

# Minetto United Methodist Church

Accomplishments of the past year, October 2012–September 2013

## 1. Ministry to our parish

- a. Added 20 new members to our church including eight confirmands. A new class of four confirmands is now beginning. Six baptisms and six weddings have been performed.
- b. Minetto Youth Group of Disciples (MY GOD), established in March 2011, has grown to 14 youth in 2013. MY GOD is a Christian youth group with lots of fun activities. For the 3rd year in a row, we planted a garden. With much thanks to Pastor Chuck's care, we were able to distribute produce at the church's Free Dinners in August and September. MY GOD meets as scheduled on Sundays following worship and is open to any interested youth in 5th grade or older. Anyone interested can contact Pastor Chuck or youth group leaders Debbie Daby and Randy Dohse.
- c. The pastor has led two Bible studies and a third is now underway.
- 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 to promote better acquaintanceship among parishioners.
- g. A women's fellowship and study group (originally known as First Tuesday) meets monthly and a men's group has recently begun to meet for breakfast and plans to work on projects for parishioners.
- 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 20 participating. It culminated in May with an evening together where the secret sisters were revealed. A new group of 19 has formed for 2013-2014.
- l. Laity and pastor have made many visits to shut-ins.
- m. Praise band continues a once-a-month sing-along prior to worship.

## 2. Ministry beyond our parish

- a. We extend the ministry of Christ to the world through our caring, knowing who our neighbors are, and witnessing to the love and life of Jesus Christ.
- b. We serve the community by offering free meals, providing winter clothing to the needy, conducting food donations to The Salvation Army and Human Concerns, and providing health and home products to the Oswego County Opportunities group.
- c. Our parishioners support many local service groups both financially and with volunteers, and have contributed funds to the Westside Urban Mission in Syracuse and to Africa University.
- d. Shared ministry apportionment payments and all other bills have been kept current in 2012 and 2013, to date.
- e. Our Lenten offering of \$938 was given to Golisano Children's Hospital.
- f. 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 missions causes.
- g. 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.

- h. Collected non-perishable foods on Communion Sunday each month and gave them to Oswego County Salvation Army.
- 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.

### **3. Services to our community**

- a. Free 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, averaging 98 per month over the past year. During the past year 1173 dinners were served. Volunteers who play piano, sing, and play guitar provide musical entertainment. The guests seem to really enjoy this. It has become a very social time for a lot of senior citizens.
- b. We have provided 3,064 meals through our free dinners, canned goods for The Salvation Army, and gifts to people seeking help from the Pastor's discretionary fund.
- c. Members of the church prepared and planted a vegetable garden for the Oswego County Opportunities house on Benson Avenue.
- d. 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.
- e. Cub Scouts and Daisy Girl Scouts meet in our education building weekly.
- f. New Horizon's chorus began in 2010 and rehearses in our building. Sang at the Joy of Christmas, Springside Retirement Center, Camp Hollis, PEO picnic, and conducted a public concert in August with the offering going to our Capital Campaign.
- g. Concinnity, Sounds of Brass, New Horizons Band, and New Horizons Chorus, rehearse here. A group of writers meets monthly in our Mowry Lounge. Several members of our parish are members of some of these groups.
- h. Operated a refreshment stand in the park as part of Magic in Minetto.
- i. Our annual Harvest Turkey Dinner has become a well-anticipated experience for many people of the community. We served 942 dinners in 2012. There were 131 contributors and workers and our profit was \$6309.
- j. Our twice-a-year two-day rummage sales with a luncheon on the first day provides good, used clothing and other items at reasonable prices and each earns over \$2000.

### **4. Property maintenance**

- a. Volunteers keep our gardens blooming and lawns trimmed throughout the summer and walks cleared during the winter.
- b. Much maintenance work has been done including: drainage, mold abatement, and insulation in the sanctuary and parsonage; new windows throughout the education wing; new entrance ramps, steps, and railings at the center and west entrances; complete cleaning and repainting of the interior of the education wing; and replacement of the front windows of the parsonage.