

# news

## Martha Circle in May!

We will meet at Breckenridge Village on May 2nd. Our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Beverly Hall from Pleasant Hills UMC. •

## Salkehatchie Fundraiser

It is time once again for our MEN and BOYS vs. WOMEN and GIRLS Coin Drive to raise funds for Salkehatchie. From May 1-31, there will be collection jars in the Welcome Area. Remember, put your coins in the jar for your own gender to count for positive points, put paper money in the jar for the opposite gender to count for negative points. Who is going to win this year? •

## Graduate Recognition:

On Sunday, June 5, we will be recognizing graduates (at any level) at both services. We would like to recognize anyone who has graduated since last June or will graduate this year. If you know someone that fits this category, please turn in the name of the graduate, school, degree if relevant and a digital photo to Anne Horvath at [whumcyouth612@gmail.com](mailto:whumcyouth612@gmail.com). Thanks! •

## SPRING CLEANING?

**Please save: Furniture, Kitchen items, Books, Decorative items, Toys, Clothes\*, Other Items for the annual WHUMC Rummage Sale!**

- \*Clothing will only be accepted if sizes are marked on a piece of masking tape (attached to upper right hand chest) and they are put on a hanger (hangers are available).

- Battery operated items must have working batteries included
- Electrical items will be checked to make sure they are in working order.

Please DO NOT DONATE: Shoes, bathing suits, undergarments, mattresses, major appliances, soiled/torn/broken items, old computers or printers.

**Donations will be accepted on the following days/times:**

- May 30: 10am – 2pm,
- May 31: 10am – 4pm
- June 1: 10am – 4pm
- June 2: 10am – 2pm

Will accept items on the 3rd of June day of sale

Sale days are:  
Friday, June 3rd, 9am – 5pm  
Saturday, June 4th, 9am – noon

Volunteers are needed for setup and on sale days. Please contact Sharen Ott at 440-585-0907 if you can help. Also if you have items that need to be dropped off before May 30th •

## Join Our Prayer Partner Ministry!

**ROYAL FAMILY KIDS NEEDS YOU TO SUPPORT US WITH YOUR PRAYERS!**

Please consider becoming a PRAYER PARTNER for one member of the Royal Family Kids Camp Team. Each volunteer needs the support and protection of prayer as we prepare for camp! As a prayer partner, you will be given a name of one person involved with the camp, and you will resolve to pray for this person regularly from now until the end of camp.

You will also be asked to write a letter of encouragement to your team member to be given to them at camp.

If you would like to be a prayer partner for the RFKC team, please send an email to Larry at [whumc\\_office@att.net](mailto:whumc_office@att.net), or fill out the information below and return it to the church office. Larry will contact you with the name of the person you will be supporting in prayer.

YES! Please sign me up as a Prayer Partner for RFK Camp!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

(needed if you don't have an email address.)

## Pastor's Pen

The month of May will be an important time for all people called United Methodist. From May 10 through 20th, delegations from every Annual Conference around the world will be meeting in Portland, Oregon to talk about the future of the United Methodist Church. This gathering, which takes place every 4 years (always the same year as the American Presidential election) is called General Conference. Those who gather constitute the major legislative body of our denomination. The decisions they make and the votes they take will directly affect the way local churches can do ministry.

The UMC.org website has published a list of the major items that will be on the agenda for the 2016 General Conference. These are only a few of them:

### **Restructuring the General (worldwide) Church**

--Delegates will consider a number of proposals to restructure the ministries of the general church. In 2012, almost 60 percent of General Conference delegates voted for "Plan UMC" to restructure general agencies. On the last day of conference, the Judicial Council (Supreme Court) declared that the plan violated the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. In the years since, proponents of the plan have developed a revised proposal to present to General Conference.

### **Ordained/Licensed Ministry**

--The 2013-16 Ministry Study Commission is proposing significant changes in the ordination process for elders and deacons. The most dramatic proposal, known as "early ordination" but termed "reshaping the ordination process", would move ordination to the front end of the process – at the time a candidate is elected to provisional membership. Currently, those who have met educational requirements to be ordained as an elder or deacon must serve as a provisional member of their annual conference for at least two years.

--Another proposal would give deacons more flexibility to preside at the celebration of sacraments, and all clergy would get additional ongoing formation through mentoring and covenant groups.

--The commission is making no proposals concerning the issue of security of appointment for elders, often referred to as "guaranteed appointment." The 2012 General Conference approved legislation to end this practice, but the Judicial Council ruled the legislation in violation of the Constitution.

### **New Hymnal**

--Discipleship Ministries is proposing a new hymnal that would use digital technology to provide music and worship resources, customizable to meet the needs of different faith communities.

### **Social Principles**

--Numerous annual conferences and other groups are petitioning General Conference on the denomination's stance and statements on homosexuality. Many propose either removing or adding less-restrictive language to the Social Principles. Others call for upholding the current language and denominational standards regarding homosexuality. Some, such as the Texas Annual Conference, propose maintaining the present stance while offering "more gracious language."

Rather than ask you to wade through the legal language of all of them, I deleted 5 additional pages of issues. You can see, then, that there are significant changes that may be made, based on the votes take at General Conference. And, as in past years, there is the potential for discord based on the way the Conference goes. With that in mind, I would ask that all of us who are part of the United Methodist Movement to please be in earnest prayer for all of those who will attend, and for the decisions they will make. I would suggest that such a prayer ask the Holy Spirit to be over the whole process, and that the hearts and minds and votes of the delegates would truly reflect the will of God.

By the time the June edition of the NeWS is brought together, the work of the Conference will be completed. The Pastor's Pen of that edition will share the results with you.

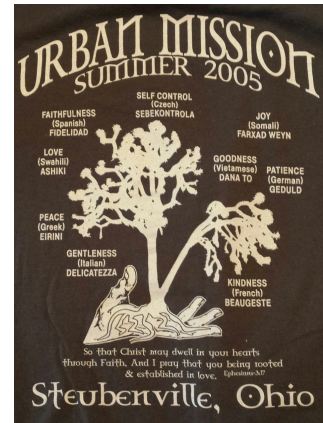
Blessings,



## The JOSHUA Mission Project

The United Methodist Church has had a history of social consciousness and concern for the welfare of the people of this world. Our congregation has continued that tradition through mission programs past and present. Church members have participated in mission programs such as Royal Family Kids, Project Hope, Willoughby Food Pantry, Salkehatchie in South Carolina, trips to the Dominican Republic and mission trips to Africa for the ZOE Ministry.

A number of years ago our church participated in a mission program with which many of you may not be familiar -- the J.O.S.H.U.A. program. J.O.S.H.U.A. stands for **Journeys of Service Helping Upper Appalachia** and is located in Steubenville, Ohio.



The Steubenville area, in the Ohio Valley, was teeming with steel mills and coalmines a few decades ago. As the economy changed, and the demand for U.S. steel and coal diminished, the area mills and mines closed, devastating the area. Many people could only find low-income jobs or no jobs at all. Large numbers of families became impoverished, and many still are.

The JOSHUA program is a ministry of Urban Mission Ministries, an ecumenical Christian social service agency founded by the United Methodist Church in 1959 in Steubenville, Ohio. Several concerned pastors, professors, and community members who observed the deteriorating conditions of houses and property in the Steubenville area developed JOSHUA in the summer of 1990 as a work mission program. Adult and youth teams from all over the country have participated in JOSHUA through the years.



Volunteers have the opportunity to work on small home repair projects, serve food at the Unity Kitchen, pack bags at God's Pantry, provide worship at the Mission Rejoice service, and work with inner city youth.

In 1997, the Diocese of Steubenville and St. Anthony's Parish gave the former St. Anthony's Convent to Urban Mission to provide housing for the work teams. This house has space for groups of up to sixty people and includes comfortable sleeping rooms, a kitchen, dining room, showers and restroom facilities, providing year-round housing for the teams.

Since 1990, the Urban Mission has held firmly to the passage in Isaiah 58:10-12 and believes that their city is ripe for God to repair the broken walls and restore the streets with dwellings.

Isaiah 58:10-12 (NLT)

*Feed the hungry,  
and help those in trouble.  
Then your light will shine out from the darkness,  
and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.  
The Lord will guide you continually,  
giving you water when you are dry  
and restore your strength.  
You will be like a well-watered garden,  
like an ever-flowing spring.  
Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.  
Then you will be known as a builder of walls  
and a restorer of homes.*

Some of those who attended JOSHUA during our congregation's participation from the early 1990s to the mid 2000s shared their experiences and memories:

Lara Waldenmaier

"I think the first JOSHUA trip I went on was 1992, which was a joint project with Willoughby United Methodist youth group. The Dorseys were also on that trip; and I think I was on a team led by Bill. We built some great camaraderie with the Willoughby United Methodist Church folks, having fun and laughs doing Chinese fire drills at stop signs on all these one-way streets in Steubenville. Our team scraped and repainted a three story Victorian home... In 2001, Jacob and I both went back to JOSHUA, this time as a couple. Another full circle moment that year was seeing another former WHUMC youth group member, Doug Devor, as a leader in the JOSHUA project, living on site throughout the summer...

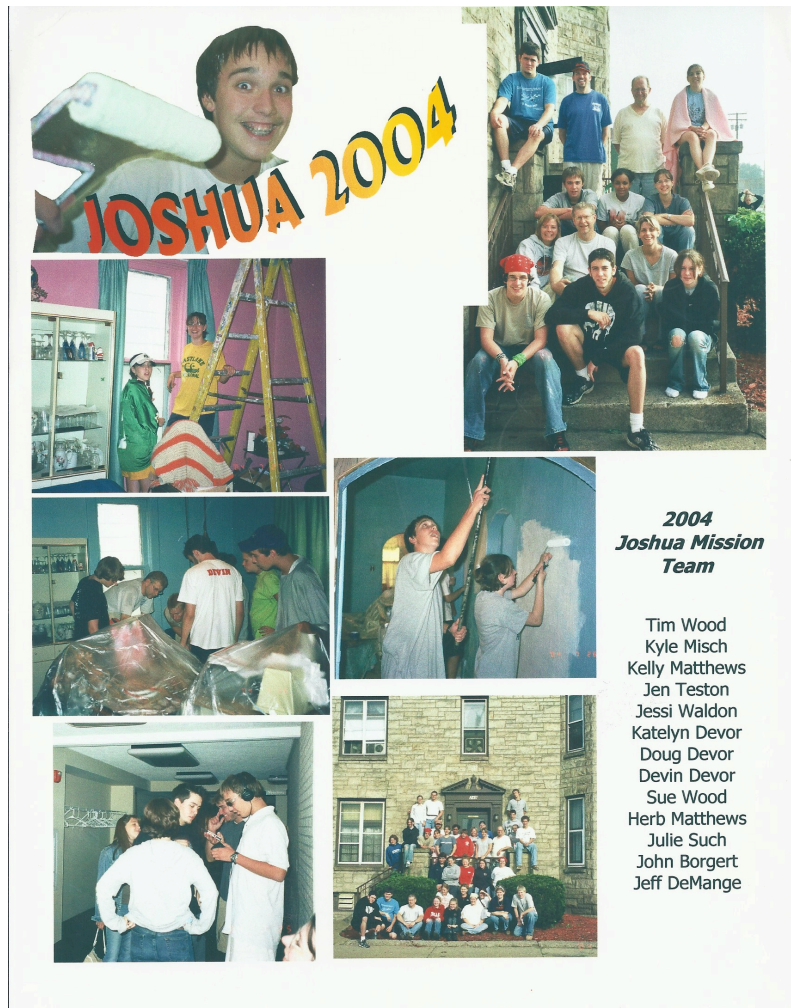
"Along with the service and the contact with the people of Steubenville there were always some fun and funny team building memories, including a team having to 'dull down' a pink paint color because the homeowner was worried what her neighbors would think of the new, 'Pepto Bismol' color of her home.

"As a youth, I remember feeling empowered and challenged to do things I didn't know that I could do: climbing ladders, facing bees, doing that grunt of scraping paint, and painting in the summer heat for someone who couldn't do it themselves, getting dirty, not caring how I looked and building relationships with the homeowners and my team. It was definitely character-building and fun all at the same time and I would highly recommend it to anyone."

Bill Dorsey

"I was a leader on these mission trips to Steubenville, Ohio. I had led trips to the JOSHUA missions when I was a member of the Willoughby United Methodist Church, and continued this after we transferred to Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church. One of the early JOSHUA trips I did while at WUMC actually included the Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church youth group as well as the Willoughby United Methodist youth group. On that particular trip was Lara Waldenmaier, when she was in junior high school.

"Michael and Laura Tradowsky and Patty and I co-led these trips, and the current youth leader supervised the youth group. On several of the trips Pastor Mike and a few other adults were able to free up some of their vacation time to help. One of the reasons we chose this destination was that it met many criteria for good youth mission work... JOSHUA was a mission project that accepted junior high aged youth, which allowed us to get youth interested while they were young.



"The work was largely focused on repairs to individual homes, but on occasion we did work on the actual Urban Mission building, which was an old building that was originally a church. The work we performed was entirely funded by us through donations and fund raising activities... Occasionally, the Urban Mission provided some of the materials, particularly in the later years involving WHUMC. This was not true when we started taking the Willoughby United Methodist youth groups to JOSHUA, because we started in the first year JOSHUA existed (1990).

"Some of the youth from WHUMC went on to serve with the Peace Corps, like Julie (Hazen) Schick, teaching overseas, and becoming involved in their own mission activities."

#### Michael Tradowsky

Michael said that he went on JOSHUA trips in 1998 and 1999. All together he went on four JOSHUA mission trips.

#### Laura Tradowsky

"The first years working at JOSHUA we worked in the warehouse. The second year we worked at the homeless shelter (Hutton House). The third year we worked on roofing on two houses."

#### Patty Dorsey

Patty said that she and Laura Tradowsky cooked meals on numerous JOSHUA trips.

#### Julia Schick

"I honestly don't remember when I did JOSHUA and I believe I did it for a few years. It was probably early 1990. There's a crew of us who attended JOSHUA, Terri Hazen, Bill Dorsey, Tabitha Pesch, Bridget Hofer, maybe Morgan Bennett, Lara Waldenmaier, and myself. Growing up attending a mission trip was simply part of summer vacation and being in the youth group. The youth group did weekend camp cleanups at EOC Camp Klein. I attended EOC Reach Out from 1992-1997, where you participated in a mid-week mission trip during your week at camp.

"In 2001, I did an Alternative Spring Break to Honduras with Hurricane Mitch relief effort. I had the opportunity to participate in a mission trip through Laketrans, where we delivered donations and cleaned up seniors' homes through the NOLA Council on Aging, post Katrina.

"I would definitely attribute my mission experiences to a reason I joined the Peace Corps after college. I worked in Mango, Togo as a Community Health volunteer for about 18 months.

"God has given us so much and part of those blessings is the responsibility to care for others." As with any volunteer experience, you gain more serving than the recipient of your services. I sometimes think volunteering is just as much selfish as selfless."

#### Bob Lacey

"I worked together with Al Kopper plastering a house. Aaron Pesch also participated. Michael Tradowsky had chapel every night."

### Eric Hanson

"I did JOSHUA for several years, it was a great experience. Worked on trailers and a 5-story twin apartment's roofing as well as single-family homes. I still have burn marks on my hands from the hot shingles. The convent we stayed at was hot -- very hot. We were blessed by the people we went with and worked for. Al Kopper, the Dorseys and the Tradowskys, Bob Lacey, Jacob Waldenmaier, Bob Studer (and his ice cream must stop), and Herb Matthews. Patty Dorsey and Laura Tradowsky fed us well. This is where God showed me, I can work for him and find some of what was missing in my faith.'

### Bob Studer

"I went with Bob Lacey. I did a roofing project. I worked the lift to get the roofing materials and volunteers onto the roof." Bob worked with the Matthews girls on various mission trips.

### Jane Carle

"I went as a 'cook' in 2005. Adults on my trip were LeAnn Foulkrod, John Borgert, Herb Matthews, and possibly Bill Dorsey. We stayed in what had at one time been a convent.

"The kids were assigned to different houses. They could have been scraping and painting exteriors, tearing off and rebuilding porches, putting up drywell, moving furniture, or all kinds of different things. After supper, John Borgert (a retired pastor) led devotions.

"We stayed in dorm-like rooms. During the week we were there, a youth group from Iowa was there too. We all had a great time together. All the boys from both groups were on the third floor; the girls and the adults were in the second floor. It was hot -- no air conditioning!

"One day of the week we all went to work at a Soup Kitchen. One night, we went to a local church for supper and a worship service. For a break, we went to a water park in West Virginia. It was great to see the kids working to help others.

"According to my son, Danny, some of the kids that were there were: Kelly Davis, Jessica Waldon, Jen Teston, Kyle Misch, and Devin Devor. Danny has fond memories of working on an extension ladder three floors high! I know that Danny enjoyed it—he liked getting to know the people that we were working for and he liked the work too!

"It was a good program and I was glad to be able to participate. And I will be forever grateful for Herb Matthews for making coffee first thing in the morning!"

### John Borgert

John went to JOSHUA in 2004-2006. He said that that he did home repairs and stayed in a former convent. All week he led the worship service after dinner, by having devotions. "It was very powerful for the youth and the staff." He remembered that the church secretary, Sue Wood, also participated.

### Herb Matthews

"I went to JOSHUA in 2004 and 2005. I also went earlier about 1998 or 1999. The earlier trip was dry walling and painting the food warehouse. Other groups helped at the daycare or in the warehouse distribution center. We stayed in an old dormitory house. Wednesday afternoon was a side trip to Oglebay for a swim, and picnic.

"The last trip was interesting because we shared the house with another group. That year our team built a handicap ramp, and painted a porch. The year before was painting rooms in a house. My daughter, Julie, went of the early trips and Kelly on the later years.

"If you look on the mirror of my car the small cross was my "remember the week" gift from one of the early trips. It is an interesting area not that far away, but very depressed economically."

### Doug Devor

"I participated with our church from 1999-2004. Then I worked for JOSHUA (which is owned and operated by Urban Mission Ministries) from 2005-2008. When I was there with the church we mostly did painting projects, but I also remember working in the Community Soup Kitchen and packing food in a warehouse. Michael Tradowsky and Bill Dorsey did some carpentry work.

"The people I remember being there from our church are: Katelyn Devor, Devin Devor, Jacquie Wludgya, Marcus Teston, Christa Teston, Jacob Waldenmaier, Kim Lawson, Curt Malecek, Kelly Matthews, James Blask, Danny Carle, Kyle Misch, Jessie Waldon, Morgan Dorsey, Aaron Pesch, Jeff Demange, and Julie Such.

"One specific memory from when I was 12. Jacob Waldenmaier was writing in a journal and he wrote about how he was praying for a woman who lived across the street from the JOSHUA house. It really impacted me at 12 years old, that someone would pray for someone that they didn't know. Never forgot that. Being there with our church really impacted and helped on my way to know Christ. You could really see him moving through that mission."

### Kyle Misch

Kyle Misch participated in the JOSHUA program in 2004 and 2005. "Both years we were paired with a group of kids from Iowa. They were an extremely fun group to be around and really contributed to the entire experience.

"Projects I worked on ranged from demolition, scraping paint off walls, painting houses, painting an outdoor staircase (including prep for all weather), having a great time the entire week we spent on-site building new friendships.

"Most, if not all of the youth group, participated both years that I was active with the JOSHUA mission projects. That included my cousins, one brother, and numerous friends from the youth group."

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Whether they were getting acquainted with the homeowners, developing new skills, working as a team, creating new friendships, having fun, getting closer to God, meeting participants from across the country, or continuing mission service into their adulthood, the JOSHUA program touched the lives of the adults and youth who participated from our church as well as the lives of the people on Steubenville.

Bill Dorsey summed up the JOSHUA mission trips with these words, "These were great trips, involving service, fellowship, praise and spiritual development. I believe that they helped to give our youth a better understanding of the joy of serving others, and of working as a team to do so. They were examples of reaching out in service and love!"

For as it says in Romans 12:9-13:

*"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."*

*For more information on the Urban Mission and JOSHUA, check out their website at <http://www.urbanmission.org> .*

*Thank you to all who shared their memories for this article. It would have been incomplete without your contributions.*