

Christian Education Commission Annual Report 2010

Serving on the Christian Education Commission during 2010 were: Maryrose Cook, Leslie Daniels, Shirley Garlick, Wayne McKay, Mary Morgan, Elizabeth Morningstar. Elders are Heather Ashby, Trish McHugh and Karen Zais.

Educational Programs

Sunday School: Five age groups meet for Sunday school classes weekly during the school year. Age categories are Preschool/Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School and High School. PreK and elementary students attend a multi-age class during the summer months. The regular teaching staff consists of nine adults and one high school student. The high school class, led by Julie Cole, began a unit of study on world religions during the fall of 2010. Younger students are again being taught with a curriculum entitled *Gather Round*, a program with strong peace and justice themes that is endorsed by the United Church of Christ. The summer curriculum, entitled *We Believe*, is from the Presbyterian Church. Sunday school attendance has been stable for several years, with 45 -50 students participating on a regular basis during the year, and 20 – 25 attending on a given week.

Vacation Bible School: Mary Morgan directed VBS 2010. The program, entitled “Galactic Blast,” met on five Wednesday evenings at North End Park. A special star-viewing party was held during a church campout at Cran-Hill Ranch following the completion of the program, and VBS children participated in summer mission with a “United Church Stars” Talent Show which was held in early September.

Our Whole Lives Program: Four individuals from the congregation received training to become leaders in this human sexuality education program. An eight-week session will be taught to upper elementary students beginning in January 2011. Plans to conduct a 27-week program for 7th – 9th graders were postponed until the 2011-2012 school year so that a full class of at least 10 students can be recruited. The goal of the OWL program is to teach children and youth about human sexuality within the safety and warmth of the church setting, with commitment to the core values of self-worth, responsibility, health, and justice and inclusivity.

Service and Social Activities

Children and families had many opportunities for fellowship and service this year. In addition to PUFF and VBS, these activities included:

- Movie and Pizza Night
- Family Game Night
- Family Christmas caroling event
- Family sledding party
- Family bike ride
- Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF
- * Bake sale for Walk for Warmth
- * Letter writing to nursing home and homebound
- * Pop can collection for Haiti
- * Earth Day service project
- * Relay for Life activity table
- * Summer reading program for Haiti

Summer mission projects, including “Reading for Haiti” and the Talent Show, raised \$1156 for Buses, International to bring a mobile medical/dental unit to Haiti.

Youth also had fellowship and service opportunities this year.

- Blanket-making party
- Hosting coffee hour
- Capture the flag event
- Car wash to raise money for Heifer, International
- WinterFest: a weekend of skiing, snowboarding and activities at the Ferris Rec Center.
- Global Village trip: an overnight experience at Howell Nature Center
- * Rails-to-Trails Bike Ride
- * Corn maze and bonfire
- * S’mores sale at Relay for Life

Youth Mission Trip: Seven high school students from the United Church traveled to Kentucky to assist with home repairs for residents of the Appalachian region. Four adults accompanied the students, who raised approximately \$1500 to help fund the trip during the preceding months. Another youth Appalachian Service Project trip is planned for June of 2011.

Other

Music: Allene Long led the Children's Choir during the winter and spring of 2010. Emily Garlick recently volunteered to lead the children in vocal music. The Youth Bell Choir continues to practice and perform regularly, led by Judy Tressler. A youth instrumental ensemble performs at the Christmas Eve service.

Library: The library committee completed its task of updating and reorganizing library resources. Children donated art work made during VBS to add color to library walls.

Camp scholarships: Ten campers received support from this fund for their summer camping experiences. The camp scholarship fund also supported the youth Appalachian mission trip, and the middle school overnight trip to Global Village.

WinterFest: Over 70 youth and chaperones, representing seven different churches, participated in the 2010 weekend event.

Acolyte Program: Five new acolytes were trained this fall and will join the group of 3rd-8th graders who serve regularly as acolytes.

Graduation/Marie Rowe Scholarships: Three high school students received Marie Rowe scholarships and gifts of study Bibles from the congregation on Graduation Sunday.

Third Grade Bibles: Five third graders received *Adventure Bibles* in September.

Family Christmas Service: Plans are underway for this year's Christmas pageant: forty-two children and youth took part in last year's program.

Staffing: Leslie Daniels continues to work 15 hours per week as Christian Education Director. Nursery attendants are Niccole Benedict and LaShawnda Street.

Thanks to the following individuals who volunteer time and talent to the Christian Education programs of the church. Apologies to anyone inadvertently left out - the gratitude is the same!

Members of the Christian Education Commission

Teachers: Liz Morningstar, Andrea Cassidy, Heather Ashby, Brigette Ashby, Kurt Somsel, Maureen Somsel, Trish McHugh, Julie Cole, Crystal Walcutt, LaVail Hull, Jenna Daniels, Joe Larrance, Joanie Wellnitz, Laine Mitchell

Others: Wayne McKay, Bruce Morgan, Mary Morgan, Brian Zais, Karen Zais, Beth Scsavnicki, Susan Grant, Allene Long, Emily Garlick, Lee Thomas, Katie McInnis, Laura deBold, June White, Carol Stader, Ed Gabert, Cathy Archer, Judy Tressler, Mary Gamble, Pastor Jon and Pastor Jerena

Thanks to all in this congregation for their enthusiasm in giving spiritual and financial support to the church life of our children and youth. You provide a wonderful church home.