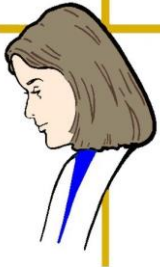


# THE PARISH POST

Volume 42 - Issue #9

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

September 2014



*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

## Imagine All the People

I've always loved the benediction found at the end of the third chapter of Ephesians (printed above). I need frequent reminders in my life that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. That very word "imagine" seems particularly significant to me.

I've always admired imaginative people. I think of Walt Disney or J.K. Rowling and wonder how did they dream up the Magic Kingdom or the world of Harry Potter? The creativity of some individuals is truly astonishing.

Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination ... is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." Yes, possibilities abound with imagination.

So, I wonder, what is the importance of imagination for people of faith? What kind of world do we imagine in the future? What kind of Church do we imagine? What do we imagine the kingdom of God will look like in its fullness?

One of the things United Methodists are doing these days is boldly imagining a world without disease. One of the Four Areas of Focus of The United Methodist Church is "Improving Global Health." (The others are: "Ministering with the Poor," "Developing Leaders," and "Growing Vital Churches." See more at [www.umc.org/how-we-serve/four-areas-of-focus](http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/four-areas-of-focus).)

In particular, one of the largest projects being tackled by our denomination currently is the Imagine No Malaria campaign. There's that word again: "imagine." Of course, more than imagination is required to wipe out such a widespread illness. It takes effort and commitment. But first, you have to imagine that such a thing is possible.

Because the numbers are too big for us to get our minds around, I find that visualizing can be a useful tool. The size of this problem became concrete for me when a colleague made a comparison with The Big House at The University of Michigan. Some of you have probably been to that enormous place. It is the largest stadium in the United States and the third largest in the world. It can hold 115,000 people!

Each year 650,000 people die of malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa. That would be like filling The Big House nearly six times. That is how many people are dying each year from a totally treatable and preventable disease.

But, thank God, we are making progress. Since this campaign first began in 2006, the number of malaria deaths has been cut in half. Eight years ago when United Methodists first began focusing on this challenge, a person was dying from this disease every 30 seconds. At present, a person is dying from malaria every 60 seconds. That is still too many!

The goal set by General Conference is \$75 million by 2015 and we are already more than 80 percent of the way there with more than \$60 million raised to date. The goal of our West Michigan Annual Conference is \$1.5 million dollars or \$10 per member, and that translates to a goal of \$1,500 for our Three Oaks UMC.

Through special offerings taken on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Rally Day, and Christmas Eve, plus a mission collection organized by our Sunday School students, and the Italian Dinner fundraiser organized by the men of our church this spring, we hope to reach this goal. You can give at any time. Just use a pew envelope and mark it "Imagine No Malaria."

Imagine saving lives: 6 football stadiums per year. Together, we can make a difference. If we can imagine it, we can achieve it. This is possible by God's power at work within us. To God be glory forever and ever!

*Pastor Sherri*



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

Jeff & Deliegha Swanson, Charissa, Lois, and Titus in Mexico;

Kate & Peter Walugembe in Jinja, Uganda;

Dr. Elma Jocson in the Philippines.

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

Christopher Blackwell, Danny King, Scott McDonald.

**Those who are in care facilities:**

Hamilton Grove – Betty Smith, Dorothy Schwark,  
Sabra Lambert

Woodland Terrace – Shirley Hoadley

Pine Ridge – Jerry Thomas

**Those who are homebound:**

Dorothy Brayboy, Helen Heward, Elsie Portinga, and Marge Vidal.

**Those with health problems:**

Ron Ahrens, Dave Alexander, Gay Bell,

Nancy Comfort, Norma Eldridge,

Sharon Peterson Flick, Jean Koebel Gardner,

Shelby Glisson, John Grynwich, Don Harrington,

Mike Hauch, Dawn Hayes, Hannah Heit, Paula Hess,

Shauni Hinman, Steven Hunt, Ogden Krossovitch,

Les Lee, Dewain Lester, Judy Matthew,

Laurie Sittig McLaughlin, Steve Palen,

Dorothy Petro, Bonnie Pickens, Perry Pickens,

Alexis Renbarger, Sue Rubeck, Alvin Schroeter,

Gail Thomas, Kandace VanTilburg, Megan Wilkins,

Rachae Wisner.

**Those who grieve:**

Family and friends of David Lubke, Marjorie Weller, Susan Kamp, Steve Slager, and Don Jensen.

**Those recently married:**

Andrew Stange and Sarah Hercula at their wedding on August 9.

Joe Hinman and Shauni Tau at their wedding on August 16.

**Those welcoming a new baby:**

Steve and Theresa Terry at the birth of their daughter, Charlee Elizabeth, on August 5.

**Other:**

Students and teachers going back to school.

Those fighting wildfires in the West.

Those fighting the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa.

The missing girls kidnapped from their school in Nigeria.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The city of Ferguson, MO, in the wake of the shooting of Michael Brown.

Peace in Gaza, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, and 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 sincere sympathy to the family of *Marjorie Weller* who died on August 1 at the age of 101. Her funeral was held at our church on August 5. Thank you to all who helped with the luncheon following the service.

We also extend our sympathy to *Nancy Davis* at the death of a sister, Susan Kamp, on August 16 at the age of 68 following a long battle with cancer.

We further extend our sympathy to *Doris Krossovitch* and *Helen Heward* at the death of their brother, Don Jensen, in Camp Verde, Arizona, on August 18, at the age of 89.

May the Lord comfort you in your grief.

*Dear Church Family,*

*You are all so awesome. I – we have felt your arms around us both for so long. That love and caring is similar to God’s love, there seems to be NO end to it. The memorial was beautiful for me and the family.*

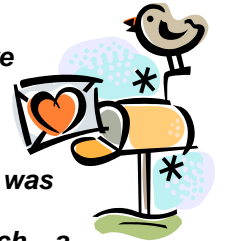
*Thanks to the ladies for such a wonderful luncheon – one and all.*

*Keeping one and all in my heart wherever I go.*

*God Bless You All.*

*Love,*

*Judy Ross*



*Thank you for all the cards, gifts, and food from our church family at the birth of Aubrey.*

*Keith and Nicole Kehoe family*



**Wedding Bells**

Congratulations to *Shauni Tau* and *Joe Hinman* who were married on

August 16 at our church. Joe is the son of *Doug and Rhonda Hinman* and grandson of *Dolores Hinman* and *Jim and Charmaine Thompson*. Best wishes to the newlyweds! May God bless your marriage.

**Baby Joy**

Congratulations to Steve and Theresa Terry at the birth of a daughter, Charlee Elizabeth Terry, on August 5.

She weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measured 20 inches. The happy grandparents are *George and Sally Frye*.



Three Oaks UMC,  
Gifts to Date: \$559.00

Thank you for your giving and for setting a goal to raise gifts for Imagine No Malaria in the Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church. We appreciate all of your efforts.

Many lives will be significantly impacted through prevention with nets, treatment with medicines, tests, education for community health programs and communications that are saving lives in Sub Saharan Africa. Together we have reduced the number of deaths from one every 30 seconds to one every 60 seconds.

You are part of ending a disease which is preventable, treatable and beatable. Thank you.

The Michigan Area is over halfway to its goal of raising \$1.5 million, and saving 150,000 lives, through the Imagine No Malaria campaign. Being halfway there means we have further to go and we need your support to get here. Between now and December 31, 2014 we need to raise \$700,000 to save 70,000 more lives. You are an important part of reaching this goal. The \$1.5 million goal was based on \$10 for every one of the 150,000 United Methodists in the Michigan Area, which includes your church.

For churches that have already reached or exceeded the \$10 per member goal, you are encouraged to consider giving more. For churches who have not yet met this goal, now is the time to start so that together the entire Michigan Area will reach their goal.

Thank you again for engaging in this important life-saving ministry.

Rev. Molly C. Turner

Imagine No Malaria Field Coordinator



### Craft Show

The Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Sodus is sponsoring their 35<sup>th</sup> annual Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday, October 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds in Berrien Springs. Admission is only \$2.00 and there will be over 280 exhibitors plus food vendors and a bake sale. You can check out their website at [www.chapelhill-craftshow.org](http://www.chapelhill-craftshow.org).

### Music for Sale



CD's of "The Glory Connection" quartet are available in the narthex. Suggested donation is \$5.



The Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. If you can help, please call Linda Mangold at 756-7472.



### Special Offering

We will be receiving a special offering on September 7 for Imagine No Malaria. We invite you to give \$10 in honor of

your children and grandchildren.

In Sub-Saharan Africa someone dies every 60 seconds from malaria – a preventable and treatable disease. The United Methodist Church is in the fight to help end this disease through programs of prevention, education, communication and treatment. Save a life in celebration of the children in your life.



### Love Your Neighbor

“Learning to Love Your Neighbor: Finding Your Place in God’s Plan to Fix a Broken World” is being presented at Harbert Community Church (6444 Harbert Rd., Sawyer) on Saturday, September 13, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This seminar is presented by Rev. Dr. David L. Nichols, who has served the American Baptist Churches of Michigan since 2010 as a Church Consultant for Stewardship and Discipleship. He authored “*Understanding the Old Testament: A Narrative Summary*” and “*Learning to Love Your Neighbor: Finding Your Place in God’s Plan to Fix a Broken World.*” Dave and his wife, Linnea Berg reside in Sawyer. You may register by calling the church at 269-426-4321 or go to [www.harbertcommunitychurch.org](http://www.harbertcommunitychurch.org).



### Greek Bakery Fest

Greek pastries and other homemade baked specialties will be sold over the Labor Day Weekend by the Women’s Group of the Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church (on US 12 at I-94 Exit 4, New Buffalo). Due to roof problems at the American Hellenic Center, the expanded Greek Festival, which included a full dinner and traditional dancing, has been cancelled for the first time in fifteen years. Baklava, cream-filled galaktoboureko and other specialties will be sold Saturday, August 30, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 31, noon to 6:00 p.m. Greek music will be played and you can eat under the large tent or carry-out will be available.



## Sisters in Faith

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by Sharon Flick and Robin Ireland. Priscilla Hellenga will lead our Bible Study on "Pew Sisters." Please read lesson two.

We are planning our annual Chili Luncheon for Sunday, October 19. More details will soon be available.

Please make a note that our October meeting will be October 22, one week later than usual.



## Are you missing something?

There is a large blue cooler in the narthex under the mailboxes. If this is yours, please take it home with you.



# Fall Back

Please note that we will "fall back" to our regular Sunday morning schedule on September 7. Our worship service will begin at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School (for ages kindergarten – high school) will be held at 11:15.

## Special Music Wrap-Up

Thanks to the following people for providing Special Music for our worship this summer: Bill and Betty Swanson, Cindy Jakeway, Glory Connection, Stewart Beach, Lisa Henrich, Upstairs on Elm (Priscilla Hellenga, Garth Taylor, Stewart Beach, and Charles Aldofini), Danielle Gibson and Maggie Martin.



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

## Good Luck!



Our church has several college students. Most of them have already begun their fall studies. We pray they will have a great year ahead. If there are any corrections to the following list please inform the church office.

## College Students Fall 2014

Morgan Weers	WMU
Ben Bartelmay	GVSU
Sam Bartelmay	GVSU
Tom Bartelmay	WMU
Dana Hammons	SMC

## Choir



If you have an interest in joining the choir we would welcome you and your voice. Practice is each Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We try to keep it to an hour, but sometimes we do run over. Practice begins on Thursday, August 28. Hope to see YOU!

Sharon Flick,  
Choir Director



## Fall Lay Servant Classes

New Lay Servant Classes will be offered this fall. The Basic Class will be offered October 2, 9, 16, 23, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Church of the Dunes UMC in Grand Haven. This

course is designed to help individuals discern and respond to God's particular call on their lives and is required for all Lay Servants/Lay Speakers.

The Advanced Class "Spiritual Gifts" will also be offered October 2, 9, 16, 23, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Church of the Dunes UMC in Grand Haven. This class is required for Lay Speaker Certification.

The fee for each class is \$25 per person and includes all materials. The first class begins at 6:30 p.m., all the others at 7:00 p.m.

To register, please e-mail Jody Pratt at [prattgji@hughes.net](mailto:prattgji@hughes.net) or call her at 269-792-0481.



## Recipes!

Below are two requested recipes from *Doris Krossovitch*.

### Easy Rhubarb/Strawberry “Dump” Dessert

6 cups cut up rhubarb ( 1/2” – 5/8” size) – lay these in a 9” x 13” pan  
Sprinkle 1 1/2” cups sugar then a 6 oz. box of strawberry Jello (dry)  
Crumble one box of yellow cake mix (any brand) over the top.  
Pour 1 1/2 cups hot water over everything and then add 3/4 cup melted margarine.  
Bake 350 degrees for 55 – 60 minutes. Serve with whipped topping.

### Chunky Chocolate-Jam Bars

1 1/2 cups flour  
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 cup butter, softened  
1 1/2 cups quick-cooking oats  
1/2 c coconut  
1/2 c chopped pecans, toasted  
5 squares semi-sweet baking chocolate, coarsely chopped  
1 jar (12 oz.) raspberry jam

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix flour, brown sugar and baking powder in large bowl. Cut in butter with pastry blender or two knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add oats, coconut and pecans; mix well.

Press half the crumb mixture firmly onto bottom of greased 13” x 9” baking pan; sprinkle with chopped chocolate. Spoon jam over top; sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture.  
Bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cool completely on wire rack.  
Makes 32 servings, 1 bar each.



Please pick up one of the plastic cups in the narthex and

fill it with your donations for the “Widening the Welcome” capital campaign at the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo. You may bring your filled cups to the church office any time this month.



## Vacation

Pastor Sherri will be out of town for Labor Day weekend, August 29 through September 1. If an emergency need arises in her absence, please call Pastor George Lawton at 469-8468.



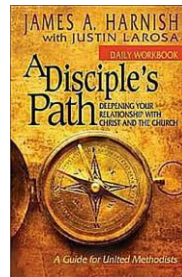
## Forming a Faithful Future

On Christian Education Sunday, September 14, our congregation is invited to participate in a special offering for the teaching ministry of the church. Half of the money collected will support our own Sunday School ministries and half will go to other Conference education ministries. Your gifts will be used to provide a strong foundation for the children of our church who are tomorrow’s leaders. There will be an insert in your worship bulletin on this day with more information. You may use a pew envelope for your gift. Please give generously on Christian Education Sunday.



## 2014 Children’s Church

Thank you to *Sharon Phillips* and *Faye Sittig* for taking a turn teaching in Children’s Church this summer.



## New Bible Study

A new Bible Study will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the pastor’s office, beginning September 14. The study book “A Disciple’s Path” is a program that guides individuals to take the next step in discipleship and become dynamic, engaged followers of Jesus Christ. The study combines a Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God’s love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Participants will develop spiritual practices, discover their unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in their own lives, the lives of others, and the world. The workbook costs \$8.00 and includes daily readings and writing exercises for six weeks. It’s not too late to join us! Please sign up in the narthex if you are interested.



## New District Superintendent

The installation and welcome service for Rev. John Boley will be Sunday, September 21 at 3:00 p.m. at Stevensville UMC. Plan to attend this special service as we officially welcome John as the new Kalamazoo District Superintendent.



## Sunday School Mission Project

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Sunday School Mission Project for this year. We collected a total of \$371.79 for Camp Catch-A-Rainbow. Through these contributions children ages 4-15, who have cancer or are in remission, will be able to enjoy – at no cost to them – a special week of summer camp with other children going through the same life-changing experiences. While the camp is staffed almost entirely with volunteers (including our own *Kerri Beckett* for the past five years), the medical needs and dietary needs of the children cost a lot. Thank you for your gifts which will be used to share God’s love!



## Save the Date

Wednesday, October 15, is the date of our annual Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Rev. John Boley. This year it will be held at our church. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (S-PRC) will meet at 6:30 p.m. and the full Conference will convene at 7:00 p.m.

Committee chairpersons are asked to submit an annual report on activities to the church office by October 1. These will be combined in a booklet for members who attend the conference.



## Sunday School

It’s time for a new year of Sunday School! Rally Day will be September 7. Our theme this year is Imagine No Malaria. Mosquito crafts, flyswatter games and even fun refreshments are being planned by our teachers. All children and youth in Kindergarten through twelfth grade are welcome.

Invitations will be sent to all children on our church roster. Please feel free to invite any children in your life – relatives or neighbors, and/or give the address to Pastor Sherri so we can be in contact with them.



We are still looking for another volunteer or two to serve as a Sunday School teacher for the elementary grades this school year (September – May). You would be placed in a rotation and teach the class every four to six weeks (depending on how many volunteers we secure). If interested, please speak to *Julie Beckett* or *Pastor Sherri*.



## Picnic News

The church-wide picnic last month was wonderful! The weather cooperated, the food was great and the egg toss game was such fun. Thanks to *Don Evans* for the use of Camp Soni Springs. What a great place to have it! We so enjoyed the children and youth being there ... they always add that special touch. We had about 65 people in attendance and are so thankful for each of you!

*Faye Sittig and Joanie Davidson*  
Fellowship Committee Co-Chairs



## CROP Walk News

The CROP Walk will be held in Three Oaks this year on Sunday, October 5. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year for the walk in Harbor Country. Walkers will meet at 12:45 p.m. at The Gathering for a luncheon and prayer before the walk begins at 1:30 p.m.

As in the past, 25% of monies raised from pledges will stay in the Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry for emergencies; the rest supports Church World Service. Sponsor sheets are available in the narthex. For more information, see *Judy Ross* or *Sharon Flick*.

Also, our church has been asked to prepare sandwiches for the luncheon. Last year there were 85 walkers, so there will be many sandwiches needed. If you could help, as many hands makes it go faster, see *Judy* or *Sharon*.

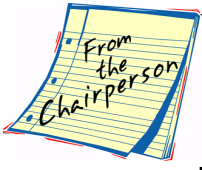
Please consider making a monetary pledge if asked to help those who will be walking.

Thank you,  
*Sharon Flick*,  
Mission Chairperson



## Youth News

Congratulations to *Annette Donner*, *Katharine Kersey*, and *Zachary Sieler*, who were three of the four River Valley students chosen to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery during the eighth grade trip to Washington D.C. What an honor! We have great kids. ☺



Listed below are the figures from our Treasurer's report for July 2014.

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Average Monthly Need</u>
July	\$9,391.43	\$13,574.56	\$11,090.92
Year-to-Date	<u>Income</u> \$66,134.95	<u>Expenses</u> \$78,240.53	<u>Shortfall</u> \$12,105.58

General Fund Balance as of July 31, 2014 is \$14,314.02.

**Designated Fund disbursements for July:**

Terry Evans Mission Trip \$30.00

Submitted by  
Jim Thompson, Finance Chairperson



**Fall Sports**

The fall sports season is underway at our area schools. We wish all the best to these student athletes. Look for their many accomplishments in our local paper.

Paige Barbour	RV JV volleyball and cross country
Andrew Bellaire	RV Varsity football
Annette Donner	RV Equestrian Team
Laura Donner	RV Equestrian Team
Katharine Kersey	RV JV volleyball
Lexie Olson	RV Varsity volleyball
Kyle Seifert	RV Varsity football
Shelby Sieler	RV Equestrian Team
Zachary Sieler	RV Varsity football

Cameron Seifert	RV MS football
Emma Springer	St. Joe Extreme Softball & RVMS Volleyball
Madison Vollman	Lake Michigan Shock Fast-Pitch Softball & RVMS Volleyball



**Chicken Dinner**

The clock is ticking. It is almost time for our Annual Port-a-Pit Chicken Dinner on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> (4:00 to 7:00 p.m. or whenever we sell out). Check your church mailbox for your tickets. If they are not picked up they will be mailed to you. We will be collecting ticket money and unsold tickets after worship each week through September 21<sup>st</sup>. You may drop them off at the church during the weeks before the dinner (Monday 9:00 – 3:00, Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-noon) or contact Priscilla (see contact information below).

On the Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, before the dinner we will have bags of potatoes as well as dozens of eggs for helpers to take home, cook or bake for the potato salad, and cut into about 1 inch chunks. These will need to be back at church by Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for the Friday Kitchen Team to make the potato salad.

The sign-up sheets are on the narthex table next to the office with many ways that you can help. We count on the church family to make this fundraiser successful. We are once again serving Nelson's Port-a-Pit chicken, homemade potato salad, baked beans, bread and pan/bar cookies. Sounds yummy to me!

This is always a fun event. If you have never been involved in the past, please consider helping in some way. If you have any questions, please call Priscilla Lee Hellenga at 574-876-5448.



**New Member Class**

There will be a New Member Class on Wednesday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m. for those who are interested in joining our church. Anyone is welcome even if you aren't sure you are ready to officially join at this time. Material presented will cover the history, beliefs, and organization of the United Methodist denomination, as well as information about our own congregation. Most importantly, we will try to answer any questions you have. Please tell Pastor Sherri if you plan to attend.

New members will be received during our worship service on September 14, or on another Sunday convenient for those who decide to join the church.



**Worship News**

We are now serving gluten-free bread for our communion services. Thank you to our Worship Committee and communion stewards for making this change out of concern for those with special dietary needs.



## Half-Day Programs

For the past thirteen years the Harbert Community Church has been hosting a half-day program for the elementary children of River Valley Schools. Jane Temple was instrumental in starting this program for families with no place or no one to care for students on half-day or early dismissal days. There are 20-30 students on average attending. There is a need for middle and high school students or adults to chaperone on field trips or help at the Harbert Community Church on days when the children stay there. It is an excellent way for the student helpers to earn community service hours for their college entrance applications.

On August 27 at back-to-school night there will be a table set up with the women in charge of keeping this program going. If students need more information, stop and ask how you may help.

The first three days of this program will be a full-day on October 10, half-days on October 31 and November 21. Times vary according to dismissal time until 5:00 p.m. when students will be picked up by their parents. If you are interested in helping, call the Harbert Community Church at 426-4321 for more information.

*Sharon Flick,*  
Mission Chairperson

**Elma's E-musings**  
Elma T. Jocson, M.D.  
(At Home in the Philippines)



Hello praying friend! It's been so long since you have heard from me. I know because I have been thinking about you, and I have received a lot of inquiries about my well-being. Thank you very much. I have been well. And because I am home and have access to home food, I have in fact gained weight. But I have been swamped with a number of responsibilities.

July was totally cramped with my volunteering as logistic person for the Global Mission Fellows' training of the UMC-GBGM. This program was previously known as US-2, with North American trainees and the training was on US soil. The GMF training was held here in the Philippines and we had 47 international trainees and 10 staff. My responsibilities were to secure all supplies for training, including medical needs and vaccines. While those required some work, what took more of my time was coordinating ground movement by arranging group transport and airport pick up and transfer. And because the training was in my own country, it was

inevitable that I felt responsible for a lot of things. On the first week we had a category 3 storm. The group experienced firsthand the development of a disaster! The group was evacuated to the ground floor where everyone stayed together the night listening to howling wind, windows smashing and tin roofs being peeled off. Traumatized doesn't exactly describe their emotional state. Undoubtedly, it was a good experience for them as they learned how to identify with the people they will be ministering to. They are a good group of young adults and we need to pray for them as the majority of them will go directly to their places of assignment. Pray for health as they will be adjusting to different cultures. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom as they begin their service to the people. Pray for their safety and peace to their families.

I had an opportunity to talk with Rev Judy Chung, the head of GBGM Mission Personnel. I have expressed to her that I am now ready to return to the mission field and for GBGM to start the process of looking for places of assignment and matching. Rev Chung was very positive and said the process will begin as soon as she returns to NY. Please pray with me on this.

My surgical work has been managed by God. At the time of the GMF training, my patient load was less and emergencies only came on days when I didn't have airport pick up. We were able to continue serving the needful without interruption.

This is an 11-day-old boy who was born in another hospital. He vomited every time he was fed so the pediatrician stopped all feeding and had a nasogastric tube inserted on the second day of life.



Blood test and x-rays were done. I don't know what transpired but we got the baby on his tenth day of life. We immediately prepared him for surgery and on opening confirmed our diagnosis that he had malrotation of the intestine. His intestinal parts or segments were not in their normal position due to incomplete movement during intra-uterine fetal life. After doing the necessary procedure, he was brought to Pediatric ICU where he was closely monitored. We were very optimistic and became very happy with even the smallest progress he showed. But on his twenty-second day of life, he succumbed to death due to pneumonia. Maybe he would have survived if we could have operated sooner. We don't really know for certain. One thing is sure, we need to do what we could to give him a chance at life.

After the GMF delegates and staff left, the patients came. Now I am busy with hospital work. Aside from

*(continued on page nine)*



(continued from page eight)

that, there is an acute need for a pediatric surgeon in my area because one of us has had a bad stroke. Dr. Delfin has had two brain operations and remains in a coma. So my seniors are telling me to take up some of his work load. These include a teaching post in a medical school and work in two other hospitals. Please pray for me as these might be opportunities for my professional advancement. Pray for wisdom to choose which to take on.

August and September is my turn to teach Adult Women's Sunday School. We are using the New International Lessons Annual and I really enjoy teaching. It is a fact that the teacher is the first learner, and continues to learn from the students. It's like being marinated in the Word—maybe a bad description, even sacrilegious, but you get what I mean. Also our Annual Conference has started campaigning that every United Methodist becomes a disciple of Christ. Every United Methodist must read the Bible, pray, join a care group and reach out to evangelize. A lot of our members are realizing the joy of practicing these disciplines. While I go about these works I do here in the Philippines, I cannot help but see God's hand on my life.

I'm sure you have heard of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. My leaving Liberia wasn't because of Ebola but I thank God that I wasn't there when it happened. I still have friends over there and they report that big hospitals are closing down because the health workers are dying one by one. Then on the last week of July, there were two woman aid workers from Finland who were gunned down in Afghanistan. One of them is my friend whom I met and shared meals when I was in Kabul last November and December. The team in Afghanistan is in deep sorrow and their work in some provinces was suspended. I could have been there as well because they were inviting me back. Please remember to pray for those serving in Central Asia; pray for the families of those whose lives were senselessly taken. Pray for the people of West Africa.

I couldn't close this letter without mentioning my mother. She is well and thankful that she is spending time with me. As discussion on my next assignment is on-going, she tells me she will go with me. My mother is very funny. While she talks of going home with the Lord, she also plans what else to do. She teaches several evangelistic Bible studies, participates in Widow's fellowship and is a member of the Prayer Warriors. Maybe that's what John 9:4 means for her. "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work." So that's it for now. God bless you.

Elma

With this newsletter Elma sent internet links with more information on some of the topics she writes about:

**Ebola Out Break in Liberia (Aug 21)**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/08/21/the-nightmare-of-containing-ebola-in-liberias-worst-slum/>

**Dr. Kent Brantly, U.S. Missionary Doctor from Liberia, released from Emory Hospital (Aug 21)**

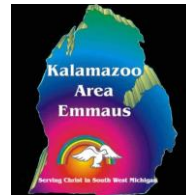
<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/ebola-virus-outbreak/docs-declare-ebola-patients-kent-brantly-nancy-writebol-no-risk-n185626>

**Workers killed in Afghanistan (July 24)**

<http://www.iam-afghanistan.org/what-we-do/press-release/24th-july-2014-press-release>

**Global Mission Fellows' training.**

<http://www.umcmision.org/learn-about-us/news-and-stories/2014/july/0725firstclassfellows>



## Walk to Emmaus

The next dates for the "Walk to Emmaus" are: Men, October 16-19 and Women, October 23-26.

If you would like to participate in these spiritually refreshing events, please see Pastor Sherri for more information or you can check out:

<http://www.kalamazooemmaus.org>.

# Thanks to...

...George Frye, Clay Frye, and the work crew from Frye Roofing for replacing the flat roof over our church pantry. We appreciate your service!

...Rhonda Hinman and Faye Sittig for cleaning out the Sunday School rooms and organizing all of our curriculum and supplies. We are grateful for your help getting ready for a new year of Sunday School!

...Doug Hinman for working on our church computer to clear some bugs and get us up to speed once again.

Go directly to our church Facebook page by scanning below:



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Three-Oaks-United-Methodist-Church/214472765236584>

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*Address Service Requested*

# September 2014



### Please Note

Please turn in all submissions for next month's Parish Post newsletter by September 21.

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!



Sermon Series: "The Life of Moses"

- September 7 "Will This Basket Float?"  
Exodus 1:8-22; 2:1-10  
Communion
- September 14 "Here I Am, Send Aaron"  
Exodus 3:1-15; 4:1-16
- September 21 "The Hardest of Hearts"  
Exodus 7:14-22; 11:1, 4-10; 12:21-23;  
12:29-32a
- September 28 "God Will Make a Way"  
Exodus 14:5-14, 21-31

### Three Oaks United Methodist Church Staff:

Pastor: *Rev. Sherri Swanson*  
Secretary: *Cheryl Kersey*  
Organist: *Martha Spychalski*  
Custodian: *Mary Weers*

### Church Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00-3:00  
Tuesday: 9:00-12:00  
Thursday: 9:00-12:00

### To Reach the Pastor:

Please call the church office first: 756-2053.  
If you do not reach her there, leave a voice message  
on her cell phone: 269-405-0002.