

Minetto United Methodist Church

Accomplishments of the past year, October 2010–September 2011

1. Ministry to our parish

- a. Added 26 new members to our church.
- b. On November 9th, 2010, the Crossroads District Committee on Ministry renewed Pastor Chuck's license as a Local Pastor for the appointment year July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012. Many people of the community enjoyed a Christmas season open house at the parsonage.
- c. Three teams have been organized and trained to take communion to shut-ins on each Communion Sunday.
- d. A youth fellowship group has been formed and meets regularly. They chose the name, MY GOD (Minetto Youth Group of Disciples), and planted a vegetable garden to provide food for our freewill dinners.
- e. Sunday School classes have been offered and Bibles were given to third graders. Students collected items for shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Each box also had a card made by a child. Students presented a Christmas program on Sunday, December 19th during worship time and helped with the barn service at Greco's Farm on Christmas Eve. Sunday School children reenacted Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
- f. Special services were held for Thanksgiving Eve Communion, Christmas eve in the barn, Maundy Thursday Seder Meal, and Good Friday Service.
- g. Friendship potluck luncheons after worship have been held on the first Sunday of each month to promote better acquaintanceship among parishioners.
- h. Vacation Bible School was held.
- i. First Tuesday Bible study for women was held every month. Their study called "Living Above Worry and Stress" was completed and the year ended with a short-term study, "Celebrating Friendship." An average of 12-13 regularly attend. The sessions are such that one can join the group at any time during the year. Study materials are distributed ahead of time.
- j. Prayers & Squares Ministry has made prayer quilts for 73 people and at least 40 comfort pillows over the past three years and presented them to people locally and beyond. Several quilting workshops have been held to work on personal projects and prepare materials for the prayer quilts and comfort pillows.
- k. Gifts were made and delivered to shut-ins during Advent and Lent. Cards and notes are regularly sent to shut-ins and those who are ill.
- l. Prayer Circle meets every Thursday morning to pray for people in the local parish and beyond, including Upper Room prayer requests, which are received electronically each week.
- m. Secret Sister program continued with 18 participating. It culminated in May with an evening together where our secret sisters were revealed. A new group of 16 has formed for 2011-2012.
- n. Blood pressure screening is offered monthly and records of the results are kept.
- o. Laity and pastor have made many visits to shut-ins.
- p. Safe Sanctuaries policy was adopted and is being implemented.
- q. New church photo directories were produced and distributed.
- r. The new *Worship & Song* hymnals have been purchased and put to use.
- s. A church potluck luncheon was held in August to receive and discuss the results of a congregational survey done by the Transition Team as a follow-up to last year's Fallbrook retreat.

2. Ministry beyond our parish

- a. Shared ministry apportionment payments and all other bills have been kept current in 2010 and 2011.

- b. Our Lenten offering of \$1055 was given to the Syracuse Westside Urban Mission at Brown Memorial UMC.
- c. Noisy Can Offerings have been received for Pennies for Peace, Christmas gifts for needy families, Africa Partnership, Oswego Public Library, Human Concerns Food Pantry, SAF House for women and children, UM Committee on Relief, Heifer Project, and Harold and Mildred Clark Memorial Camping and Scholarship Fund.
- d. School supplies were collected for students of the Minetto Elementary School.
- e. Our Health and Wellness Team collected 37 health kits for UMCOR. These kits came to over a \$500 contribution from our generous congregation.
- f. Provided, prepared, and served dinner at the Oswego Salvation Army on July 30, as part of the Hands4NY campaign of the Upper New York Annual Conference. Also, collect non-perishable foods on Communion Sunday each month.
- a. Several members of our church participated in the Crossroads District Missions Days X-treme Makeover - Church Edition in the Oswego area.
- b. Fall and Spring Ecumenical Dinners and game nights have been held with people of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
- c. Members of our church stood with the Salvation Army Christmas kettles for one Saturday.

3. Services to our community

- a. Freewill dinners, served on the fourth Sunday evening of each month, were begun in February 2010. Donations are optional and voluntary. As many as 100 have been served at one meal.
- b. Members of the church prepared and planted a vegetable garden for the Oswego County Opportunities house on Benson Avenue.
- c. Health and Wellness Team arranged for a CPR course in our building.
- d. Hosted LifeLineScreening in fellowship hall.
- e. Osteoporosis exercise group has been meeting in our building. Gloria and Frank Bickel and Marilyn Stephens have received Osteo Leadership training and are leading the group.
- f. Cub Scouts and Daisy Girl Scouts meet in our education building weekly.
- g. New Horizon's chorus began in 2010 and rehearses in our building. Sang at the Joy of Christmas, Springside Retirement Center, Camp Hollis, Minetto Magic, and PEO picnic.
- h. Concinnity, Sounds of Brass, New Horizons Band, and New Horizons Chorus, rehearse here. Several members of our parish are members of these groups.
- i. Hosted a band and choral concert in the sanctuary and operated a refreshment stand in the park as part of Magic in Minetto. Hosted Brother Harmonious for an afternoon of fun and laughter.
- j. Working cooperatively with the nurse at the Minetto Elementary School, we provided Christmas gifts to two Minetto families of need. Funds were raised with a freewill offering and dinner at the Joy of Christmas program and other donations. In addition to gifts, a check for over \$1100 was also given.
- k. Our annual Harvest Turkey Dinner has become a well-anticipated experience for many people of the community. We served 842 dinners in 2010. There were 131 contributors and workers and our profit was \$5274.
- l. Our twice-a-year rummage sales provide good, used clothing and other items at reasonable prices and earn about \$2000 each.

4. Property maintenance

- a. Volunteers keep our gardens blooming and lawns trimmed throughout the summer and walks cleared during the winter.
- b. Recently completed projects include new floor in men's restroom, new sidewalk in front of church, new air supply pipe for the organ.