

Attica UMC *Link*



JULY 2010

NEWS TO USE!

Let there be Kids!

by Pam Holihan

If you have seen the evidence of kids in the large room behind the Sanctuary, then you need to know that our mid-week children's program is making a difference for Christ. ***Indeed, kids come to our Church!***

We were asked to facilitate a Christian play group last November. A young mother wanted a safe place where her children and her friend's children could play together and learn about God. She had about four other friends who she felt would participate also.

Pam Holihan agreed to be the facilitator, and had two sessions in December 2009. It went well, although several who said they would take part, didn't. In January newspaper ads were placed in hopes of more children.

The Attica UMC Christian Pre-School Play Group officially started this past January with seven children. They meet every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., even through the summer.

The day always includes a Bible Story or Kids Sermon. There are crafts, letter recognition, letter sound recognition, songs, and the rhythm band instruments are used. We play group games, and games learning how to take turns. We provide a snack, but we request that parents bring the children's own Sippy Cup or Water Bottle. ***This program is free and operates at little cost to the church.***

There are two adults who regularly facilitate the program: Pam Holihan and Carol Kocik. Members of the congregation have donated snacks, money, hula hoops, felt, fabric, craft things, shells, stickers, beads, Beanie

Babies, and oodles of TP rolls (keep them coming), you'd be surprised at how handy all of these items have become.

We touch many lives: two dads who bring their children, along with one nanny, and three grandmothers bring their grandchildren. One of our little girls was coming with her Mom, then when Mom got a job, the babysitter brought her and her own son. We have even had four visits from a Grandmother who lives in Switzerland.

While we have never asked for money for our Food Pantry, the children learned about it. One girl who attends regularly (and has also donated her allowance) has a Grandfather who called our church office and now regularly supplies ***free bakery products and produce for the Food Bank!*** The Grandmother from Switzerland donated \$20 and our most ***regular Pantry cash donations*** come in red rolls (pennies) from a three year old and a six year old who donate their chore money.

We decided to organize Vacation Bible School so that it is just prior to Food Pantry to reach those families. Seven children registered for VBS through a Food Pantry visit. Nineteen children under ten are registered for Bible School. For VBS, we have five adults (Pam Wilcox, Carol Kocik, Pam Holihan, Sharon Jesse, Laura Hempton), and seven teenage helpers (Angela, Alyssa, Lindsey, Stephanie, Kristen, Michael, Charmaine). At this time all of the registered children do not show up but we are ready with material for all 19, just in case.

In all 33 children (20 families) attended our programs. Please see the photo on page three.



***check us out online and at facebook
www.atticachurch.org***

Blessings in the soot

by Pastor Margie Bryce

By the time you read this newsletter, hopefully the smoke damage that occurred on June 18, will have been turned into a blessing.

What it left behind, after lots of work with contractors, insurance people and clean-up crews, will be a nice, newly painted sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Along the way, we have been greatly blessed. First, we are blessed to have God guide us to allow our building to be used in the ministry work of Alcoholics Anonymous. I just learned that our A.A. group is one of the more spiritual in Lapeer County. And certainly, in our eyes, they are wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. Had they not found our building full of smoke when they did, it surely would have gone up in flames quite quickly.

Since our air conditioning unit for the sanctuary is in the basement, the smoky air and soot was forced into our sanctuary. This is why the sanctuary has been painted. It was an unexpected bonus for us as the Trustees had this on their "to do" list. At the same time, it was a challenge as we were not expecting to do this quite so soon.



Our sanctuary, before the painting began!

Study on Prayer: Tuesday mornings

If you are wondering how prayer works, then join us for a time of study at 9:30 a.m. two Tuesdays a month. Our group is meeting in the sanctuary and using the DVD series *When God's People Pray* by Jim Cymbala to help us dream big and pray big for our church.

Study dates: July 20, August 17 and 31. This six-week study is great for at-home use. Please let Pastor Margie know if you would host a group in your home and we'll supply the DVD and teacher to help guide you through it.

And then, the insurance company agreed only to paint the walls. Now, leaving the ceiling unpainted seemed silly, until the \$1,216 bill for painting the ceiling was placed in our hands. Fortunately, we were given a \$350 grant and one anonymous individual wrote a check for the entire balance. I cannot fully describe to you how wonderful it is to see God's hand at work in others, helping us as we step out in faithful obedience, looking forward into our future.

Our church has been given a thorough clearing as a result of this event. Many of you have been volunteering your services for a while now, so this is also a bonus for us.

It is my prayer that as the painters paint our the walls, that God would be preparing hearts for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. As we look at the fresh coat of paint in our worship space and see how "new" our 137 year old sanctuary can be, may we know deep in our hearts that God can make all things new, including and especially US!

Food Bank grants

In June, we were awarded two \$500 grants, one through the Eastern Michigan Food Bank and the other from Michigan State Representative Kevin Daley.



Food Bank update:

Grants and Food Truck giveaway

The Food Bank ministry continues to grow, even financially. In June, we were awarded two \$500 grants, one through the Eastern Michigan Food Bank and the other from Michigan State Representative Kevin Daley.

In June, our Food Bank saw its busiest month with 159 people being served. As a reminder our first month, August 2009, served 60 people.

Also in June, our Food Bank was connected to a gentleman from Columbiaville UMC who is providing us with bread and an abundance of fresh produce... for free! This connection came because his wife brought grandchildren to our Thursday morning Playgroup. So, that is great to see how God is working our ministries to help us help others.

In addition, on **Monday, August 23**, Attica UMC will host a Food Truck. Please plan on being part of the busy yet blessed day!

If you want to serve at the Food Bank, the second and fourth Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. please connect with Frits Bax (724-8787) to get on the schedule. Also, please let Frits know if you are intending to help with the Food Truck so we can be sure to have enough help.

Being faithful to cast those SEEDS!

Two children from Mancelona came to our VBS while they were visiting their Grandmother. The little girl had so much fun at VBS and Playgroup that their mother has enrolled her in a VBS in Mancelona.

What we are really doing is planting seeds for Jesus Christ. Our job is to be faithful in teaching the children about Jesus and leave the rest to God. All of these children identify our white church with the steeple as a place of laughter and love.

When I was in the hospital, I received a get well card with a picture of a church that looked just like ours - chosen by the child. One little guy who barely talks pointed to the picture of our church on the hanging quilt and says "PlayGroup." We are teaching Christian stories and principles, having fun, and giving the children good memories. Please continue to pray for the our PlayGroup and for growth in Christian Education Programs for people of all ages at Attica United Methodist Church. – Pam Holihan

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Pam Holihan and her pirate friends.



Attica United Methodist History Project

What is the next chapter for Attica UMC?

Name: _____

Phone/e-mail: _____
(in case we have further questions)

When did you come to Attica UMC? _____

What drew you to Attica UMC?

What do you remember about the ministry of the congregation? (*Keep in mind that ministry impacts the community for Christ, helps to make disciples and brings glory to God.*)

What is your favorite memory?

Any other remembrances or information we ought to know?

You can be an important part in helping to set a path for our next steps. But before our leadership can write the next chapter, it is important for all of us to know and understand the 137+ year old journey that God is directing.

By looking at our history, we will see the ways God has worked to shape and guide us and perhaps that will offer us God-inspired clues for our next steps.

So, by the end of this summer, we hope to have a condensed history to share with everyone. Carol Kocik, one of our newer members who is a project manager, has blessed us greatly by agreeing to coordinate this for us.

Know that many of you are on a list to be contacted by either Carol or other members of the committee. The questions you will be asked will help us piece together the quilt of our spiritual journey so we can take a look at the design in the making. So, your help is essential for us to draw a complete picture of our past.

We are also open to having you connect with us by providing us with valuable information about the history of the church. You can help either by writing what you know in either paragraph form or just sentences. If you can recall approximate year, or decade, that information would be very helpful. Or you could contact Carol directly and tell her what you know. In addition, forms that you can fill out will be available in the back of the sanctuary and on the same music stand where recipes forms were available.

Information will be gathered and most of it will be put together as a timeline of events. We will also collect information as a “memorial” and perhaps some stories and remembrances will be collected for that.

Here’s what is helpful for us to know: When did you come to Attica UMC? What drew you to Attica UMC? What do you remember about the ministry of the congregation? (*Keep in mind that ministry impacts the community for Christ, helps to make disciples and brings glory to God.*)

What is your favorite memory? Is there anything else we need to know? Carol Kocik (724-0412)

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