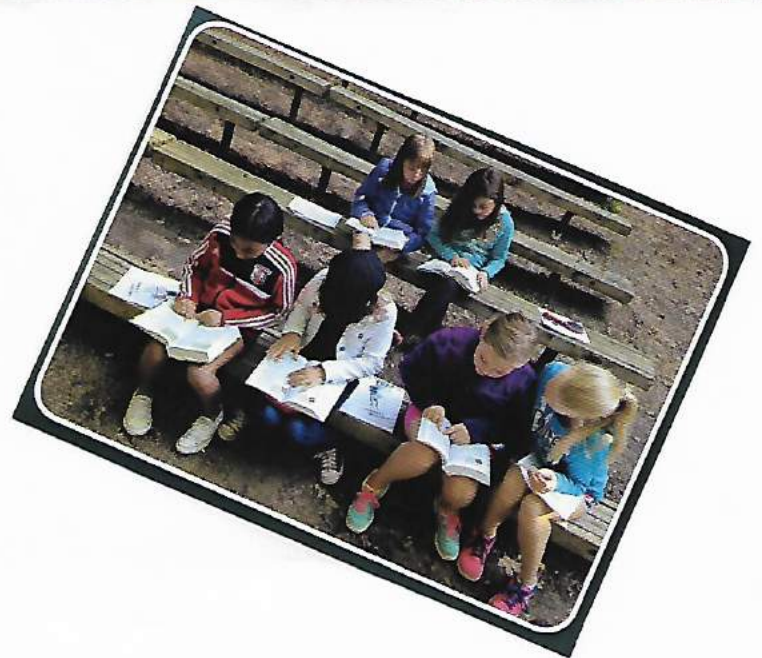
Now this fall (1972) we are to be under yet another name, but still doing the work of the church. With the work of the Methodist women united with that of the E.U.B. women, the organization is to be called The United Methodist Women. We shall depend on our newer members such as Mary Jackson, who gave the outstanding program of the year, and all the young ladies in the Royina Circle, two of whom I especially want to mention, Mary Kay Thompson and Glenna Gooding Zarbaugh, both of whom are members of the Local Church Activities Committee.

A member whose interest and loyalty to the Women's Society go back to these early years (49 ½ years) is present tonight, Betty Gooding. We have a small token of appreciation of her long years of loyalty; she has truly given of her time, her talents and her money.



## Children Discipleship

Jesus said,  
"Let the little  
children come  
to me..."  
Matthew 19:14





# Youth Discipleship



Youth Mission Trip

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of the brothers of mine, you did for me."  
Matthew 25:40





**LEWIS CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**CHURCH HISTORY 2000-2007**

**January 16, 2000** –Final service begun in the Franklin Street church building, then the cross, Bible, candelabra, etc. were carried in a parade by the congregation to the new building on Lewis Center Road. Conclusion of the worship service in the new building.

**April, 2002**-Rev. Mark Damschroder returned from his sabbatical refreshed and inspired to help us be purposeful in our discipleship and transform our church into a vital, growing, risk-taking center for making and equipping each other to be all that God has created us to be. He stated, "This time spent apart has renewed my spirit, desire, passion and commitment to be Christ's servant and your pastor. I believe that the time spent with other pastors (and their wives), congregations and staff members has been one of the most enriching things I have experienced as a Christian. And maybe the most important aspect, being able to take very large blocks of time to be in prayer, devotion and meditation has reconnected my heart to the Lord."

**May, 2002** –Five people completed Lewis Center Church's first 34-week Disciple bible study class taught by Jill Newell and Karen Ross.

**July, 2002** -Beginning on July 14, a group of interested adults began the first of six meetings and discussions of the book entitled *The Purpose Driven Church* by Rick Warren. At the conclusion of these meetings, the following recommendation from the group was presented to the Administrative Council for consideration.

**August, 2002** -For the past six weeks approximately ten members of the Lewis Center Church congregation have met with Rev. Mark to read and discuss the book *The Purpose Driven Church* by Rick Warren. For your consideration, we submit the following.

**Observations:**

- This is a precise, extremely well written book outlining methods to help churches grow and reach their full potential.
- Those of us taking part in the book club gained a better understanding of our own church and where it is headed through these discussions.
- We were made aware of the need to open our minds to changes in worship. We find comfort in the familiarity of traditions in our services and for many it is difficult to accept change. We learned that even though the message must never change, the method needs to change for every new generation.

**Recommendations:**

- As a group, we strongly recommend that the decision and policy makers in our church use the book as a guide to lead us toward our new vision of LIGHT. Use the book to learn what has and has not worked in other churches. Look beneath methods in the book to find transferable principles which will help Lewis Center UM Church achieve whatever goals God has in store for us.
- Urge all members of our congregation to read the book.
- Offer the book club on a periodic basis.
- Inform prospective new members what is expected of them when they join the church, and for long-standing members, educate them on today's requirements for membership and ask them to renew their vows to meet those standards.



- Communication between decision-makers and church members is essential. Every effort must be made to keep members informed of where the church is going, of all decisions affecting the church, and most importantly, why those decisions are being made.

We respectfully request your consideration of these recommendations, submitted on behalf of the book club attendees.

Administrative Council on October 14, 2002 considered the proposal. Following is from the minutes of that meeting:

The committee that was examining the current organization structure of the church in regards to the new L.I.G.H.T. focus presented their findings. Results are included in the attached handout. Jim Fischer gave an overview of the proposed structure. Jim asked the Council to consider other ideas, functions, activities, etc. that don't fall into one of the new teams. After these were identified they can be targeted to the appropriate team. Rev. Mark talked about the nomination process for church leaders. The nominations committee is meeting later this month and will update Council at the next meeting. Hazel Burkholder moved to adopt the new organizational structure for the next year (2003). Chet Cox seconded the motion. A vote by the Council was unanimous in favor of the new structure.

**August, 2002** – the vision and efforts of our church is to put into place a process that better enables us to help move people closer to Christ by discovering and living out our God-given purpose in life. The vision and process has its foundation based on the church's purposes as given to us in the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Adult studies opportunities will focus on four levels:

- Membership: to lead people to know Christ and the church
- Maturity: to help people grow spiritually in Christ
- Ministry: to equip people with the skills they need to serve Christ
- Mission: to call people to the worldwide mission of sharing Christ

**September, 2002** – Working toward our mission statement of “energizing disciples for the growth of the family of Christ,” the L.I.G.H.T. teams were established: **L**ove **I**nclude **G**row **H**elp **T**ell

**October, 2002** – First annual Halloween “Trunk or Treat” held October 27. Cars and vans with decorated trunks were parked pointing inward to create a safe circle for the children to trick or treat. Most adults wore costumes as they distributed treats. Games and refreshments followed in the fellowship hall and a fun time was had by all.

Teens joined a group from Chillicothe for an overnight rappelling adventure in the Hocking Hills.

**November, 2002** – Announcement was made that Rev. Mark Damschroder would be appointed to St. James United Methodist Church effective February 1, 2003.

**January 19, 2003** – the last Sunday in the pulpit at Lewis Center Church for Rev. Mark Damschroder. Last day in the office, January 24, 2003.

Approximately seventy members of our church family gathered on Saturday evening January 18 to celebrate the ministry of Mark and Alise Damschroder (Emma and Ella) and to say our goodbyes. In true Lewis Center fashion, a hearty potluck dinner was enjoyed by all. Several members talked about things that had occurred during the Damschroder's five and one-half years with us, and each person in his or her own way said thanks for all Mark and Alise have done. Cards were available for short written messages which were placed in a memory book presented to them. The Damshrodgers were assigned to St. James Methodist Church in Miamisburg, Ohio. New address 1331 Carlwood Drive, Miamisburg, OH 45342.

**January, 2003** – In redefining our church's structure for 2003, a new element – monthly LEADERSHIP RETREATS - was added to help church officers and leaders (committee chairs and ministry team coordinators) to focus spiritually upon their purpose, which in turn will help focus the church spiritually on its purpose. This is a time for officers and leaders to spend time together in prayer, devotion, study, and discussion, not to do the business of the church.



One of the primary missions at Lewis Center Church is support of Delaware County's People In Need (PIN) program. Donations are collected weekly in the grocery cart in the entryway. Goal for 2002 was \$5000 and we ended the year with a total of \$5860. Goal for 2003 is \$6500. Volunteers from the church work at PIN and at the Christmas Clearing House which supplies food for the holidays as well as clothing, gifts and toys.

**February 2003** - Pastor Lynette Decker and her husband Henry came to us as our new minister. She had previously spent a number of years at the Powell UM Church. They live on a farm near Ostrander, Ohio.

One hundred and two members of the church were invited ten at a time on Friday and Saturday nights to have dinner at the Decker farm to enjoy Henry's delicious meatloaf and to get acquainted. The one strong theme that came from these discussions was, "We know we need to grow, but we do not want to lose our small church family feeling."

**March, 2003** - Leadership retreat will be held six times a year alternating monthly with Administrative Council meetings.

**June, 2003** - Kara Jones has served LCUMC as youth leader for the past two years while attending Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio. She graduated on May 24, and we said goodbye in services on May 25. She touched the lives of so many people with her ministries, especially the teens. These young people have been changed forever, thanks to the love and devotion of Kara. We will miss her energy, her musical talents, her passion for the teens, and her smile. Upon graduation she took a position as Youth Director in the Powell Methodist Church.

Brian and Chris Oliver, a young couple also from METHESCO have been hired as part of our pastoral team to replace Kara. Brian will have some general pastoral responsibilities in addition to working with the Grow Team (Christian education) and the Love Team (worship). Chris will work with the youth, building on what Kara has done in growing that ministry. They are parents of two young sons, Terrell and Michael.

**July, 2003** - BABY GRAND PIANO - Alta Dauterman, a recent visitor of LCUMC, passed peacefully to the other side of life on May 7. Pastor Lynette conducted her funeral on May 11. Her husband Fred and her two sons, Scott and Steve, have requested memorial funds go toward the purchase of a new piano for our church. Thanks to memorial gifts in memory of Alta Dauterman, as well as a memorial gift for (Viola) Helen Ruhl, and others of LCUMC, we have raised over \$9500 for a piano. Jim Fischer's team has selected a like-new six foot, one inch Kawai from Piano Warehouse. Our cost is \$10,500 (new would be in the \$20K's). If you would like to donate toward the project, mark your check "Piano." The piano will be in the sanctuary the rest of the summer, with a special piano dedication on Rally Sunday, September 7.

**August, 2003** - A planning retreat for our ministry was held on August 5, with work continued by Administrative Council on August 11. Questions included *what are we doing* (listing all our ministries), *what makes things successful*, *what needs to be tweaked, revisited or revamped*. Then we asked *what's missing - what do we need to do to continue to be faithful in our community?* Then we listed our priorities:

1. Community - being the center of Lewis Center
2. Facility - need to begin now to plan for the future
3. Flexibility - open minds - need to work on creating an environment
4. Technology - use to its fullest
5. How to make each ministry/program fit our purpose.

Then: Ministry to parents: Mom's day out; preschool  
Mission trips - more hands-on involvement  
Give ministry away - no overload - system of involvement - men's ministry



During 2003 the United Methodist Women paid for the following:

- Parsonage dishwasher repair
- Annual cleaning of parsonage carpet
- Paint for parsonage living room
- Dryer repair
- Purchased 24 Bibles for elementary age children
- Bibles for China
- Purchased 3 storm doors and garbage disposal for parsonage
- Purchased books for graduates
- Purchased two room-size rugs for the trailer room

Total expenses of \$1692. Future projects will include \$1000 for the cement floor in the church storage shed being built by an Eagle Scout and an enclosure for the window between kitchen and fellowship hall. Money for these projects comes from the sale of cookie trays each Christmas, and from pledge money from the women of Royina Circle.

**September, 2003** – Two 34-week Disciple Bible study classes began. Disciple I “Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study” with seven participants was taught by Chet Cox on Sunday evenings, and Disciple II “Into the Word, Into the World” with eight participants was taught by Jean Galleguer on Wednesday mornings.

**October, 2003** – Second annual Trunk or Treat was held on October 26.

**November, 2003** – The 64<sup>th</sup> annual turkey and ham loaf dinner was held on November 5. Hours of planning and dozens of volunteers make this event a success. Hundreds of people in the area look forward to the meal and come back year after year for a delicious dinner and good fellowship.

**December, 2003** – Three worship services were held on Christmas Eve – “A Raggedy Ann and Andy Christmas” at 5:30 p.m. especially for the children, and candlelight and communion services at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

The Christmas offering was used to establish a LCUMC fund in partnership with PIN to help those persons who “fall through the cracks” or do not fit the “rules” and need more help than People in Need procedures allow.

**February, 2004** – The book entitled *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren will be used during the forty days of Lent by those members of the congregation wishing to participate as a tool for spiritual growth. Participants buy the book, read one chapter as a daily devotional, and take part in a small group discussion once weekly for the six weeks of Lent.

Individuals in the church prepared Easter baskets for children at the Methodist Children’s Home in Worthington.

Each month one child at the Home receives a birthday card and a \$25 gift certificate from an individual or group in the church.

**March, 2004** – Many members of the church went to see Mel Gibson’s controversial movie *The Passion of the Christ*, a film focusing on the last twelve hours of Jesus’ life.

An ad hoc committee was established to look into expansion of parking lot, and new possibilities.

Administrative Council authorized money in the John Webber Memorial Fund to go toward the purchase of handchimes (not to be confused with handbells) for a youth choir to be called “The Webber Ringers.”



**April, 2004** – Easter breakfast served by the men of the church. Attendance at two worship services set a new record for Lewis Center – 456 in attendance.

- Sixteen young people were confirmed on April 18 after several weeks of training.

Plans were announced for a new church pictorial directory with photographs to be taken in May.

**May, 2004** – At a Church Conference held during both worship services on May 16 members voted yes for:

A. Permission to proceed with these ideas:

1. Expansion of present parking lot to the East to begin immediately
2. Hiring of an architect to draw plans for remodeling the parsonage for children/youth needs, creation of a new parking area, and reconfiguration of present building to expand worship and fellowship areas.

B. Renaming the Feasibility Team and added members as the Building Team to:

3. Work with trustees to expand present parking lot immediately
4. Hire an architect and develop a financial plan with District Church Location and Building Committee approval. With church approval, the Ad Council released the \$25,000 in our Building Fund to begin the process. After all plans are complete, another Church Conference for acceptance or rejection of specific plans and fund raising proposal.

**June, 2004** – Celebration Sunday was held June 6 to honor high school and college graduates, those completing Disciple study programs, and to thank those who helped with Sunday school this year.

Olentangy Men's Chorus under the direction of Jim Fischer presented a worship concert during one service under the "big top" (a large tent used for the Decker wedding the previous day) on June 27. Weather for the event was beautiful and a potluck dinner following worship was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Contract was awarded to Countryside Construction and work was begun the parking lot project on June 28 should eliminate the water problem on the existing lot, create a new entrance from North Road, and create additional parking spaces near the church entrance.

**July, 2004** – United Methodist Women provided training and certification for sixth through twelfth grade youths to become qualified child care providers.

Since January forty new members have joined the church. Shepherd program in place for all members.

**September, 2004** – Fifteen women from Lewis Center Church attend the two-day Women of Faith Conference.

- Pictorial church directory published and distributed to members.
- Three different Disciple Bible Studies offered from September through May.

**October, 2004** – Membership voted to expand the sanctuary to accommodate the growing congregation, and to convert the parsonage into a children's center for Sunday school and a preschool during the week. Three year campaign will raise \$388,000 for the project.

**February, 2005** – Information was put together by a group in case we are needed to volunteer in areas stricken by the Tsunami, with monetary donation of \$2456 sent to UMCOR for this purpose.

**March, 2005** – Final approval received from the District Church Location and Building Committee to proceed with the building project.

**April, 2005** – A tea party to raise money for cancer research was held in honor of Betty Hamlin, a member suffering from brain cancer. Her testimony and courage have been an inspiration for the entire congregation.

**May, 2005** – During worship on Mother's Day Rev. Cean Wilson presented her portrayal of Susannah Wesley, mother of Charles and John Wesley (and fifteen other children.) John Wesley was the founding father of our United Methodist Church, and along with Charles, wrote many of the hymns we still sing today.



**June, 2005** – Freda Lockhart was honored at a luncheon in Delaware, Ohio as Volunteer of the Year for Outstanding Community Service to the People in Need agency.

- Twenty-one people graduated from three 34-week Disciple studies.

**July, 2005** - Senior high youth from the church went on a mission trip to North Carolina to help with home repairs for a needy family. A worthwhile, learning experience for them and their chaperones.

**August 21, 2005** – First service held in the newly-expanded sanctuary, followed by a potluck lunch and tour of the new Preschool/Children's Wing which will open September 7.

**October, 2005** - Trunk or Treat Halloween celebration held in the church parking lot with cars decorated and treats passed out to our many costumed "ghosts and goblins." Food and games followed in the fellowship hall.

**November, 2005** – Confirmation classes for sixth grade students and older took place November-February.

**December, 2005** - Annual Charge Conference was held December 5 to celebrate our ministry in 2005 and to look at goals for 2006.

**January, 2006** – Leadership retreat held January 14 to determine what our priorities should be to be faithful of our mission of making disciples for the growth of the family of Christ.

**February, 2006** – Twenty-three young people were confirmed on February 12.

**March, 2006** – Weekly Lenten study used the text Who's Pushing Your Buttons?

- West Ohio Conference will be realigned and our new district name is Capitol Area North District. Rev. Cyndy Garn will continue as District Superintendent. Rev. Roger Grace will become the new District Assistant.
- The new pre-school and children's wing constructed in the parsonage passed inspection by a state licensing specialist. Marketing Team is working on the many details (permits, costs, construction, etc.) of putting up a sign at the new facility.
- New hymnals were dedicated.

**April, 2006** – "The Twelve," a drama depicting the disciples shown in the painting "The Last Supper" was presented the evening of Maundy Thursday and was beautifully performed by the men of the church.

SPRC attended both Sunday services to explain the need for and implementation plan for our Safe Sanctuary process for all volunteers working with our children in Sunday School, VBS and Youth Programs. Background checks for all volunteers began later in the month.

**May, 2006** – Men of the church served breakfast to honor our women on Mother's Day.

- The church participated in the first Orange Township Fourth of July parade and festival called "The Spirit of Hometown America"

**June, 2006** – A drama was presented by a group called "The Light Readers."

**August, 2006** – Old fashioned church picnic held August 6 with lots of food and entertainment.

Bishop Ough has asked us to use the following elements in what he calls the "Core Process":

- Radical Hospitality (welcoming all people just as they are)
- Passionate Worship- uniting people by being in God's presence together.
- Faith-forming education and experience – connecting people to teach others and helping them find their place in the family.
- Risk-taking service – all doing our part to transform the world around us.

**September, 2006** – VISION Team established to think about our near future and long-range future.



**October, 2006** – Theme for our stewardship was “In the Potter’s Hand, with a potter working on the altar.

**November, 2006** – Youth from Teen Scene helped bake cookies for the annual United Methodist Women’s cookie sale.

**December, 2006** – Theme for Advent: is *All I want for Christmas: Hope, Peace Joy*. Four services held on Christmas.

**February 2007** – Trustees and volunteers busy building platform for the theater organ which has been donated to the church. Platform will include risers for the choir, and can be configured in different ways for music, drama, etc.

**March, 2007** – the newly-formed Arts Council hosted a spaghetti dinner to raise money for their first drama planned for November.

**April, 2007** – Events are being planned for the new Adult Sports Ministry, to include softball, volleyball, golf, basketball, biking and aerobics.

**May, 2007** – A silent auction was held for two weeks during May with many beautiful things sold, providing about \$3000 for the Arts Council play in November.

**June, 2007** – Our assistant pastor Tom Wilson is planning a discussion or study group for the fall and is soliciting information about the interests of the congregation.

**August, 2007** – Worship service times changed to 9:30 and 11:00. Old fashioned church picnic and organ recital held on August 5.

**September, 2007** - Sunday school classes initiated during both worship services. September communion offering sent to Red Bird Mission to help the needy of Appalachia.

**October, 2007** – One huge worship service held at Olentangy High School on October 7 to celebrate our Trail Blazing stewardship campaign. Service included Rev. Stan Sutton as guest speaker, participation in worldwide communion, and a potluck lunch.

**November, 2007** - A special food drive took place to restock the shelves at People in Need (PIN) for Thanksgiving. Volunteers will be baking hundreds of cookies for the annual Christmas cookie sale.

**December, 2007** – Three worship services held on Christmas Eve with total attendance more than 600. Plans progressing on Habitat for Humanity project in Delaware, Ohio. Twelve local churches, including Lewis Center UMC, will provide funding and volunteer labor to build the first Habitat house in Delaware County.

Although retired, Pastor Tom Wilson, who has served as part-time Assistant Pastor for the past six months, left Lewis Center at the end of December to take over a church in Grove City.

- Once each month Lewis Center provides breakfast and volunteers to serve it to the Church of All People in Columbus, primarily serving the homeless.



## LEWIS CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

2008-2016

2008:

January

- \* John Girard joined Lewis Center as our Assistant Pastor
- \*Leadership Retreat held for all Committee Chairpersons and Ministry work area team members

February

- \*Rehearsals began for Arts Council "You Can't Beat the House"

March

- \*Faith in Action Program kickoff introduced by Connie Eiker, Chairperson
- \*UMW recognized for annual gifts to church of \$6131.44
- \*Arts Council presented DaVinci's Last Supper Drama on Maundy Thursday
- \*Easter Bash

April

- \*Youth implemented the newspaper recycling program to earn funds for their mission trips
- \*Groundbreaking for the Habitat for Humanity House in Delaware
- \*"You Can't Beat the House" presented by Arts Council; \$400 donation made to Common

Ground

May

- \*Music Sunday celebrated to recognize choir and bell choir musicians, and, all others involved throughout the year in providing the beautiful music in our Sunday services

June

- \*Our Relay For Life team raised over \$4000
- \*20 Youth and 6 Adults went to Ashville NC on Mission Trip

July

- \*Vacation Bible School - POWER LAB

August

- \* Photos were taken for our Pictorial Directory
- \*Nurture and Care Tea to honor the Shepherds was hosted by Pastor Lynette. Pastor Lou Seipel spoke to the group and led them in a craft to make personalized prayer sticks.

September

- \*Fall Festival was held "Under the Big Top"; one church service followed by a potluck luncheon, with entertainment and games for the entire family.



## October

- \*Trunk or Treat
- \*Church Conference held at William Street UMC
- \*Empty Nesters attended "Smokey Joe's Café" at Otterbein

## November

- \*69<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey dinner was held
- \*Mitten Tree set up for hat and glove donations and new clothing collected for PIN

## Christmas Clearing House

- \*Harvest Parade for food items for PIN

## December

- \*Clothes for Baby Jesus collected to give to Grady Hospital for newborns
- \*PIN Christmas Clearing House supported by LCUMC volunteers
- \*Teens attended a spiritual retreat weekend
- \*Choir performed at New Albany

## 2009:

### January:

- \* "Parent's Night Out Ministry" - Children were dropped off while The Teens babysat, prepared a dinner and showed a movie for the kids so parents could go out on a "Date" for themselves. The money raised goes to the Summer Youth Mission Trip

### February:

- \* "Wedding Vows Renewal" took place this month of February, 2009. Assistant Pastor, John Girard did the Ceremony;
- \* Eyeglasses Collection for Lion's Club took place this month;
- \* Children's Lenten Series was called, "Leap Into Lent with Lewie". It explored the stories of Jesus and Assistant Pastor John Girard led;
- \* The boys this month, and in June of this year the girls, will go on a three day spiritual retreat called, "The Chrysalis" which is modeled after "The Emmaus Walk" for adults;
- \* Men will go on the 3 day Emmaus Walk this month and women will go in March;
- \* "Financial Freedom Class" teaches, the Biblical principles for financial freedom. Lay person, John Berner, led the classes;
- \* Lead Pastor Lynette Decker has written, over the years, a daily Bible study of the Gospels in book form and online which can be used by our Church Family; and
- \* We started the process of exploring a second building expansion and capital campaign;



April:

- \* The first LCUMC, "Business Professional Networking" meeting took place this year

May:

- \* LCUMC volunteered it's time to do a Mission Project to help paint at the United Methodist Church's, Children's Home in Worthington, Ohio

June

- \* Assistant Pastor, John Girard was commission a provisional elder in June this year, at Lakeside.
- \* Discussions began about significant growth in our Youth and Children's programs with approximately 80 children in Sunday School and growing that we are outgrowing our physical space, once again, particularly for the Youth Program and need additional physical space; and
- \* LCUMC raised \$2,500 for the Haiti Relief Fund, plus made 100+ Haiti Health kits

August:

- \* Our Mission Project for this month was school supplies for People in Need program

October:

- \* Beginning this month and for next three years, we will donate October's communion offerings to PIN's building and expansion program

December:

- \* Scout Troop 843, sponsored by LCUMC, announced this year's Eagle Scout Project is a new campsite, walkway, benches and fire ring on LCUMC property.

## **2010**

January:

- \*Administrative Board releases names of the Committee members for the 3 year \$800,000 second building campaign expansion for the Children's, Youth, Music ministries, Pastoral and Administrative offices space;
- \*Communion Offering will be for victims of the Haiti Disaster, and we're doing Health kits, too;
- \*The "20's and 30's Somethings" will have their second meeting for fun and fellowship and setting direction for this new ministry

February:

- \*LCUMC celebrated the 15th anniversary of sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop #843;
- \*Rozella Miller, church family member and facilitator, presented a "Spectrum Development Workshop" ministry to enhance understanding of ourselves and differences in others to promote better relationships, and why people behave the way they do;
- \*Charge Conference was held to vote on and vote was approved to move forward with LCUMC's second building expansion that included a Youth Room, Sunday School Classrooms, Music Room, Pastoral and Administrative Offices;



- \*We raised \$2,500 for Haiti Relief this month, plus made 100+ Haiti Health kits; and
- \*Our monthly Communion Offerings this year went to "Turning Point" to help fight domestic violence to further our community outreach

April:

- \*\$331,000 was pledged by 36 families to the second building expansion (First expansion was in 2005) which had an estimated \$800,000 project cost and goal; and
- \*We gathered bids for Architects and Contractors for the Building Expansion

May:

- \*Another Charge Conference (5/23/10) was held and Pastor Tom Wilson presided as representative of the Conference to finalize decision to proceed on hiring architect and contractors for the building expansion

June:

- \*LCUMC Softball Team will play it's first game of the season on June 13th, and their first opponent will be Liberty Presbyterian church

July:

- \*District indicated we needed \$125,000 in cash to get started and we received \$131,000 actual. (Chet to check on this) and
- \*\$4,500 repair to Air Conditioning was made

August:

- \*We had Charge Conference and our official Ground Breaking Party for the new, second building expansion during our, first ever, "Summer Bash" outreach program for our Church, Families and Friends in the Community. (See if we can find Chet's sister, Jean Gallagher's notes on the new expansion)

September:

- \*LCUMC closed on new, combined construction and mortgage loans totaling an estimated \$1,275,000

October:

- \*Our 3rd Graders will receive their own Bible, paid for the United Methodist Women, from our Church Family

December:

- \*LCUMC is a proud sponsor of the "Fantasy of Lights" at Alum Creek and our congregation is encouraged to attend.

## 2011

### February:

\*Grand Opening Party and Dedication was held after receiving our "Occupancy Permit" for our new \$800,000 Second Building Expansion which includes: Nursery, Elementary Sunday School, Youth and Children's Rooms, Music Room and New Pastoral and Administrative Office space

### March:

\*"One Month of Living in Prayer" kicked off for Lent, and each day during Lent there were approximately 7 families per day that were prayed for so that by end of Lent all of our Church Families had been prayed for; and

\*"Operation Buckeye Outreach" was conducted from March 20th through April 10th which was a collection of toiletry items collected by the Sunday School students for our Troops stationed overseas

### April:

\*There was a "little" excitement last night before our Administrative Board meeting. Someone(s) broke into the Church and stole all three church laptops; the postage machine; DVD player; tool box and 10 Easter Baskets that had been prepared;

\*We anticipate 200+ children for Easter Bash versus less than 100 children estimated three years ago; and

\*Our Church Family encouraged to donate recyclables in the new Recycling receptical at the back of our parking lot so proceeds can go to the Youth Fund

### June:

\*Assistant Pastor, John Girard was ordained in June at Lakeside and will be transferred as Lead Pastor @ Liberty UMC, Stratford, OH

### July

\*New Associate Pastor, Casey Wilson arrived and was warmly welcomed by our LCUMC family;

\*Youth Mission Trip took place in Middleton, Ohio this summer.

### August:

\*"An Evening with Jim's Jazz" @ LCUMC by Jim Lewellen, our church pianist. It was a concert of jazz music composed, arranged and played by Jim.

### September:

\*A new "Mom's Group" will meet monthly. It's a young mother's support group;

\*Appointments being taken for our new Church Picture Directory; and

\*We are still working on getting the large classroom trailer behind the Church that was used as classrooms and administrative office space, sold and re-located off the Church's property. The first potential bidder, a church in our conference, backed out. We ended up giving it away to another organization



#### October:

- \*"What Did Jesus Say About Prayer", a month long, Bible study for adults;
- \*Leader's Retreat was held from 9-11:00 AM. It was to update our Annual Vision and Strategy for the Church;
- \*After having done extensive due diligence, and an appraisal, on behalf of our Church Family, we decided as a congregation to make an offer on the high side of the current, market value, of \$110,000 to the Conference to pay back part of the \$240,000 original loan on the 8.9 acres on north side of the church, made many years ago, when the property was thought to be worth considerably more than it is currently; and
- \*Our goal was \$443,000 in pledges and we received \$360,000 to date

#### November:

- \*The "71st Annual Turkey and Ham Loaf Dinner" resumed this year. We had to take a hiatus last year because of the building expansion construction, last year; and
- \*"Lifeline of Ohio" Campaign was held here at LCUMC this Month to encourage Church Family members to become organ, eye, and/or tissue donors

#### December:

- \* Christmas Clearing House, part of "People in Need" took place with many LCUMC Church Family members volunteering their time to this very worthy cause

### 2012

#### January:

- \* It was announced we had 1,015 adults and children for Christmas services, last month;
- \* New Pastoral titles, announced: Our Lead & Visionary Pastor is Lynette Decker and Casey Wilson is our Executive & Communications, Pastor; and
- \* We continue to recruit, for "Common Ground" volunteers. Common Ground is a community outreach program in Delaware, Ohio

#### February:

- \* Our Lenten program starts on February 28th, on Tuesday's 7-8:30 PM. It will be the study of the book, "Spirituality for the Rest of Us", a down to earth guide to knowing God;
- \* LCUMC will hold another of it's regularly scheduled Blood Drives here at the Church;
- \* It was announced that Pastor Lynette Decker, our Lead & Visionary Pastor will be retiring on July 1, 2012. It was announced soon after that Pastor, Dan Metzger, would be our new Lead Pastor;
- \* A new, "Food Critic's of Route 23" Group has started for Senior High Youth. A time of fellowship and conversation with Youth Director and parent leads; and
- \* The Arts Council's February play, "The Madam's Been Murdered: Tea will be Late".

March:

- \* Help "Club 54", our grades 4 & 5 Church Group, Spring service project collect cat food and cat litter for Delaware Humane Society; and
- \* Bishop Ough requested our church take a special collection for our West Ohio Conference Disaster response ministry for victims of the recent Moscow, Ohio Tornado

April:

- \* Easter Bash was held for our LCUMC Family as well as a Community outreach opportunity that included games, Easter Egg Hunt, and "Kid Friendly" Easter Message, and a Big Thank you to all who donated and prepared the 88 Easter Baskets for Foster Kids at the UMC Children's Home in Worthington, Ohio;
- \* Easter Sunday we had 837 Adults and Children attend both services; and
- \* LCUMC is creating a new Church Family softball team,

May:

- \* Plans and registrations being taken for a June, Cedar Point Trip are being made;
- \* It was announced, Pastor Lynette Decker will give her last sermon on June 3, 2012 at one service at 10:00 AM. A special service to commemorate her 40 years in Christian Ministry and 25 years in the pulpit will be held;
- \* We had a Blessing of the Bikes; and
- \* There was a "Lifeline Ultra Sound Blood Vessel" screening held at the church

June:

- \* Vacation Bible School Theme, is "The Sky's The Limit, Everything is Possible with God";
- \* New Ministry for Women announced, is called, "Designed to Shine Group", for women to support each other;
- \* Executive and Communications, Pastor, Casey Wilson, has assumed interim Pastor role on June 19th until new Lead Pastor, Dan Metzger arrives on July 1, and per Pastor Casey, Father's Day services will be held outside under the trees;
- \* New Zumba Classes started this month; and
- \* A Columbus Symphony, Cellist, Terri Boselli, 40 year professional, Cellist played at services this month

July:

- \* New Lead Pastor, Dan Metzger, started, and warmly welcomed into our LCUMC Family. His first sermon was on "Radical Hospitality";
- \* The Youth are going to a Clipper's Baseball game this month in downtown Columbus's



Huntington Baseball Park;

- \* Vacation Bible School children are doing, "Operation Kid-to-Kid - - Save a Nation!" Together let's squash malaria in Mali! The purchase of on \$6.00 mosquito net will protect two children for up to 4 years; and

- \* We started our LCUMC Prayer Chain. Sign ups to become Prayer Warriors just started

August:

- \* More "special" music being done this summer by visiting flutists, violinists, and cellists

September:

- \* Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir will resume for the season this month;

- \* One of this month's offering's is going to help Bhutanese Families displaced by fires;

- \* Due to our Church's growth we need more "Shepherds" to help new church members feel connected to our Church Family;

- \* The Shepherds are creating "Care Packages" for our former high school seniors who are off at college;

- \* We will no longer do "snail", hard copy mailings of the Church newsletter. Instead, the weekly email will include it and the upcoming Church Bulletin;

- \* This month we will be initiating "Life Groups" with 12 to 15 members in each group. It's an opportunity to share life experiences, spiritual growth and prayers; and

- \* Sign-ups continue for "Dinners for 8 and 9".

October:

- \* Confirmation Orientation for 6th Graders or older to meet with Pastor Casey, expand friendships, learn more about Jesus, live as a disciple and for youth to make a significant spiritual decision and to join the Church;

- \* Bible "Boot" Camp for adults takes us back to the basics of the Bible; How it came to be; the Stories and how to read it and deepen our Faith; and

- \* Library Survey to find out how many Church Family members know our Church Library exists and to find out how it can better meet their needs

November:

- \* We had a successful, Red Cross blood drive, in spite of Hurricane Sandy, coming through Ohio;

- \* Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS) is helping two sisters from Somalia who are having babies at the end of the month; Our Church Family generously gave them baby clothes, diapers, toys, etc. Pastor Claudine was instrumental in leading this community outreach;

- \* We are in the process of collecting winter coats for the Delaware County Christmas Clearing House;

- \* LCUMC is raising funds for a storage unit for CRIS so they can carry an inventory of essential goods

December:

- \* We collected 714 coats for the Delaware County Christmas Clearing House. 214 from LCUMC; and the remainder from UMC Women's collection and purchase of coats and other Churches;

- \* We raised \$1,200 for purchase of a storage unit for CRIS; \* We had Christmas Eve Service attendance of over 1,200 people

## **2013**

January:

- \* Started a new Program Ministry called Mom's in Prayer, led by Holly Metzger. (Pastor, Metzger's, wife). It's an international gathering of "Mom's in Prayer" so they can pray together for God to transform our children and schools, locally, nationally and around the world;

- \* Started a Women's Bible Study Ministry to include all surrounding Church's. It was an eleven week course; and

- \* Third Annual Chili and Desert cook-off and silent auction to help raise funds for the Youth Mission Trip to Buffalo, NY, this summer

February:

- \* Easter Baskets for children at the Worthington United Methodist Children's Home will be made. Our goal is to make Easter Baskets for 60 children; and

- \* LCUMC helped 51 people who needed blood donations to improve their lives.

March:

- \* Used winter coats were brought in and donated to CRIS by our Church Family;

- \* A new women's Bible Study ministry starts soon. It's an eight week program and study of the Book of James;

- \* There is a "Good Friday" Service with singing and scripture reading;

- \* We had 775 attendees for Easter; and

- \* Easter Sunday we gave out a flyer with all the 2013 Summer Missions we are doing: 1) Youth Mission Trip to Buffalo, NY; 2) UMC Women's ministry; 3) Men's Breakfast; 4) Common Ground; 5) People in Need (PIN); 6) Church of All People; 7) First of Each Month at Communion, a special offering for a mission or Church charity, and 8) CRIS Ministry.

April:

- \* We are working on starting a Summer Special Music Ministry program during Sunday worship;

- \* A new members' class is forming;



- \* Discussion regarding Summer Camps for preschooler's. There will be 3 camps and each will have a different theme, as follows: 1) Health & Fitness; 2) Let's Go on a Vacation, and 3) Little Picasso's;

- \* Kick Off of our new Stewardship Campaign "Prepare the Soil" to pay down debt.

May:

- \* We start a new worship series called "I am". What better way to get to know Jesus than his own self-description; and

- \* We honored all High School, College and Military graduates

June:

- \* Blessing of the Bikes and "Bikeathon" fundraiser for "Make a Wish" Foundation. Proceeds will be donated in honor of 3 children in our congregation, Jake Berner, Ella Wilson, and Avrie Nelms; and

- \* First outdoor service on East Lawn of the church. Other outdoor services will be held on June 2nd; July 7th and August 4th

July:

- \* The start of our LCUMC summer softball program gets underway;

- \* There was a "Church Conference" to decide about selling 3.9 acres of the church's, unusable, back property, for green space, to a developer this month. It was approved to sell the property by the Congregation to a developer who needed it for green space to allow for the building of homes immediately north of the church;

- \* Picnic & Play Group fellowship ministry is going strong for kids and parents

August:

- \* Summer Bash is scheduled for August 25th;

- \* School Bags will be Blessed, and Care Packages will be prepared for former LCUMC high school seniors;

- \* Collection for used eyeglasses for our "Recycle for Sight" ministry took place this month

September:

- \* Our Brand New, "Lewis Center Cafe" opened up in Fellowship Hall this month; and

- \* The second Friday Night of Each Month, starting in October (next month) will be a Family Movie right here at the church

October:

- \* Presented Bibles to all third graders;

- \* Arts Council is doing try-outs for their upcoming play, "Steel Magnolia's";

- \* Started a lunch program with Associate Pastor Kristen called "Food for Thought" to discuss

God, Faith and Life;

- \* We had our "Trunk and Treat" this month for the children
- \* Our Pub Theology Ministry started this month with Associate Pastor Kristen exploring questions of Life and Faith. Meetings are held at Claddagh Irish Pub, near Polaris Mall

November:

- \* We're filling grocery bags for the needy, and 73rd Turkey and Ham Loaf dinner was served this month

December:

- \* The largest adult choir in LCUMC history sang the Cantata called, "Bethlehem's Child". Practiced in excess of 700+ hours before performing;
- \* A new program called "Discover Lewis Center" was started to learn more about our church and United Methodist beliefs;
- \* We also started a new program, called "Christianity 101" about the basics of Christianity and following Jesus's teachings;
- \* Over 800 new coats were distributed by our LCUMC, New Coats Ministry Team at the Delaware County Fairgrounds;
- \* Christmas Day we had 489 in attendance

## **2014**

January:

- \* The Baby Blankets Ministry rallied to start making quilts and blankets for distribution this fall for the homeless shelters, Children's Hospital and abused Women's Shelter; and
- \* People in Need (PIN) Ministry reported they helped over 600 families and 284 students and that our LCUMC Church Family was a big help in that process

February:

- \* Our LCUMC "Recycling Used Glasses" ministry to support the Lion's Club is starting again this year. Last year we collected over 100 pairs of glasses

March:

- \* United Methodist Women's cookie sales ministry earned \$1,000 in December with the proceeds a new floor buffer was purchased for the church; and
- \* "Food For Thought" Ministry resumes for Lent, and will be reading and discussing "Celebration of Disciple". Pastor Kristen is leading the series



April:

- \* There were 777 Easter Morning attendees; and
- \* Our LCUMC Church Family was well represented in the "Relay for Life" Event that provide funding for cancer research

May:

- \* The first meeting of our LCUMC "Consultation Initiative" to assess a transition from our current Administrative Board structure to a new "Lead Team" structure;
- \* The second meeting of our LCUMC, "Consultation Initiative" was held to explore the "5 New Prescriptions", as follows: 1) Leadership Alignment for Missional Effectiveness; 2) Worship Getting Newcomer Ready; 3) Spiritual Growth & Discipleship Pathways; 4) Reaching More Children, Youth and Parents for Christ; and 5) Master Facilities Plan;
- \* New Bible Study ministry for Teen Girls Grade 6 and higher. It will be a summer long program;
- \* Home Depot when they heard about our Youth Mission Trip and the Youth's need for tools, donated 36 tool boxes to the LCUMC Youth and then we asked our church family to donate tools to go into them; and
- \* The United Methodist Women donated \$540 to the Youth Mission Trip

June:

- \* There was a collection of school supplies taken for People in Need (PIN) this month;
- \* LCUMC, "Drive in Movie Night" here at the church featured, "Indescribable" an amazing story about God and the creation of the universe; and
- \* Empty Nesters Ministry Group is going to free concert series during the summer in Westerville on Sunday evenings

July:

- \* The decision was made and we are transitioning from an Administrative Board to a new Lead Team church leadership model and structure;
- \* LCUMC is starting its collection of school shoes ministry, and the United Methodist Women's have given a check for \$500 to start the school shoes program;
- \* Youth Mission Trip composed of 34 Youth and 8 Adults went to Frakes, Kentucky for their annual mission trip;
- \* "Weird Animal" Vacation Bible school took place this month; and
- \* Ella's Room Addition fundraiser takes place this month

August:

- \* Construction started on Ella's room. Ella Wilson was born with Carnitine Translocase Deficiency. She is the only child doctors know of who has survived past infancy. Ella is now 7 years old, and in need of her own first floor bedroom so that she may continue to receive the

loving care she needs. LCUMC has decided to build Ella's Room as part of our mission and outreach. We have a budget need of \$60,000 and are asking individuals and families to donate "one square foot" of Ella's Room. The standard cost is about \$100/square foot

September:

- \* Worker's requested and came to help construct Ella's Room; and
- \* Our Church Family donated 87.5 hours of time to PIN this month

October:

- \* Communion Offering will go toward Ella's Room and the congregation is invited to come sign the walls with your name and/or favorite scripture before dry walling is completed; and
- \* United Methodist cookbooks are going on sale soon, and are composed of donated recipes from our church family

November:

- \* Harvest Parade grocery bag ministry is this month. Each Church Family is asked to fill one grocery bag full of needed Thanksgiving food for needy families. (Results were 2,730 lbs of food given to needy families);
- \* Communion Offering will go for final push to pay for Ella's Room addition;
- \* Thursday, "Contemporary" Church started this month;
- \* LCUMC is starting a Children's Choir;
- \* LCUMC's Business networking group started this month. It's for business professionals to help each other, grow, prosper, and become a resource for our LCUMC Church Family;
- \* 48 Youth participated in the Youth Retreat in Boyne, MI;
- \* A huge "Thank you!" to all those who helped make the 74th Turkey and Ham Dinner a success. United Methodist Women donated the \$2,300 received from the dinner plus another \$200 to Ella's Room; and
- \* The Trustees, Fix it Team are looking for a non-working refrigerator to store paint

December:

- \* First Ministry Sunday was held to showcase all the Ministries of the Church and encourage Church Family members to join one or more of them; and
- \* Mission Giving in 2014 (total: \$ 77,844) was strong and growing, as follows:
  - People in Need: \$5,610
  - Imagine No Malaria: \$10,783
  - VBS Mission Project: \$12,475
  - Ella's Room: \$47,268
  - World Vision: \$1,708



## 2015

### January:

- \* New Director of Discipleship, Associate Pastor Dave Allen was hired. Pastor Dave will be responsible for structure and leadership of our discipleship process. His role later expanded into leading church operations, as well;
- \* Communion Offering for January was for our PIN ministry. We collected \$1,170; and
- \* Empty Nesters Ministry did a Sunday brunch at Mimi's Restaurant near the Polaris Mall, and in February, they plan to go to an Ohio State Women's Basketball game

### February:

- \* Thursday, "Contemporary" Worship is being re-launched to more of a Bible Study. We will discuss launching a Financial Peace University ministry which is a financial education program, created by Nationally known financial expert, David Ramsey, to learn about God's teachings about the way to handle finances and money;
- \* Youth are launching a New Life Group for Youth, as well as, a Youth Drama Team to help during church services; and
- \* Common Ground is seeking gently used linens and bedding

### March:

- \* Aladdin Shrine Circus was very well attended by LCUMC families, and fun was had by all;
- \* Youth Life Group is booming, per Leslie Butler, Director of our LCUMC, Youth Group. It meets at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings for breakfast and Bible Study; and
- \* "May Our Faith Fill us with The Compassion to Donate Life", registration as an organ, eye, or tissue donor drive was conducted this month

### April:

- \* Our newly launched, "Thursday Church" Ministry features church members sharing their Faith stories;
- \* Attendance was 816 for Easter Sunday services

### May:

- \* Three members of our church family attended the West Ohio UMC Conference Program on Missional Stewardship. Horizon's Consulting, a well know, highly respected national consulting firm conducted the day-long educational session. It was sponsored by the West Ohio UMC's Conference. This was the start of our LCUMC, Church Family's new missional stewardship and giving program;
- \* We formed a new Legacy & Planned Giving Committee to begin creation of LCUMC's, first ever, Legacy and Planned Giving Program; and
- \* Planning for The Youth Mission Trip followed by their trip to the National Youth Conference

in Orlando, Florida took place. There was a fundraiser with our Church Family and it took only one Sunday's donations from the congregation to raise the remaining funds (\$2,700) needed for the Youth's trips. The Youth had already raised \$17,300 for their trip out of the total goal of \$20,000

June:

- \* This year we need to limit the number of Vacation Bible School children to the first 200 children who sign up. There were many years before we moved to our new building in the year 2000 that we only had 50 children attending. We've seen significant growth and outreach into the community with our VBS ministry over the years; and

- \* The Youth went on their Mission Trip to Kentucky and then onto the National Youth Conference in Orlando, Florida this month

July:

- \* Our World Mission Ministry focus this year for Vacation Bible School was Earthquake Relief in Nepal. Challenged to reach a goal of \$1,500 during VBS, our children raised \$1,811! Our Church Family donated another \$766 through the July communion offering plus another \$100 in online giving to be sent to World Vision to assist in relief efforts;

- \* We started our new "Welcoming Center" to raise awareness of LCUMC in the community and make visitors feel welcome; and

- \* Our new Memorial Garden's Tribute Committee ministry started this month. It's part of Trustees, and Stewardship will provide "dotted-line" Leadership and oversight support

August:

- \* 29 Youth went through Confirmation class, and became members of the Church; and

- \* Lead Team is looking for new candidates to fill a few open positions, for folks, who's terms are expiring at the end of the year

September:

- \* Reminder: New Church Directory pictures will be taken in October;

- \* New furnace was installed and cost \$18,000. Generous gifts totaled \$7,800 so far have been donated to this important cause, and the Pre-School donated the remainder;

- \* A new online Women's Bible Study started. It focuses on Women of the Bible displaying great faith during times of great difficulty; and

- \* Pastor Dan will Bless the over 100 blankets donated by the Church Women. There were only 13 women involved in making them



#### October:

- \* There was a fundraiser for Jake Berner in his second fight against brain cancer to pay for his trips to New York City for treatments;
- \* Our Church Family being asked for donation support LCUMC's first, "Free Store" event in November of gently used clothes and goods; and
- \* Those who attended "Trunk or Treat" came with their buckets filled with donations to "Operation Christmas Child". When they emptied their donations they filled their buckets back up with candy

#### November:

- \* "Operation Christmas Child" packing party. This is the Sunday School and Preschool students mission project to collect items for needy children;
- \* We conducted our 75th Turkey Dinner this month;
- \* 136 Christmas boxes were prepared and donated to 136 needy children throughout the world; and
- \* 27 Youth were confirmed and joined the Church this month. Thank you to the Confirmation Leadership Team composed of Pastor Dan Metzger; Leslie Butler; Associate Pastor, Dave Allen; Kyle and Courtney Gould and Associate Pastor Claudine Leary

#### December:

- \* Empty Nesters are celebrating the Christmas Season with a potluck dinner and gift exchange;
- \* The Trustee's, Fix-it Team, just opened their new workshop in the Church barn. They encourage you to come in and visit. It is also open to church members for personal use

### **2016**

#### January:

- \* We had 362 attend church services on the first Sunday of the Month;
- \* Our next online Women's Bible Study series has started, called, "I AM: The Name of Jesus";
- \* There is a 6k walk/run (3.72 miles) to raise funds for clean water for the children of Africa in March and registration started this month;
- \* Our Church Family is excited about our new Welcome Center and it appears to be off to a good start. It is also a place where visitors can learn about the ministries offered at LCUMC, and how they might become involved; and
- \* Lenten Bible study was announced to start, mid-February and run through Easter, either, online or face-to-face

## February

- \* Youth Group continues to grow and a need for an Assistant Director of Youth Ministry is announced for 10 hours per week and at least two Sunday's per month; and
- \* New Children's Choir is rehearsing and begins again for children from Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to participate

## March:

- \* Easter Bash, our Annual Outreach for Children and Family, our Church Family hopes to collect 2000, candy or toy filled eggs, for the Bash; and
- \* Thanks to our Finance Team there are "New and Easier Ways to Give" now included 1) Kiosk machines in the lobby; 2) give by txt; or 3) give "online", and is in alignment and support of our new Missional Stewardship approach to giving which started in mid-2015

## April:

- \* Associate Pastor Claudine Leary was our interim pastor, and did a very nice job this month, because Pastor Dan needed to start his new Church assignment on April 1, 2015, and Pastor Tom would be able to start May 1, 2015;
- \* This month was declared, "Missions" month to serve each other within and outside the church through Jesus Christ our Lord;
- \* 787 in attendance for Easter Services;
- \* Empty Nesters are going to attend the LCUMC Arts Council Play, called, "Every Crook & Nanny". Proceeds this year will go to Delaware County Humane Society". In years past, proceeds have gone to the American Diabetes Association, many other noble causes/programs, as well as for LCUMC church family needs; and
- \* Kroger Supermarkets sent LCUMC a \$1,079 check from the Kroger rewards program for patronizing their store for the past year

## May:

- \* Our LCUMC Family warmly welcomed Pastor Tom Hanover and his wife, Cathy as they started their exciting new ministry here at LCUMC;
- \* Pastor Claudine Leary extended a warm welcome to all those in our LCUMC family to attend her ordination in June of this year at Lakeside; and
- \* Pastor Tom extended an invitation to join him at the PIN, Produce Day this month

## June:

- \* "Family Fun Night" was held on June 12th. It's for singles, couples, families and kids. It is a game night and refreshments and and Ice Cream Social at the end of the night;
- \* Our Church hosted the "Sonshine Choir" a Columbus based Youth Choir. They are doing the



musical drama called "Chosen" based on the life of Samuel. They are coming back from a multi-state tour;

- \* "Prepare the Soil", debt reduction campaign came to an end. A significant amount of finance/interest charged were saved. It decreased the loan obligation by 7.5 years; and
- \* The "Youth Activity Center" building was approved by Lead Team

July:

- \* Groundbreaking Ceremony for the "Youth Activity Center" was held this month;
- \* The Youth Mission Trip was this month. The Youth went to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, in Pine Ridge, South Dakota from July 3 through July 17th;
- \* Planning for the 150th LCUMC Celebration of the Church commenced this month;
- \* The "North Katanga" Sewing project was kicked off this month. The goal is to raise \$2,500 which will build one sewing center to help them build a sewing business. At the end of this sewing project ministry LCUMC actually raised enough money to build two sewing centers, by raising \$5,036;
- \* We commenced a Capital Campaign feasibility study and survey with Horizon's Consulting, a national Church Stewardship consulting firm to determine the amount of funding to support our Master Facilities Team goals

August:

- \* Our LCUMC Family "Thanked" the Arts Council for it's generous donation in covering the cost for the construction of the beautiful, new Worship Platform at the front of our Sanctuary;
- \* We held a LCUMC "Movie Night" this month. The movie was called "Inside Out" by Walt Disney

September:

- \* Pastor Tom is starting a new LCUMC church wide communication called, "LC Connection" on "most" Monday's. He will send it via email to "Keep Everyone in the Loop" in what's going on in the life of the church; and
- \* New small group meeting on Thursday mornings at Taco Bell. It's called, "The Word and Wraps" ministry, and discussion this month was why Christianity makes sense

October:

- \* Results of the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study were presented to the Lead Team. Decision was made to press the "pause button" until our Vision and Mission Statements are updated and proceed to next step regarding Capital Building Expansion Campaign;
- \* There's a new Adult Sunday School Class started this month. It will meet on Sunday's or Tuesday's. They are studying the Book of John;
- \* The Baby and Children's Quilt and Blanket Ministry was renewed this year. 100+ Baby and Children's Quilts and Blankets, made by members and friends, of our Church Family, were

Blessed by Pastor Tom. They will be distributed to Delaware County Hospitals, health department, Free Store and others in need;

- \* Watoto Read Ministry for Swahili Children presentation took place this month. This ministry focuses on refugees of sub-Sahara Africa to build shelters for Children's Education. Pastor Claudine Leary is leading this ministry; and

- \* On October 24th the first Estate Planning meeting was conducted sponsored by our new LCUMC, Legacy and Planned Giving Ministry committee

November:

- \* LCUMC partnered with the "Church for All People", UMC in Columbus, Ohio to hold our second, "Free Store" outreach ministry program here at LCUMC

- \* Celebration for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LCUMC was held with Pastor Lynette Decker Wood returning to preach. A reception was held for all in attendance.



## Our 150<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration

The first service of Lewis Center United Methodist Church was held on **November 4, 1866**.

Throughout 2016, reminders of our history were published in our weekly bulletins to allow the current congregation to learn some 'fun facts' such as:

The church lot on Franklin Street was donated by Mr and Mrs William T Lewis, whom the village was named after.

The stained glass windows were installed in 1901.

Six acres of land was purchased for the new church in 1960 from the Case family.

Easter & Christmas banners and choir robe stoles were made by Hazel Burkholder.

The wooden cross that is the focal point in our Sanctuary was built by Chuck Roe in 2000.

The lectern we use today was built by a member of our church, John Williamson.

The bell that is in the sign in front of our church was removed from the old church; the Douglas Gooding family made a donation to have the bell moved and the brick sign structure built which was completed in 2001.

Also, as a part of our year-long celebration, we had the pleasure of hearing Sue McCammon Postle, share her story of being a missionary and the work she did in Fatima du Sul, Brazil from 1968 – 1971. Sue was a member of LCUMC when she was growing up, so the impact of our church and her involvement in youth group and mission trips helped to mold her Christian life and her desire to serve others as a missionary.

The culmination of our 150<sup>th</sup> year celebration was held on **November 6, 2016**. Former Pastor Lynette Decker Wood came back to be with us and provide the message in our services. She shared facts about the growth in membership, and, shared stories about outreach programs, our children and youth programs, the Preschool and many other accomplishments of the congregation from January 2003 until June 2012, while she served as our Pastor.

