Thank You

I want to express my appreciation to the many carolers who came to my home Christmas morning. Not only was the music beautiful, but the cookies they brought were wonderful, too. Thanks so much, Carolyn Brooks

Dear United Methodist youth, thank you for singing carols to the residents this holiday season. It means so much for the residents to hear the wonderful Christmas songs. --Maquoketa Care Center staff

The church wants to thank Amber for being our secretary over the past year! She took a new job as of January 5th in the Bellevue area.

I would like to thank the Church for their kindness during my time here. I truly am sad to leave those who visit my office weekly, and appreciate everything I have come to learn while working as your church secretary. --Amber McLaughlin

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Adult Mission Trip
June 14-20, 2015
We had a group of enthusiastic adults attend our meeting on Nov. 17. We will be heading to southern Illinois to help with reconstruction following the tornadoes that went through there exactly a year ago. We will be leaving Maquoketa on Sunday afternoon, June 14th and returning Sat. morning, June 20th. At this point there are about 12 of us interested. If anyone else is interested, please let me know.

Holly Parmer (haparmer@yahoo.com)

Secretary Position Available—Maquoketa UMC
We are seeking applicants for Secretary—it is a part-time position at 28 hours a week. The position entails a ministry of hospitality for members, visitors, callers and staff, and includes administrative & accounting duties, clerical duties and providing support for the pastor and staff. Computer skills including proficiency with word processing programs and Excel are required. Knowledge of Quickbooks needed as well. If interested please contact Pastor Jeff (652-4420) or Steve Kahler (652-4662) and submit resume and cover letter.

Staff change coming: Secretary leaving
Amber has taken another job in the area and will be leaving us after the New Year. Her last day in the office was Wednesday, Dec. 31. We wish her well in her new position and thank her for the job well done as our secretary.

~Pastor Jeff & Steve Kahler
Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee

In the interim, Ann Otteman and volunteers will be answering the phone and doing the weekly tasks to keep the office open from 8:30 to 2:30 each weekday, 8:30 to 12:00 on Fridays.

Report on Estimate of Giving Cards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Building Fund</th>
<th>Apportionments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$119,333</td>
<td>$20,277</td>
<td>$24,142 (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$132,035</td>
<td>$19,421</td>
<td>$31,482 (2015)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

89 cards received compared to 81 last year. This is a very good response!

Black Top Paving Project--Goal for 2015

The thermometer represents the estimated dollars to complete this blacktop project. The funds received so far are $16,027.31. Our goal is to obtain an estimated $42,025 to complete the project.

If you want to give to this project please mark in the memo of your check “Blacktop”.

Caring Ministry Training in 2015
We will be offering a class for anyone wanting to serve in the Caring Ministry of our church starting Sunday, January 18 at 4:00-6:00pm. It will be led by Colleen Petaros and last 7 weeks. The pastor and several members of the UCC church will be joining us for this training as well.
Thank you for this hospitality each week!!

January 4: 1st Service: Shirley Brandon  
2nd Service: Doris Currier
January 11: 1st Service: Allen & Helen Schnoor  
2nd Service: Host Needed
January 18: 1st Service: Joel Cornelius  
2nd Service: Mona Reichling
January 25: 1st Service: Host Needed  
2nd Service: Marge Kehn & Carolyn Brooks

*Sign up is located in fellowship hall*

CRAFT GROUP
The craft group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 1-3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This month’s craft dates are 1/12 & 1/26. We always need fresh and new ideas for craft. If you would like to help just drop in and join us on those days. We would love to have you join in the fun and fellowship! Any questions contact Janet Mitchell 652-0448 or Jolyn Richards @ 652-4907

January UMW Exec Meeting
January 7th: 9 a.m. Coffee  
9:30 Meeting

Circle Meetings for January are as follows:  
Miriam: January 27th @ 9:00 AM @ Church  
Ruth: January 27th @ 6:00 PM @ Church  
Rachel: January 28th @ 9:45 AM @ Senior Center  
Hannah: No Meeting

Pop Can Refunds
The pop can refund last month was $21.70. The end-of-year balance is $387.63. Thank you for bringing your pop cans and pop bottles to the church, you are helping so many people. We nearly reached the goal of $400! You are helping the Henderson Settlement in Kentucky with their mission work and also helping the women of Nigeria to learn light bookkeeping skills so that they can earn money to help support their families. Keep bringing the cans and bottles in to the church boiler room.

God Bless, Missions—Bonnie Parmer

Health Concerns: Please continue daily prayers for: Shirley Brandon’s daughter, Kathryn as she nears the end of life. .
- My friend Mary is recuperating from a car accident where she broke her neck and is in Iowa City. (Elaine Dull)
- Pray for my son, Wayne, his health has taken a turn for the worse. (Marilee Weuste)
- We pray for Shirley Brandon as she recovers from walking pneumonia.  
- Jim Rankin was in the hospital after Christmas. He is now home recovering. (husband of Marilyn)

Deaths:
- Blaine Bock’s sister Marlis passed away on Dec. 10th
- Barb Mayberry’s brother-in-law passed away on 12/19 in Bloomington, MN
- Prayers for The Lin Redling family as her son-in-law Craig Schifer was killed in an avalanche accident while skiing in France. (Sheryl Streep’s friend)
- George Spalding died on Dec. 27th. (husband of Sue Spalding and father of Scott Spalding)
- Bishop Rueben Job died on January 2nd. He was the Iowa Bishop from the years 1984 until 1992. His memorial service will be in Nashville

Assisted Living and Care Centers
- Oak Park Place (Dubuque): Ethel Kennedy
- Bethany Home (Dubuque): Betty Myatt
- Maquoketa Care Center: Jean Dyer, Verna Foster , Darlene Simmons
- Clover Ridge: Marian Todd, Marshall & Else Pitcher, Ruth Casteel, Geri Hayes, Bernice Frank, Gale Stickley, Marilee Weuste, Lorraine Owens and Betty Burns
- Clarence: Marla Grose
- Woodridge Supportive Living (Geneseo, Illinois): Carol Sears
- Avonlea Cottage (Milan, Illinois): Rachel Swanson

Weather policy for winter worship
In the event of bad weather, Sunday morning worship will not be cancelled. As long as Pastor Jeff can make it across the street and we have electricity we will be up for our radio broadcast on KMAQ (95.1 FM). Music groups need to call Joel Hagen if they are unable to make it. Generally speaking, worship will happen if the preacher and musicians are here. There may be occasions when all we maintain is our radio presence because of bad weather. We urge you to exercise good judgment when deciding about getting out. If worship is cancelled on Sunday morning an announcement will be called to KMAQ.

Men of the Vine
Join us January 10th at 8 AM Saturday morning for Fellowship & Donuts in Fellowship Hall.

Special offering totals for December:  
Thank offering for WIC outreach: $263  
Community Cupboard: $332  
Pastor’s Emergency Fund: $255  
Blacktop fund: $340  
Staff Appreciation Christmas gift: $330  
Christmas Gift for Pastor Jeff: $262  
Christmas Eve offering envelope: $2,095.00  
(the Christmas offering will split 50/50 between Hospice & the Community Cupboard)
Help Wanted:
We are seeking individuals for Ushering during 2015 as the New Year begins. If you can help for the month or a couple of weeks, please call or email the office!