

# THE PARISH POST

Volume 41 - Issue #5

11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

May 2013



*"Hold on to the good.  
Avoid every kind of evil."*

*1 Thessalonians 5:21-22*

## Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Like other Americans, I was horrified by the recent bombings at the Boston Marathon. My initial thoughts were similar to those I've heard voiced by others on television and online. First, I wondered about the people I know who live in the Boston area (my cousins and the son of my pastor friends). Then, I reflected on those who have been to this historic marathon in the past and who could have been there again this year.

My brother and sister-in-law became engaged just after she ran the Boston Marathon for the first time (in 2001). If they had not moved to England three months ago, she was going to run it again this year. If she had, my brother and their daughters would have been standing once again under the British flag near the finish line, very close to where the bombs were detonated. It gives me shivers to even imagine that scenario.

Yet, even though I am flooded with relief for the well-being of my loved ones, my heart is still terribly grieved for those whose plans did put them in this particular place at this particular time. With the media coverage available to us today, we are aware of their individual stories and almost feel as if we do know these people whose lives were forever affected. Hundreds of people injured, including several who lost their limbs. Three people dead, including an eight-year-old child. How awful. How senseless. How tragic.

Though the word "tragedy" is among the first which comes to my mind, perhaps this is not the appropriate word for such an event. A tragedy is when a car skids on the ice and crashes. A tragedy is when an earthquake rumbles the ground and buildings collapse on people. This was something different. This did not have to be. This was very plainly a manifestation of evil.

When individuals become members of the United Methodist Church, they are asked historic questions pertaining to the Renunciation of Sin and the Profession of Faith. The first two of these questions go like this:

"Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?"

"Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?"

In the past, I've often thought that these questions were wordy. I've even attempted to summarize them for new members by telling them they are simply pledging to turn away from sin and live for God. It was only as I was teaching the "Credo" confirmation class this year that I gained a new appreciation for the importance of these vows. Within the curriculum, we were challenged to examine carefully every single word found above.

Together we discussed the reality of evil and wickedness in our world. Terrorism was one of the examples given. But, sadly, there was no shortage of other examples. As the question states: evil takes many forms. Even thirteen-year-olds are already very aware of the existence of evil in our world.

Why does such evil exist? Because of sin which resides in the human heart. This is where the vows we take as Christians become tremendously important. Standing before a congregation of believers for support and accountability, we profess our intention to reject such evil in our own lives. And, more than that, we promise to actively resist – to stand against – such evil in the world in whatever form it presents itself. We do so with the confidence that God gives us the power we need for this spiritual battle.

During the battle against apartheid in South Africa, Bishop Desmond Tutu crafted lyrics to a song entitled "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil." It is found in *The Faith We Sing* – a songbook used in our worship services – and the words go like this:

*(continued on page two)*

(continued from page one)

“Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours  
Through him who loved us.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours  
Through him who loved us.”

How beautiful and how true the message conveyed by this song. God gives us the victory over evil by his love. Indeed, countless examples have been recounted of goodness and even selflessness displayed in the moments following the marathon bombing: emergency workers rushing into the chaos, risking their own lives to attend to the victims; other bystanders and Boston residents reaching out to help with kindness and compassion; law enforcement officers who worked tirelessly to track down the perpetrators.

So many heroes – most of whose names and deeds will never be known to the masses. I wonder how many of them did what they did in those frightful moments because of their faith. How many of them stood in a church sometime in the past (whether United Methodist or other) and answered a question similar to this: *“Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”* with a resounding *“I do.”*

Acting in faith, may each of us resist evil in whatever form it presents itself and may we know with conviction that the goodness of God is always stronger.

Praying for peace and justice throughout our world,

**Pastor Sherri**



**Addresses for cards and visits:**

**Bill Ross**  
Silverbrook Manor (Room #301)  
911 S. Third St., Niles, MI 49120

**Dorothy Schwark**  
Hamilton Grove  
31869 Chicago Trail  
New Carlisle, IN 46552  
Phone: 810-712-3643



*“When one member suffers, we all suffer;  
and when one member is honored, we all rejoice.”*  
**I Corinthians 12:26**

**Those who serve as missionaries,  
especially:**

Jeff & Deliegha Swanson, Charissa, Lois, and Titus  
in Mexico;  
Dr. Elma Jocson in Liberia.

**Those who are in the military, including:**

Christopher Blackwell, Danny King,  
David Medlin, Micheal Seminec.

**Those who are in care facilities:**

Hamilton Grove – Dorothy Schwark, Betty Smith  
Jordan’s – Lucy Lee  
River Ridge – Jerry Thomas  
Silverbrook Manor – Bill Ross  
West Woods of Niles – Barney Faye,  
Marjorie Weller  
Woodland Terrace – Shirley Hoadley

**Those who are homebound:**

Dorothy Brayboy, Elsie Portinga, Marge Vidal,  
and Thais Williams.

**Those with health problems:**

David Becker, Julian Becker, Jake Busick,  
Betty Bolle, Nolan Burgess, Shirley Busick,  
Yuriko Cooper, Ursula Gold, Don Goodenough,  
Erin Haase, Dawn Hayes, Virginia Janowski,  
Susan Kamp, Jerry Keller, George Koebel,  
Cap Lee, Russ Lee, Ed MacGregor,  
Hannah Noble, Rhonda Petro, Alex Renbarger,  
Sarah Ripley, Elna Rogers, Bill Ross,  
Keiko Shimizu, Dorothy Schwark,  
Heather Trumps Shimanek, Rita Thompson,  
Dana Voyta, Kathy Wasson, Madi Whitlow.

**Those who grieve:**

Family and friends of Greg Kent, Gary Orr, Darleen  
Hemphill Latislaw, Art Portinga, Jane Tackett,  
Elaine Ferguson, Aaron Ritzow, and Abby Greer.

**Other:**

Vacation Bible School.  
Our Mission Team.  
Lisa and Sven Verlinden preparing for a Mission  
Trip.  
Victims of the bombing at the Boston Marathon.  
Pastor Saeed Abendine in an Iranian prison.  
Peace throughout our world.

**Please note:**

*Names will be deleted from the above list after one  
month unless an updated request is received.*



## Condolences

We extend our sympathy to the family of *Art Portinga* who died on April 4 at the age of 92. Our love goes out to *Elsie*, his wife of 72 years, their daughters *Vada* and *Peggy*, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren

Thank you to *Chris Zebell* and *Rhonda Hinman* for organizing the funeral luncheon after Art's funeral. Thank you also to *Chris Zebell*, *Pat Dimmitt*, *Sharon Phillips*, and *Vivian Koebel* for serving and cleaning up, and to everyone who brought food.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of *Elaine Ferguson* who died on April 8 in Delaware following an extended illness. She was the mother of *Deb Barbour* and grandmother of *Paige* and *Jacob*.

We further extend our sympathy to *Chuck Sittig* and *Paul Sittig* at the death of their cousin, *Aaron Ritzow*.

May the Lord give comfort to these families in their grief.

*Thanks to all who helped make the day a blessing.  
Elsie Portinga and family*

## Memorial Day



In recognition of Memorial Day, there will be a special presentation in worship on Sunday, May 26, honoring all those related to our congregation who have served our country in the military, past or present. Please turn in to the church office by Sunday, May 19: the name of your loved one, the branch in which he/she served (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, etc.), a photo of him/her while in the service, and a more current photo (if available). Thanks for your help!

## Last Chance!



This is your last chance to sign up for church camp. Registration money needs to be sent in by May 15. Each camper will automatically receive a scholarship from the church for one-half of the registration fee. Due to generous donations of memorial gifts in honor of *Jane Temple*, additional funds are available for those who have need. Please speak with *Pastor Sherri*. We do not want the cost to hinder any child from attending camp!

## Table Rental Policy



At the Church Council meeting on March 25 our rental policy for church tables was revised. Members who want to rent any of the new eight-foot long tables will be asked to make a deposit of \$100 to the church. If the tables are returned in good condition, this deposit will be refunded in full. *Rick Cooper*, *Jim Flick*, and *Doris Krossovitch* have offered to serve as contact people for checking out tables and checking them back in. Tables will only be available for use by church members.

In the past, many persons made use of our old tables for sales and parties. Those tables were sold in the youth rummage sale last summer. We want to keep in good shape the new tables which were purchased to replace them. Thanks for your understanding. Any questions, see *Rick Cooper* or *Jim Flick*.



Everyone is invited to a Graduation Open House for *Tom and Sam Bartelmay* on Sunday, June 2, 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the New Buffalo Township Park.



Thanks to everyone who attended our Pampered Chef party last month and supported the church with their orders. We had \$1,700 in sales and earned \$391 of merchandise for our church kitchen!



## Children's Church

We are looking for volunteers to teach in our summer Children's Church program for children age 5 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. If interested, please sign up in the narthex or call *Faye Sittig* at 756-9644.

A curriculum will be provided. If you have ideas for materials we might use, give your suggestions to *Faye*. If several people will take just one turn each, the children of our church will enjoy meaningful programming throughout the summer months. Thanks for your help!

# PEACE WITH JUSTICE

## Doors to Justice

Your offering on Peace with Justice Sunday helps the children of God

everywhere to live lovingly and peacefully. Half of the offering supports peace with justice ministries globally through the General Board of Church and Society, and half assists annual conference-related work such as the West Michigan Conference Peace Network.

“Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you,” wrote the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. Help to bring peace and justice to a hurting world. We will receive this offering on May 26. There will be an insert in your worship bulletin with more information; make checks out to TOUMC with “Peace with Justice” in the memo line. Please give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday; your gift makes a world of difference!



## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sawyer Christian United Church of Christ (corner of Sawyer and Flynn Roads in Sawyer) will be celebrating 125 years on Saturday,

June 8. The Celebration Service will be at 1:00 p.m. with an open house from 2:00 – 4:00. Members of the community are invited to attend. Please RSVP to 426-4285.



## Confirmation

Congratulations to these youth who were confirmed on April 14:

*Annette Donner,*  
daughter of *Bill & Tracy Donner*  
*Katharine Kersey,*  
daughter of *Ron & Cheryl Kersey*  
*Cameron Seifert,*  
son of *Ken & Becky Seifert*  
*Madison Vollman,*  
daughter of *David & Amy Vollman*

In addition to their parents, all four of these young people had extended family – grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins – present to share in this joyous day. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their Christian journey.



## Second Annual Public Safety Day

On Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> the Three Oaks Ambulance, Fire and Police Services will be conducting their Second Annual Public Safety Day. The event will be held between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Fire and Ambulance buildings located on East Linden Street in Three Oaks. Each department will have their vehicles and facilities on display and will provide safety education for those in attendance. The Three Oaks Fire Department will also be providing free smoke detectors for Three Oaks residents.

Three Oaks Masonic Lodge #239 along with the Three Oaks Rotary Club will be providing the Michigan Masonic Child Identification Program as a free service to those in attendance. Each child that goes through the process will receive a dental impression as well as a CD containing a photo, video, digital fingerprints and their vital information. Parents or guardians of children who participate must be present and fill out a permission slip for the child to receive this service. Children who have already received the service are encouraged to repeat the process every two years to keep the information in the completed packets current. The Michigan Child Identification Program provides the family with everything needed for the Amber Alert System. Since 2005 over sixty thousand Michigan children have received this valuable service. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children considers the Michigan Child Identification Program to be one of the most comprehensive of its kind. To find out more about the program you may consult the program web site at [www.michiganchildid.org](http://www.michiganchildid.org).

Lakeland Healthcare will also be on hand with their Early Heart Attack Care information. This program provides information on how to correctly identify heart attack symptoms, when to call 911 and assistance for those who want to make heart healthy lifestyle changes. For more information about Lakeland Healthcare programs you may consult their web site at [www.lakelandhealth.org](http://www.lakelandhealth.org).

For more information about the Three Oaks Public Safety Day you may contact Chris Siebenmark at 269-756-9373 or by e-mail at [chrisiebenmark@michiganmasons.org](mailto:chrisiebenmark@michiganmasons.org).

If you would like to write a letter to Pastor Saeed Abendine who is imprisoned in Iran, you may do so at [www.SaveSaeed.org](http://www.SaveSaeed.org). See *Sheila Swanson* for more information.



## Graduation

We will recognize the accomplishments of the following young people at our worship service on May 19. Please plan to attend.

**Graduating from River Valley High School on May 31:**

*Dana Hammons,*  
daughter of *Daniel and Doreen Hammons*  
*Zachary Prim,*  
son of *Terry Prim,*  
Bob and Theresa Prim

**Graduating from New Buffalo High School on June 2:**

*Sam Bartelmay,*  
son of *Brad Bartelmay and Sherri Swanson*  
*Tom Bartelmay,*  
son of *Brad Bartelmay and Sherri Swanson*

**Graduating from Western Michigan University on April 27:**

*Mike Becktell,*  
son of *Dan and Julie Becktell*

**Graduating from Michigan State University Medical School on May 11:**

*Kerri Becktell,*  
daughter of *Dan and Julie Becktell*



## Sisters in Faith

Twenty-three women enjoyed a great time at the Red Arrow Roadhouse last month for our annual Dinner Out.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. Devotions will be shared by *Bev Harrington* and refreshments will be provided by *Robin Ireland* and *Elna Rogers*.



## Shipshewana Trip

We will be taking our annual shopping excursion to the flea market at Shipshewana on Tuesday, June 11. We will leave the church at 7:00 a.m. and return at approximately 7:00 p.m. Everyone in the congregation is invited. Please sign up in the narthex so we will know how many vehicles are needed. If you sign up and then are not able to make it, please call someone else who is planning to attend so the group will not need to wait on you.



## Spring Sports

Many of our youth are participating in sports at this time of the year. Best wishes on your season!

Autumn Ackerman	RV Sunshine Softball
Trey Ackerman	Three Oaks Baseball
Jacob Barbour	Three Oaks Baseball
Andrew Bellaire	Three Oaks Baseball
Jaren Christ	Three Oaks Baseball
Nettie Donner	RV Sunshine Softball
Haley Goodenough	RV Sunshine Softball
Izabel Hollihan	RV Sunshine Softball
Alivia Jackson	RV Sunshine Softball
Katharine Kersey	RV Sunshine Softball
Caden Olson	Three Oaks Baseball
Ella Olson	RV Sunshine Softball
Cameron Seifert	Three Oaks Baseball
Kevin Seifert	Three Oaks Baseball
Kyle Seifert	Three Oaks Baseball
Steven Seifert	Three Oaks Baseball
Emma Springer	RV Sunshine Softball
Macey Springer	RV Sunshine Softball
Daniel Vollman	Three Oaks Baseball
Madison Vollman	RV Sunshine Softball



## Community Vacation Bible School

The dates have been set for our community Vacation Bible School this summer: June 24 – 28. We will be following the theme “Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God.” VBS will be held at the Free Methodist Church, sponsored ecumenically by several area churches.

We still need many volunteers, including a Crafts Leader, a Games Leader, Crew Leaders, Assistant Crew Leaders, Preschool Helpers and Snack Staff. If you would like to help, please contact Ginger Schumm at 269-845-9210 or by e-mail at [daynatoy@comcast.net](mailto:daynatoy@comcast.net).



## Save the Planet

We are pleased to announce that our church is now involved in the local recycling program. Please help us recycle paper and plastics used at the church. Recycling containers are available in the church office and the kitchen for these items. Also, we invite you to recycle your bulletins by the exits as you leave worship on Sunday morning. Thanks for your help with this project!

# Thank you...

...to *Rhonda Hinman* and *Sharon Flick* for serving cake and punch at the reception for our confirmands.

...to *Don* and *Terry Evans* for purchasing a new floor mat for the Sycamore Street door.

...to *Dave Hess* for getting our carpets cleaned and moving all the furniture back into place. We used the company Heaven Scent and felt they provided good service at a very reasonable price. If you need to have any carpets cleaned, pick up one of their business cards in the narthex.

**We are looking for volunteers to provide refreshments after our worship services. Sign up in the narthex if you will help.**



## Mother-Daughter-Sister Banquet

Our church will host a Mother-Daughter-Sister Banquet on Monday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. for all the women of our congregation and their loved ones. Plan now to bring your mother, daughter, grandmother, granddaughter, sister or friend. Everyone is invited! Sign up in the narthex so we know how much food to prepare.

The men will be led by *Pete Stathakis* in preparing and serving a meal of chicken pasta, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Men who are willing to help are also asked to sign up in the narthex.

The program will be by *Backyard Swing*, a women's vocal trio based in LaPorte County and specializing in traditional pop music.



**Don't forget your mom on Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day! Bring your mom to worship with you!**



## News

The Connect class for High School students will meet for study and discussion on Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. on weeks when there is no communion.

Our Middle School and High School youth will lead worship on Sunday, June 9. All youth who are interested in planning this service are invited to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays in May.



## Music Lessons

The School of American Music, located in the Three Oaks Township Public Library, is offering classes for guitar, piano, voice, banjo, mandolin, autoharp and song writing. Pick up a brochure in the narthex. For more information, write [schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com](mailto:schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com), call 269-409-1191, or visit their website at [www.schoolofamericanmusic.com](http://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com). Scholarships are available.



Our Summer Worship schedule will begin on June 2. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. for June, July, and August.



*A big thank you for your prayers and cards during my recuperation from*

*surgery. Your caring meant so much to me. Thanks again, Sharon Flick*



## Oklahoma

New Buffalo High School presents the musical "Oklahoma" on Friday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 19, at 3:00 p.m. Tom Bartelmay will perform in the lead role as "Curly." Sam Bartelmay will be in the pit orchestra. David Heit, Martha Spsychalski's grandson, is also in the play. Admission is free, but seats may be reserved by calling in advance.

**Elma's E-musings**  
**Ganta United Methodist Hospital**  
**Nimba County, Liberia**

Dear praying friend,

Here in Ganta, Liberia it has started raining. The day time is so hot and humid, you'll easily become dehydrated. But suddenly the heavens grow dark and wind blows, then comes much desired rain. Fruits have also started coming. Pineapples, watermelon, avocado (called butter pear), and coming soon... mangoes! As for vegetables it remains the same – cabbage, okra, eggplant, cassava leaf, sweet potato greens, and the thing I don't eat, bitter balls. You know I just realized that there's no cauliflower here! On my first year in Nepal, cauliflower was the only vegetable I had all year. I ate so much it poured out my ears!

This month has been really busy. We've had a successful seminar for our nurses and midwives. The UVMIM team from East Ohio did a wonderful job at reviewing and updating our nursing practices. We projected to have 50-70 attendees, and they prepared for 75. The response was very encouraging as evidenced by a packed room for both morning and afternoon groups. An attendee has to complete three days to receive a certificate and a surprise gift of a stethoscope. And we had 89 total graduates! We lacked 14 stethoscopes but we will sort this out. This seminar was the first ever for Ganta, and maybe for Liberia. Let's pray that Continuing Nursing Education will be a yearly offering.

Dr. Willicor, the Chief Medical Officer, is taking his vacation leave. So I'm the Acting CMO with only one junior doctor to work with. Essentially I am in charge of the medical issues of all the patients, administrative duties for medical staff, and must still be available to take night calls. It's only for this month. Please remember me and my junior doctor, Dr. Claude from Democratic Republic of Congo.

There is a 6 year old boy, Erikson, who was brought by his father. They live in a village near the hospital. Erikson sustained scald burns two years ago and now he has contracture of three fingers (index, middle and ring). I was going to tell the father that he should take the boy to the Firestone Hospital where a surgical team from NY comes every month to operate on children. I stopped and started debating. I can actually do the release of contracture procedure here in Ganta. The issue I was wrestling with is that each finger will take 1 hr to do. So we are looking at a three hour operation which will eat on the other cases that need attention. And a 6 y/o can't be on anesthetic gas for three hours, not with our present set up. But they are here and I am here. Surely God put us together! So I talked with Erikson



and explained that I will do the operation by giving him a regional block (anesthetizing the hand by blocking the nerves in the wrist). He would be awake some of the time but not allowed to cry or else we might not finish fixing his fingers. Oh please, please pray for us. They are still looking for funds to have the operation, but I have started thinking and preparing my mind for it. The name of this hospital is Ganta United Methodist Hospital. It carries the name of OUR church and therefore our faith.

One Monday morning I met a woman who had been operated on by Dr. Willicor over the weekend. She had a perforated uterus due to criminal abortion. She willfully went to an abortionist to terminate an unwanted pregnancy and in the process her uterus was poked too hard. She was very septic. But by God's grace she started recovering and on the 3rd post op day, she was strong enough to sit up and ask for food. At this time I asked her why she chose an abortion and where did she go to have it done. The short of the interview is that the abortion was performed in town by a person who works in our hospital. I asked her who this person was. She named the employee. I informed Dr. Willicor, the Nursing Service director, and the administrators of this incident. I believe this to be a criminal act that has endangered the life of a person while dragging down the name of the hospital and the church it represents. The employee was terminated but he continues to come to me begging me to forgive him and to ask that I intervene for him to have his job back. I repeatedly told him that it was an administrative decision and I don't have any influence on that. I can't explain it in a short narrative, but the blame for losing his job somehow landed on me because I informed the administration about the incident. Maybe it was easy to have a "white doctor" be the bad person in this whole incident. I was getting upset and frustrated.

When the post came March 15, I received many cards from Christmas, birthday and Valentine's Day. The thing that really warmed my heart was the valentine greetings by Sunday School kids thanking me for what I do. Liberia postal system may be unpredictable, but God knew when I needed to get those cards and they came just at the right time. Thanks for the UM women who untiringly send cards to missionaries serving all over the world.

Please pray:

1. That the rest of my time here will not be too stressful as I start wrapping things up before I leave by the end of May.
2. For a decision where I will be sent next.
3. That my schedule of visits with covenant churches and supporting groups be organized soon.
4. For Erikson and a successful restoration of finger movements to his hand.





### Special Music Sign-Up

Our choir will be taking a well-deserved break over the summer months. We will be looking for special music beginning June 16. Please sign up in the narthex to share your talents with the congregation.



### Join Us

*"I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* 1 Timothy 2:1-2

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2. Our River Valley Ministerial Association will offer a brief prayer service outside the Three Oaks Village Hall (14 Maple Street) at 12:00 noon. In the case of inclement weather, the gathering will be moved to Real Life Community Church. Prayers will be offered for our governmental leaders, military troops, schools, churches and others. Join us as we give some time to honoring God at this annual event.



### Finance Update

Listed below are the figures from our Treasurer's report for March.

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Average Monthly Need</u>
March	\$10,816.65	\$9,992.92	\$10,610.00
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
Year-to-Date	\$30,185.04	\$28,238.88	\$1,946.16

General Fund Balance as of March 31, 2013 is \$20,892.04

### **Amount pledged vs amount received:**

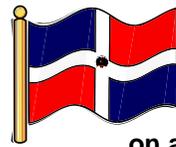
The amount pledged in 2012 was \$102,674.00 and the amount received was \$104,302.00.

This amount is 101.59% of the amount pledged in 2012.

The amount pledged through March 31, 2013 is \$25,115.00 and the amount received through March 31, 2013 is \$23,160.00

This amount is 92.22% of the amount pledged through March 31, 2013.

Submitted by  
*Jim Thompson,*  
Finance Chairperson



### Mission Opportunity

Sven and Lisa Verlinden are going on a mission trip in June to the Dominican Republic. Their team will be feeding people, putting concrete floors in a building, and teaching Bible School. The cost of supplies is very expensive and they would appreciate any help. They need to take 500 tennis balls, 600 Dum Dum candy suckers, and 8-count boxes of crayons. Please bring these items to church and place them in the box in the narthex. If you would like to help monetarily, please write "Verlinden" on a pew envelope and put in the offering plate.



### Golden Cross Sunday

We will observe Golden Cross Sunday on May 12. This special offering promotes health and welfare ministries within our West Michigan Conference. Agencies which benefit from these funds are the Methodist Children's Home Society, Clark Retirement Community, and Bronson Methodist Hospital.

There will be an insert in your worship bulletin that will further explain these particular missions. Please consider how your gifts can support these concerns and give generously. You may use a pew envelope and mark it "Golden Cross."

When we serve one another, all of us are enriched.



### Missions

At the end of May we will be filling backpacks for the children in Haiti. As of now we are in need of loose leaf paper (8 1/2" x 11" ruled) , 24 count crayons, small hand-held pencil sharpeners, 2 1/2" erasers, 30 centimeter rulers, and #2 pencils. If you could help with this it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring all supplies to the church by May 19.

Thank you,  
Sharon Flick,  
Missions Co-Chairperson



### Sunday School

Our Sunday School is supporting Special Olympics for our mission project this year. Please pick up a collection can in the narthex and help us raise funds for this worthwhile cause. We will collect throughout the summer.

The last day for Sunday School for this school year will be May 19.

Three Oaks United Methodist Church  
2 East Sycamore Street  
Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-2053  
Fax 269-756-2061  
E-mail [toumc@att.net](mailto:toumc@att.net)  
Web [www.toumc.org](http://www.toumc.org)

*Address Service Requested*

# May 2013



### Please Note

Please turn in all submissions for next month's Parish Post newsletter by June 23.



- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 5  | Ascension Sunday<br>Communion<br>"Yes, And..."<br>Luke 24:44-53                                     |
| May 12 | Golden Cross Sunday<br>Mother's Day<br>"Blessed Among Women"<br>Luke 1:39-45                        |
| May 19 | Pentecost<br>Graduate Recognition<br>"Everyone Who Calls on the Name<br>of the Lord"<br>Acts 2:1-21 |
| May 26 | Peace with Justice Sunday<br>Memorial Day<br>Communion<br>"We Remember"<br>1 Timothy 6:11-16        |

If we could deliver your next Parish Post by e-mail, please inform the church office. It would be faster, easier, and cheaper.

Thanks for your help!

### Three Oaks United Methodist Church Staff:

Pastor:  
*Rev. Sherri Swanson*

Secretary:  
*Cheryl Kersey*

Organist:  
*Martha Spychalski*

Custodian:  
*Mary Weers*