

Minetto United Methodist Church

Accomplishments of the past year, October 2011–September 2012

1. Ministry to our parish

- a. Added 16 new members to our church including nine confirmands and two baptisms.
- b. On March 13, 2012, the Crossroads District Committee on Ministry renewed Pastor Chuck's license as a Local Pastor for the appointment year July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013. Many people of the community enjoyed a Mardi Gras open house at the parsonage.
- c. A core group of fifth grade MY GOD (Minetto Youth Group of Disciples) youth continues to meet regularly. They planted a vegetable garden for the second year to provide food for our freewill dinners, for dinner patrons to take home, and for several social service organizations in the area.
- d. Sunday School classes and a Vacation Bible School were conducted.
- e. Special services were held for Thanksgiving Eve Communion, Christmas Eve in the barn, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday Seder Meal, and Good Friday Service.
- f. Friendship potluck luncheons after worship have been held quarterly on the first Sunday to promote better acquaintanceship among parishioners.
- g. Second Tuesday Bible study for women was held every month. They completed a study entitled, *Managing Your Moods*, and a new study called, *Adventurous Prayer*, began in September. 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 and available on the church website, MinettoUMC.org.
- h. Prayers & Squares Ministry continues to make prayer quilts and comfort pillows for people locally and beyond and is currently working with the Missions team to make pillowcase dresses.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.
- k. Secret Sister program continued with 15 participating. It culminated in May with an evening together where our secret sisters were revealed. A new group of 22 has formed for 2012-2013.
- l. Blood pressure screening is offered monthly and records of the results are kept.
- m. Laity and pastor have made many visits to shut-ins.
- n. Safe Sanctuaries policy is operational.
- o. *Worship & Song* hymnals were purchased and are in regular use.
- p. Six members participated in the 34-week *Disciple I Bible Study*.
- q. Praise band has started a once-a-month sing-along prior to worship.
- r. A healing worship service was held.

2. Ministry beyond our parish

- a. Shared ministry apportionment payments and all other bills have been kept current in 2011 and 2012.
- b. Our Lenten offering of \$1091 was divided equally among Africa University Scholarship Endowment Fund, Shriners' Hospitals for Children, and UMCOR for rebuilding UM churches in Haiti.

- c. Noisy Can Offerings have been received on the third Sunday of each month and the gifts distributed to a wide range of specified area and missional causes.
- d. School supplies and Christmas gifts were collected for students, families, and classrooms of the Minetto Elementary School, supported by the Joy of Christmas and the Angel Tree.
- e. Collected non-perishable foods on Communion Sunday each month as part of the Hands4NY campaign of the Upper New York Annual Conference. Our church served 3,922 people in the Hands4NY ministry from July 1, 2011 to May 30, 2012.
- a. Fall and Spring ecumenical dinners and game nights have been held with people of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.
- b. Members of our church stood with the Salvation Army Christmas kettles for one Saturday.
- c. Ours was the first church in the Upper New York Annual Conference to support the Africa University Endowment Scholarship Fund with over a \$1000 contribution.

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 over 100 have been served at one meal, with most serving about 75.
- b. Members of the church prepared and planted a vegetable garden for the Oswego County Opportunities house on Benson Avenue.
- c. 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.
- d. Cub Scouts and Daisy Girl Scouts meet in our education building weekly.
- e. New Horizon's chorus began in 2010 and rehearses in our building. Sang at the Joy of Christmas, Springside Retirement Center, Camp Hollis, and PEO picnic.
- f. Concinnity, Sounds of Brass, New Horizons Band, and New Horizons Chorus, rehearse here. Several members of our parish are members of these groups.
- g. Operated a refreshment stand in the park as part of Magic in Minetto.
- h. Our annual Harvest Turkey Dinner has become a well-anticipated experience for many people of the community. We served 879 dinners in 2011. There were 131 contributors and workers and our profit was \$5518.
- i. Our twice-a-year two-day rummage sales with a luncheon on the first day 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 a new roof on the sanctuary, updated lighting fixtures throughout the church, new carpeting in the Education wing, and new tile flooring in the entryways.
- c. The decision was made at our annual Church Conference on September 16, 2012, to authorize a capital campaign to raise \$200,000 over three years to complete a prioritized list of needed maintenance projects. We have about \$50,000 in reserve funds to begin some of the most urgent work. The projects include drainage around the sanctuary to keep water out of the basement, mold abatement treatment under the sanctuary, installation of new ramps at the center and west entrances, replacement of education building windows, new sanctuary sound system, acoustical treatment of the fellowship hall, window replacement or repair in the parsonage, replacement of education building roof within a few years, complete refurbishment of our organ, and restoration of our reserve funds for future emergencies.