

Wesley News

September, 2003

Strongsville United Methodist Church



Local kids enjoyed interacting with the mission team members. SUMC's Matt Huie looks on in the background.



Even the hard floor didn't seem to deter anyone from sleeping after a long day of work.

Missionaries complete successful trip

Appreciation Ice Cream Social & Slide Show

Sunday, September 7 at 6:30 pm

Tiber Hall

Please Come!

A group of about 80 youth and adults, 23 of them from SUMC, traveled to the Buffalo/Niagara area of New York in June. At the Shalom Zone in Buffalo, teams of youth cleaned, moved furniture, helped set up a thrift store, and did renovation work. At the Community Center in Niagara, teams of youth emptied, cleaned, and painted 15 apartments for transitional housing, saving the agency six months of work.

We slept on the floor at the urban St. Paul's UMC International Center and rose at 6 am. We conducted our evening worship services in the beautiful sanctuary, as well as at the brink of the Horseshoe Falls! While the work was hard, many new friends were made, and everyone felt the satisfaction of serving God by serving God's people.

The work of the mission was a spiritual extension of the people who supported us: the congregation of SUMC. We could not have made the trip without the generous support of everyone at the youth auction, bake sales, donut sales, and stock sponsorships. Your support of our food drive for the trip yielded 24 jars of jam and jelly, 19 jars of peanut butter, 54 rolls of toilet paper, and 47 boxes of cereal. This generosity enabled us to come in almost \$1200 under budget (with a \$5000 food budget) as reported by the Berea folks. We were able to contribute two bags of peanut butter and jelly to the Strongsville Food Bank as well. Thank You from your missionaries as well as those from Berea and York churches!

Everyone is invited to hear more of our work mission story at our Appreciation Ice Cream Social and Slide Show on September 7th.

Special music services planned for September 28

On Sunday, September 28, all of the church's music groups will be performing during both morning services. (Both the 9:30 and 11:00 services will be identical). The entire worship will be woven around the music presented, and a reception for the musicians and congregation will be held in Tiber Hall between services.

This special Sunday will be a wonderful kick-off for the fall season for each of our choirs and a blessed time for all who hear them. We hope you will make a special effort to be present and to show your support for all those who volunteer to help make your worship services more meaningful through music!

Regular fall schedule begins Sept. 7

We resume our regular worship and Sunday School schedule on September 7th. Worship services will be at 9:30 and 11:00 am with Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 and for children in kindergarten through 5th grade at 11:00. Child care is provided for both services. For more information, contact the church office (440-238-6135).

On the Way

Sunday, September 28th

6:30 pm in the sanctuary

Special Guest: Covenant Players

Drama Team

Music by Moving 4Word



From the Pastor's Study

"Seen Things"

*"...because we look not to the things that are seen, but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." II Corinthians 4:18*

I was reminded recently that I depend a lot on "seen" things. During those blackout hours several weeks ago, I was reminded of how much I depend on being able to see things around me and how I take such seeing for granted.

When I arrived home after dark and let myself in the front door (because of course the automatic garage door opener did not work), I tried to visualize my abode with the mental eye.

But questions soon arose: had I left a book next to the recliner that I might trip over? Groping in the dark I asked, "where is the coffee table that holds the candles?" Was that the feel of matches or had I grasped something else in the "miscellaneous drawer?" Where were the batteries for the portable radio?

A little later, when I moved outside so that I might sit in the cool air, I realized that many things that had gone "unseen" were now "seen." There were stars in the northern sky. I had not been able to observe those because of all of the diffused light from the urban area. As my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I realized how much natural light there actually was...enough to allow me to see the beautiful shape of a tree that I had been overlooking. Plus there were the wonderful patterns that were coming from flashlights around the neighborhood as if large fireflies had descended to our community.

As I reflected, I recalled the scripture above as we are reminded that our focus needs to be not on the seen but upon the unseen. In the darkness I realized that there is so much more to my life than what I can hold in a physical sense. So many of those wonderful possessions inside my house were useless without a source of power. How quickly I can become wrapped up in the things of this world, but ultimately they are not important. Yes, even eventually I will leave them.

How much more important that I look towards those things which are unseen...the things of heaven. Those parts of my life last forever. I need to look at this world with the eyes of God, not the eyes of a human.

In the midst of a blackout, I realized that so much of what I see as necessary is not, what I view as meaningful carries little meaning to God, what I have worked to gain is quickly lost, what I define as useful has little purpose.

I need to recognize that those unseen things of life - love, joy, peace, friendship, loyalty, commitment ... to name but a few, are those things which hold eternal purpose and meaning. Sitting in the darkness reminds me that I must see the necessity of the unseen.

So, being in hours of total darkness, in the midst of heat, discomfort and inconvenience reminds me again that I need to be focused upon the eternal purpose of the Divine. The lack of electrical power places me again as a mere mortal in a world created by the Almighty. Spending a night in darkness calls me to the true Light, Jesus Christ.

O Lord, thank you for giving me darkness so that I can "see" the importance of the "unseen." Amen





The next class for adults desiring to become full members of the Strongsville United Methodist Church will be held on two consecutive Sundays...September 28th from 2:00 - 8:00pm and October 5th from 6:30 - 9:30pm. The first class will be held at the church and the second will be at the No. Inlet parsonage. Those completing the classes will be received into membership during both services on October 19th.

If you would like to sign up for the classes or if you need more information, please contact the church office (238-6135) as soon as possible. Child care will be available if there is a need.

Cub Scout Pack 226 invites all boys in grades 1 - 5 to come to an Open House on Wednesday, September 17th, from 7:00 - 8:00pm in the atrium. This will be a great chance for you to find out what scouting is all about and sign up for one of the Dens. If you have questions, please call Dave Smith (846-8304).

East Ohio Conference Men's Retreat

All men of the church are invited to attend the EOC Men's Retreat at Inspiration Hills in Burbank, Ohio on September 12th & 13th. Dr. Jim Skinner will lead the discussion and Bible study entitled "*Lessons for Life*" based on the book *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. Registration forms are available from Rod Erskine (440/331-4413 or rode@stratos.net).

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Pastors: Rev. Ronald A. Mowry & Rev. Paula J. L. Koch

From Pastor Paula's Desk

I watched as the little boy took hold of the gentleman's leg and swung it around the car seat toward the open door. Quietly the little boy did the same with the other leg. Then with all his strength this eight-year-old pulled the gentleman to his feet, helping him slowly make his way to the door of the restaurant. The younger caring for the older.

Now the eight-year-old with a love of baseball coaxed this gentle man of 6'4", much slower than in years past, to pitch the baseball so he could practice his batting technique. When the eight-year-old broke the window on the house, the gentle man, fondly known as Pap, grinned and laughed.

Watching these scenes, I have seen joy, compassion, sadness and pain. At eight years of age this little boy has experienced the loss of his beloved great-grandparents and, more recently, a great-aunt. At eight he has already learned a great deal about life.

Through this child, I have learned more about the love of Jesus and faith. I have come to understand in a new way what Jesus meant when he said in Matthew 18, **"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never see the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."** (vs. 3-4)

Jesus didn't mean we are to be children, but to have a child-like faith and love. Children can teach us what it means to help others, to enjoy each moment of the day, to pray when there is nothing else to do. I have seen and heard of the faith of children who will say, "well the best thing we can do is pray." Sometimes our first course of action should be a prayer in which we ask for the strength and wisdom of God, before we jump into a situation.

I have learned many lessons from children. Recently I have grown because of what they have taught me. Watch a child, listen to a child, learn from a child. They are gifts from God.

Lord, help me to be more open to learning from a child. Allow me the ability to grow because of the children you have placed around me. In Christ's name, amen.

Pastor Paula J. L. Koch



Rustad Library

We have several new books in the library. **A Good Kiss: The Wisdom of a Listening Child; The Tapestry Of Faith (A history of Methodism); The Greatest Generation** by Tom Brokaw; and two **Chicken Soup** books. Please stop by and take a look at all of the book selections available to you. The library is located inside the Gifford Parlor.

United Methodist Women

❖ District Meeting

Cleveland District United Methodist Women will meet Monday, October 6th at Bay UM Church. Registration is at 5:30 pm, followed by a fried chicken dinner at 6:00 and the program at 7:00. Cost is \$7.00. Carpooling will be available from church. RSVP to Karen Muskoff, 440-572-1084, by Sept 28.

❖ **Elizabeth Circle** will meet on Monday, September 22 at 7:30 pm at the church.

❖ **Lydia Circle** will meet Thursday, September 4 at 12:30 pm in Tiber Hall. Bring lunch. Coffee and tea will be available. This will be a business meeting to plan the year. For more information please call Betty Berry, 440-238-6495, or Grace Kellner, 440-234-0938.

Sometimers

Get set for the steak roast

Sometimers, it's time for our annual Steak Roast. Hope you're hungry! The date is Friday, September 26 at 6:30 pm in Albion Woods in the Metroparks. Cost will be \$9.00. (Hey! Everything's going up!)

Be sure to bring your own table service. Make your reservations with payment to Betty Smith no later than September 21. Hope to see you there! Sometimers is open to all adults of SUMC – married or single. Won't you join us?

Parents of young children are invited to join study group

The Parent Growth Group will begin their weekly meetings on Monday, September 15 from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a study/fellowship group for all parents of young children.

The group is in need of an adult babysitter to work with another adult in the nursery during the weekly meetings. This is a

Friday Fellowship

Friday Fellowship will go to the Botanical Gardens and the Glass House on September 19. Cost of the tour is \$6.00. We will have lunch at the University Inn. The bus will leave promptly at 11:00 am from the church. Make reservations with Betty Smith by September 14.

September Birthdays

- Sept. 4 Grace Kellner
- Sept. 6 Louise Bedford
- Sept. 7 Frank Allwood, 85 years
- Sept. 8 Thelma Holtz
- Sept. 19 Ann Croner, 95 years
- Sept. 21 Nancy Dawson
- Sept. 23 Opal Russell, 92 years
- Sept. 26 Sarah Preidt, 95 years

Anniversary

- Sept. 7 Arthur & Freida Kara, 57 years



Thought for the Day

Prayer goes up
Blessings come down.

The group is in need of an adult babysitter to work with another adult in the nursery during the weekly meetings. This is a paid position. For more information about Parent Growth or if you are interested in babysitting, contact Becky Marusek (440-238-7355).

Your food items will help new ministry

The Cleveland Food Mobile's "Lift Jesus Up Ministry" is new to our area. It is a ministry that feeds the homeless as well as spreading God's word in the Cleveland area. The Cleveland Food Mobile and the radio station 95.5 "The Fish" are teaming up for a food drive/fundraiser on Saturday, September 27 from 10 am to 6 pm at Giant Eagle parking lot at Westfield (South Park) mall.

We are asking you to bring canned and boxed foods to the Big Blue School Bus that will be parked in Giant Eagle's lot for the day. Volunteers from the bus ministry as well as radio personnel from The Fish 95.5 will be available to talk to donors. You might even want to consider riding the bus and seeing the ministry at work. If you need any information, please call Mark Milia (440-572-0602).



(Notes from the Nurses, continued)

social telephone calls during homework time. Provide your child with necessary supplies and keep these items together in one place if possible.

Parents have a great deal of influence on their children's learning. We need to set a good example by reading, writing, and doing things that require thought and effort on our part. Show an interest in what your child is doing by being involved in school activities and taking him to the library. Children are more likely to complete assignments successfully when parents monitor homework. How closely you need to monitor depends upon the age of your child, how independent she is, and how well she does in school. Whatever the age of your child, if assignments are not getting done satisfactorily, more supervision is needed. Elementary school students often like to have someone in the same room when working on assignments in case they have questions. It's usually a good idea to check to see that your elementary school child has finished her assignments. If your junior high school student is having trouble finishing assignments, check his too.

Helping your child with homework is an opportunity to improve your child's chances of doing well in school and life. What's most important is that you are willing to take the time and make the effort to be involved in your child's education. (adapted from "Helping Your Child with Homework" by Nancy Paulu)

Blood pressure checks will be in between services in the parlor on September 21.

Have a blessed Labor Day and good luck to all the "back-to-schoolers."

Betsy Mowry and Gail Spence

Christian Education News



Fall schedule officially begins.

Promotion Sunday is September 7th!

STUDENTS REPORT TO THEIR NEW CLASSES.

Pre-schoolers need to be the age of their new class by September 30. School-aged students report to the grade level they are in school.

ROOM LOCATIONS - 9:30 AM

Crib & Toddlers	ROOM 11 Atrium wing
Two year olds	ROOM 9 Atrium wing
Three year olds	ROOM 8 Atrium wing
Four year olds	ROOM 7 Atrium wing
Kindergarten	ROOM 6 Atrium wing
First Grade	ROOM 5 Old education wing
Second Grade	ROOM 4 Old education wing
Third Grade	ROOMS 1,2 Old education wing

Sunday School still needs volunteers. We are grateful for our volunteers who have made quarterly or monthly commitments in the classroom this fall. This consistency is vital as it allows the children to know what is expected, to build a lasting relationship with their teacher, which ultimately helps them to focus on learning about our awesome GOD.



Help is still needed in the four-year-old room, Fourth grade, Fifth grade (Oct. Dec. Feb. April), Sixth grade (two Sundays per month), and 11:00 am multi-aged class. Please check the teacher list posted in the Sunday school office, consider co-teaching with someone or sign up to help on the sign up sheets posted by week/grade outside the classroom doors. We need your help!

Christian Education Sunday is September 14th

As a congregation, we thank and dedicate those who work in our education department. Third grade students receive Bibles in memory and on behalf of the Clara Clogg fund.

Special Needs Ministry

We are currently seeking a part-time Teacher-Coordinator to help facilitate a special needs ministry in our church. This is an excellent opportunity to pilot a very unique ministry within our community.

Requirements include:

- ◆ A minimum of a BS/BA in special education or related area.
- ◆ An Ohio teacher's license in special education or related area.
- ◆ Good communication skills.
- ◆ Minimum of two years experience with special needs children.
- ◆ Safe Sanctuary Clearance-Level Four.

If you are interested, please call Mary Phillips at the church office, 440-238-6135, or at home, 440-572-0081.

Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who are helping me make the transition as Christian Education Director. I am excited for the fall session so that I may get to know the children, parents and teachers better. I encourage your thoughts and ideas so that we may grow in making God's word be known to our children.

Mary Phillips

Newsorthy Notes

Congratulations to **Sarah Salisbury**, who recently received her M.B.A. in Systems Management from Baldwin-Wallace College.

Joyce & Doug Turnbull are looking for garage storage for one car for one year. If you know of an available garage, please call them at 440- 238-7045.

Third Grade	ROOMS 1,2 Old education wing
Fourth Grade	ROOM A Tiber Hall-Classroom next to Choir room.
Fifth Grade	Back corner Tiber Hall
Sixth Grade	ROOM 10 Atrium wing
7th thru 12th	Gifford Parlor
Adult Classes	LOFT Atrium wing

11:00 AM

Multi-aged 3rd thru 5th Grades ROOM 5 Old education wing

Parents need to fill out registration cards

Registration cards will be introduced once again this year. Promptly fill out and return to your children's Sunday school teacher. These cards enable us to record allergies, accurate birth dates, and attendance records.

Joys & Concerns

Weddings

Jenny Brown & Andy Comer were married on July 26. Jenny is the daughter of Richard & Marilyn Brown, and Andy is the son of Jerry & Teresa Comer.

Jessica Evans & Andrew Morey were married on July 26. Jessica is the daughter of Bob & Anita Evans.

Naomi Sanabria & Chad DeLong were married on August 2.

Melissa Forester & William Brace were married on August 2.

Dr. Lynn Eckert & Tom Tomasula were married on August 9.

Dawn Kinnear & Craig Triola were married on August 9.

Best wishes to all the newlyweds!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands!



*Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing
Psalm 100:1-2*

We at SUMC are blessed to have many different opportunities for "making a joyful noise" unto the Lord. Won't you consider lending your voice or your instrument to one of our musical groups?

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 pm and sings each Sunday and for special services. Rehearsals begin August 27, with our first worship service on September 7. The choir is open to adults and high school students. There are no special vocal requirements or prior experience needed. This is a friendly group, eager to welcome you. We have lots of seats to fill, and voices of every kind are needed to make our worship as meaningful as possible.

While regular rehearsals are necessary, allowances are made for absences due to personal commitments. Don Shearer (440-846-1916), choir director, would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Choir members: save the date of September 7 for the annual Sanctuary Choir picnic!

The Crossroads Ringers, our handbell choir, rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 and plays during both services on the 3rd Sunday of each month and for special services. This inclusive group ranges in age from high school students to senior citizens. Bell ringing does require the ability to read music and count. While the group is fully staffed at this time, if you are interested in being a substitute, please contact the director, Rita Bodey, for further information (440-572-4749).

The X-Alt Band performs Christian, contemporary music for the 11:00 am service on the last Sunday of each month. When there is a 5th Sunday in a month, we perform at both the 9:30 and 11:00 am services. The Band also provides music for the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

X-Alt practices on most Thursdays at around 7:30 pm. We are currently looking for female vocalists to help both as regulars and alternates. We perform music from artists like *Point Of Grace, Sierra, The Martins, Out Of The Grey, Steve Green, Al Denson*, and countless others. If you enjoy this kind of music and have a voice that fits in with that musical style, please consider joining us. For an audition or any other information about the band, call Dick Herrick at 440-238-1221.

Moving 4Word is a group of vocalists and instrumentalists who provide contemporary Christian music for our Contemporary Worship Service, *On the Way*, which is the last Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please contact Pastor Paula (440-238-6135) if you would like more information about this group.

The Brass Choir performs periodically at regular and special worship services. This group, under the direction of Randy Border, will rehearse on Monday evenings beginning in November, and is currently looking for brass players. Instrumentation for the brass choir includes trumpet, cornet, French horn, baritone, euphonium, trombone and tuba. If you are interested in playing, please contact Randy at 440-572-0503.

The Commitments, our youth choir, invites all youth from 6th grade through high school to praise God with upbeat sacred choral music. This group rehearses on Thursdays from 8 to 8:30 pm (beginning September 4th) and sings at both services on the first Sunday of each month. Director Vickie Eicher will be happy to answer your questions (440-238-0471).

Joyful Noise Angels and **Rainbow Express**, our children's choirs, bless our worship services with their exuberant voices. The Joyful Noise Angels, for children in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, practices on Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:00 pm. They sing at both services on the 4th Sunday of each month. Children in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades are invited to join Rainbow Express, which practices on Thursdays from 8:00 to 8:30 pm and performs at both services on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

These choirs are a wonderful way for children to begin their service to the church by sharing their voices. Children do not have to be in Logos to be in the choirs. Rehearsals begin on September 4th. Call Shirley Oltman (440-572-1319) to find out more about our children's choirs.

✦ Notes from the Nurses ✦



"Homework, O Homework, I hate you, you stink!" This is the first line of a poem my son has had hanging in his room and is an appropriate sentiment for kids with school starting up.

Homework can be very helpful, however. It serves as good review and practice, helps kids learn to use resources and explore subjects more fully, and can help them develop good habits and attitudes such as learning to work independently and developing self-discipline and responsibility. Homework is meant to be a positive experience and to encourage children to learn. Assignments should not be used as punishment.

Many educators believe that homework is most effective for the majority of children in first through third grades when it does not exceed 20 minutes each school day. From fourth

through sixth grades, many educators recommend from 20 to 40 minutes a school day for most students. For students in seventh through ninth grades, generally, up to 2 hours a school day is thought to be suitable. Amounts that vary from these guidelines are fine for some students. Talk with your child's teacher if you are concerned about either too much or too little homework.

Finding a regular time for homework helps children finish assignments. The best schedule is one that works for your child and your family. Outside activities, such as sports or music lessons, may mean that you need a flexible schedule. Your child may study after school on some days and in the evening on others. If there isn't enough time to finish homework, your child may need to drop some outside activity. Homework must be a high priority.

A study area should have lots of light, supplies close by, and be fairly quiet. Turn off the television and discourage

JUST 4 YOUTH!

A letter to the teenager (9 of 12):

People began arriving around 2:30, the funeral would begin at 3:00. This was such an unexpected death, shock still gave tension to the air. The rain forced most of the crowd to either wait in their cars, or run inside to huddle with the other wet and cold people dressed in their Sunday-best. Most of the talk was casual, the usual small talk.

"Well, he's in a better place now."

"He lived a good life."

A person stood next to the casket and asked everyone to be seated. The funeral was about to begin. After a few minutes, he began to speak.

"Today is indeed a sad day. Not so much because of the physical loss, but the loss of opportunity. The man inside of this wooden box lived a life that was well-wasted. He went to work, came home, sat in front of the tv, never really had any "below-the-surface" conversations with anyone, including his family. He was content to just exist. He was satisfied with being successful at his job. He had a lot of toys: the boat, the house on the lake, the corvette: none of these things bad in and of themselves, but he used people for things, instead of using things for people."

"Most of you will mourn the loss today, but tomorrow go back to work, or school, or life, and never really be affected by his death. Perhaps you in his family will miss the security of having a father, but you will mourn even more deeply the fact that you never really knew him, and perhaps he never really knew you. His co-workers will miss his stories every now and again while chatting next to the water fountain, but his position is easily replaceable, and people like him are a dime a dozen. Perhaps if he would have looked you in the eye when he talked to you, or stopped you in the hallway to ask you deep, real questions about your life. Perhaps if he would have invited you to his church, or invited you to his home to have dinner with his family. Perhaps those are the things that are irreplaceable."

"So we bury another body today. The average person lives about 25,550 days. About 5 of those days are truly lived to the fullest."

"So go home, don't read, don't take chances, don't study God's word, don't invest in other people's lives, don't get involved in other people's problems, don't let other people get involved with your problems, don't meet people for coffee just to talk, don't learn more about how God says to spend your time, don't tell people about Jesus, don't challenge people, be afraid to offend people, don't stand up for those who are unable to stand, don't unplug the television, don't have dinner with your family every night, don't really mean it when you say God first, then family, then work (you've got that line down great, shame you don't know what it means), don't really care, don't learn how to evaluate your own life without bias, don't ask people how you can help or make them feel more loved or appreciated."

"And you will be like millions and millions of people before you—a life well-wasted."

What do you live for?

What will they say at your funeral?

The box is waiting.

Greg Grimwood
Youth Director



Don't Miss September 7th!!!

Youth slide show during the morning announcements!

SUMC YOUTH MINISTRY BOOKLETS will be available after each service. EVERY activity from September through December listed with details!

Youth Mission Trip Ice Cream Social is also on Sunday September 7th.

See the article in this Wesley News for more details.

EVERYONE is welcome to join us.

(Joys and Concerns, continued)

Births

Donovan Thomas Krueger was born June 28 to Neil & Kristy Krueger. Proud great-grandparents are Tom & Ruth Guzzo.

Ryan Donovan Balka was born July 28 to Cliff & Lora Balka. Proud grandparents are Don & Judy McKee, and proud great-grandmother is Ginny McKee.

Congratulations to all!

Baptisms

We rejoice with the families of those who were baptized on Sunday, August 10: **Adam Michael Freeman**, son of Dale and Christine Schweda Freeman; **Hannah Alexis Demkowicz**, daughter of James and Lisa Dargai Demkowicz; **Cole Blake Leis**, son of Blake and Leslie Staley Leis; **Aleah Marie Hedinger**, daughter of Joseph and Jennifer Alexander Hedinger; and **Carson William Brown**, son of William and Laura Nyznyk Brown.

Deaths

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family of **Paul Ziman**, who passed away July 31st.

Our sympathy is also extended to **Gregg & Tracy McCort** family upon the recent death of Tracy's father; to **Thelma Holtz** and family upon the death of her sister-in-law, Eleanor Holtz, on July 30th; and to **Brian & Lisa Muskoff** and family upon the death of Lisa's father, Bob Harvey, on August 4th.



From our church's mailbox

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We thank you for your faithfulness in prayer on Joe's behalf.

July 17 was a "Good News" day that we want to share with all the prayer partners. His scans were clear and the treatments are finished. Halleluiah! May God bless each of you as He has blessed us.

Gratefully His,
Joe & Myrna Paris

Dear SUMC Congregation,

Thank you for your prayers and generosity over the last month. The shawl presented to Nolan is beautiful! Thank you, Paula, for the visits and phone calls which helped to break up our many long days in the hospital. And a special thanks to the talented artists of the Sunday School classes who sent us dozens of cheery get well cards. Everyone's prayers and contributions helped make a difficult time for our family much more bearable. We are fortunate to have found such a warm, friendly and supportive church to be part of our family's lives.

Bless you all,

The Thompson Family

Bill, Audra, Nolan, Paige & Chloe



Dear SUMC Family,

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive a Chapman Scholarship! You have been so generous to me the past seven years, and I am truly thankful that God has surrounded me with such wonderful people.

God Bless,

Shelly Hartman



Dear Congregation,

I want to thank everyone for their prayer cards, and meals! Thank you to Pastor Paula for "getting with the chickens" to be with me before my surgery. I also thank Rev Ron for his visit.

In Christian Love,

Mary Szabo



Dear Faithful Friends,

You are such a faith-filled and generous community. Thank you for your generous donations of \$288 in June and July. This donation, coupled with groceries donated during the same time period, helps us to keep the shelves stocked. Typically during the summer months the distribution of food is greater than donations. Then there is the Methodist congregation – always there for us! We appreciate all you do for us as well as your ongoing support.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Miley

The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank