

Jonesville United Methodist Church

Annual Reports 2008 - 2009

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Education Committee

The Education Committee (Holly Greene, Linda Thomason, Sarah Kralovic, Gwen Weldy, Amy Aragonas, Cheryl Stees and Keith Landry) had a very busy year and as a group is responsible for many endeavors including:

Sunday School – PreK-K, Grade 1-4, Middle School, High School. Next year we will have all these grade levels and also Confirmation Class. We are meeting in July to discuss and select the 09-10 curriculum keeping in mind a suggestion to “find more creative ways to teach”.

Children’s Church – (12 regular volunteers) Attendance was very high this year and so we split into 2 groups; ages 3-grade 2 and grades 3-5. The older group stays upstairs on communion Sundays. Next year there are plans for the older group to work with Barb Jacoby on music and drama. Splitting in to two groups has caused a strain on our volunteers. We have one leaving and have managed to recruit one new one so the number remains the same. Interestingly, there are no men that volunteer for Children’s Church.

Vacation Bible School – Aug 17 – 21. We are pleased to report that many people have volunteered to help with VBS. We are on schedule and look to be well staffed. This year’s theme is Son Rock – an Adirondack summer camp wrapping up with a big campfire jamboree (pizza party).

Mission – The Ed. Committee sponsors the Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce Chamber Angels. Last year we purchased Christmas presents for three needy children. Next year we hope to sponsor 4. During VBS week we collect back-to-school supplies which are donated to CAPTAIN.

Fundraisers – There are 2 annual Education fundraisers; Cookie Walk and the Plant Sale.

New Stuff – This year we produced our first JUMC Sunday School/VBS yearbook. There were 50 copies made and distributed to all the children who attend Sunday School and Children’s Church. We hope to do this every year. We also sponsored for the first time last year a Parents’ Time Out. We enlisted volunteers to “babysit” while JUMC parents got some last minute Christmas errands done. This was well attended and we hope to offer it annually.

Stuff We’d Like To Do – Have a dehumidifier in every classroom, paint the classroom hallway, start a junior MYF program, offer a Family Sunday School class, have a children’s/education section in the proposed church library, develop a program where our teens have more interaction with our youngsters.

Green Team

While still in the “Cold of Winter” we began determining the interest within the JUMC community to support a “Green Team” that would explore the various ways in which we could promote the stewardship of God’s Creation within and beyond the community at Jonesville.

We have received and appreciated the support of numerous elements of the JUMC faith community:

Pastor Ray, Outreach, Trustees, The Administrative Board, Helping Hands and members within and beyond our faith community. While our history has been brief we have been able to:

- Lend our support to the 2nd Annual Interfaith Prayer Service to Celebrate the Earth, held at St. George’s Episcopal on April 26th. We were please to have the support of Bishop Hassinger in this effort.
- With the assistance of many within and beyond Jonesville UMC we were able to plan, plant and grow a community garden that will supply produce to the Helping Hands Food Pantry. We are happy to report that this effort has received tremendous recognition. The Troy Annual Conference UM Women met here at Jonesville on June 10th ...somehow our “Garden” became a focus and perhaps other seeds were planted.
- Establish a budget and purchase “Go Green, \$ave Green” by Nancy Sleeth. We sold all the copies we had on display at Annual Conference in Saratoga...and could have sold more! We will use this biblically based text to center our ongoing efforts.
- Become an integral part of the Administrative Board and the organization of JUMC.

We are looking forward to:

- Enhance the JUMC recycling efforts by a pilot program to recycle electronics.
- Having a weekly Green moment in the bulletin.
- The possibility of hosting a forum with the Sleeths (Nancy and Matthew) at JUMC this fall.

Again thanks to all for your support. Watch us grow!

Lay Leader Annual Report

JUMC Values Statement - As a church family, we praise God joyfully in worship and welcome all of Gods' children to join us. Our community supports the formation of small groups committed to prayer, joined in fellowship, and built on the foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ. We encourage spiritual growth through Bible-based learning opportunities and strive to develop the gifts and graces of Christian leaders of all ages. With Jesus as our example of loving service and the Holy Spirit as our guide, we commit to do God's work in the world. We invite you to experience the transforming power of Christ's love and grace within our congregation.

Our church values statement, which was written just a few years ago by a significant portion of the entire congregation, starts with the sentence, "As a church family, we praise God joyfully in worship and welcome all of Gods' children to join us." I think it is a good statement with a wide consensus - and worth reflection.

In the past year I have continued to use a system for volunteers from the congregation to be Worship Leaders, preach the sermon and/or to give the Children's Message. Preaching the sermon also involves putting together most of the worship service, a big job. There have been many wonderful sermons and children's messages prepared and presented by diverse members of the congregation. Worship Leader volunteers have been faithful in their support. All this has been very helpful to our pastor and, hopefully a growth opportunity for many of us who have volunteered. As for me, I believe the church has benefited from the powerful messages and witnesses that these volunteers have given us. Thanks to all who have and continue to volunteer.

At JUMC I have also attended meetings and supported activities of the Administrative Council, Staff Parish Relations, Lay Leadership, and Finance Ministry Teams. I have served as Worship Leader, assisted in baptisms and assisted in the joining of new members. I have represented the church at the annual meeting of Troy Conference.

My principal church activity during the past year has been, with my wife Judy, planning, organizing, and leading the JUMC-sponsored Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trip to Cuba. It was a fulfilling trip, a wonderful learning experience, a spirit-filled adventure, a strenuous working time. We were stationed at Camp Canaan in central Cuba. This is the only church camp on the island. It is owned and operated by the Methodist Church of Cuba and has been built (beginning in 1998) very largely by donations of money, supplies and labor through US-VIM teams. In fact, we received a special ceremony and celebration as ours was the 50th US-VIM team to work at the camp. The Methodist Church of Cuba makes the camp available to all denominations on the island.

A big pleasure while we were there was sharing the camp with 2 large youth groups. What a fantastic and exciting experience to see these youth interacting, reading their Bibles in the early morning, meditating and praying in small groups around the grounds, and joyfully worshipping God in the temple!! This is the future of Christianity in Cuba and the Methodist Church is playing a major role!!

Our principal work project this time was to dig ditches (and then fill them in again!) so as to bury electrical power lines. Some of the team also worked on housing for retired pastors. We had the opportunity to attend worship services at 7 different Methodist churches. Another highlight of the trip was the opportunity to spend a day at the previously visited Methodist Church in Limones, Cuba and to worship there. We presented a prayer shawl from JUMC to the pastor's wife and it was gratefully and emotionally received - as a very special gift.

Outreach Committee

- **Support was given to the following organizations**

Albany Maritime Ministries

Albany United Methodist Society

Alpha Pregnancy Center

Captain

Care Links

City Mission of Schenectady

Cuba VIM Trip

Ellis Hospital Weekend Chaplains

Emmaus Intervention Project

Fair Trade Coffee

Habitat for Humanity in the Capital District

Helping Hands Food Pantry

JUMC Mission Volunteers

McNeill Russian Ministry

Mozambique Clergy Couple

New York State Interfaith Power and Light

Paiglow Albany Medical Ministry

Quilt & Prayer Shawl Ministries

Samaritan Counseling Center

Young Life

Youth for Christ

- **Two major church-wide financial projects were undertaken**

Christmas Alternative Giving Options

One Great Hour of Sharing

- **Lobbying effort was made on behalf of Jubilee USA Network**

Membership Development Team Ministry

To invite those who have recently moved into the area to our church, we have continued our mailing campaign. Postcards have been sent prior to Welcome Back Sunday, Christmas, and Easter – announcing happenings and services for those events. We invite new residents of the area to worship with us and give them contact information.

When visitors come to our church to worship, they receive cookies and JUMC newsletters at their homes from our team.

Working with pastor, we have helped in the new membership process and meetings. We prepared the room for the meetings and invited prospective members to the JUMM monthly breakfast. We also recruited mentors for the new members.

During fellowship time after both services, we have provided coffee, tea, juice, and snacks. In conjunction with this, we have worked with the Outreach Ministries team to use Fair Trade coffee.

Using the congregation, we have scheduled a list of rotating volunteers for Coffee Hour and Greeters for the 10:30 service.

In the newsletter and bulletins, we have continued notes designed to keep congregants mindful of creating an encouraging environment for visitors.

At the Stewardship Fair, we provided JUMC members “toolkits” goodie bags.

We started a new venture of fellowship dinners. The first one was a “spring fling” with the pilgrims’ presentation of their Israel trip. The next will be a family pot luck dinner and game night, in August.

Music Department

Chancel Choir - sings 2 to 3 times a month

40 members - presents 1 or 2 cantatas a year and some years a joint music festival

(Christmas Cantata includes choir from Shenendehowa UMC and orchestra)

Womens Chorus - sings during summer months - 10 to 12 members

Adult Bell Choir - plays once a month - 18 members

Bell Ensemble - adult group -plays monthly at 8:30 service - 10 members

Youth Bell Choir - grades 6 to 12 - plays once a month - 11 members

Chime Choir - grades 2 to 5 - plays once a month - 10 members

Joyful Noise - ages 3 to grade 2 - sings once a month - 26 members directed by Jan Volk

Gospel Group - singers and guitars - will play/sing 4 to 6 times a year

The music program at JUMC involves close to 100.

Additional funds of \$1000 for budget were raised through wrapping paper sales.

Two new groups are being introduced in the fall of 2009. Barb Jacoby will be working with a music & drama group and also leading a Junior Choir.

Thanks to Jan Volk, Marian Cochran, Caitlin Cochran, Claire Walling, and Barb Jacoby for their assistance as directors, co-directors, helpers or accompanists.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Following is a brief summary of the activities of SPRC in 2008-2009:

- “Listening post meetings” were scheduled after both services in the fall to get input regarding the congregation’s vision for JUMC’s future and input regarding our next pastor.
- In preparation for choosing a new pastor, Nancy Dibelius shared insights from her seminary studies regarding how churches can work out their identities and vision and, in turn, effectively articulate to the Cabinet the type of leadership appropriate to that identity and vision.
- SPRC conducted a discussion in an Ad Council meeting to get further input regarding JUMC’s identity and vision.
- With inputs from the “listening posts” and the Ad Council meeting a church profile document was completed by SPRC and submitted to Supt. Jan Rowell for use by the Cabinet and Bishop in selecting new leadership for JUMC.
- The JUMC profile document was discussed in our Dec. 4 meeting with Supt. Jan Rowell.
- On January 21 we met with Supt. Jan Rowell and David Lockwood, the candidate, and his wife Mary. At the close of the meeting SPRC unanimously affirmed the appointment of David Lockwood as pastor of our charge effective July 1, 2009.
- During the year we met with members of our church staff to affirm their service in the church.
- SPRC received Ad Council approval to hire a person for Sunday morning custodial services (2 hours, 7 – 9 a.m.)
- Pastor David Lockwood joined us at our May 5th meeting. We will hold special receptions in homes this fall for members of the congregation to meet Pastor Lockwood and his wife, Mary.
- A retirement party for Pastor Ray Stees will be held on June 20 to express our appreciation for his service at JUMC and also provide the opportunity for others in the Troy Annual Conference to do the same. Pastor Lockwood’s first Sunday at JUMC will be July 5.

Stewardship Team

The Team members are Barbara Phillips, chair, Brenda Little, Alison Saville, and Kevin Weatherill.

We approached the Stewardship Campaign for the Annual budget of 2009-2010 with the concept that we are all a part of the whole. Puzzle pieces were purchased, colored and attached to the letter that invited congregants to pledge to JUMC budget. There were 3 pulpit testimonies, Claire Walling, Jeff Hetch, and Kathy Burton and 1 written testimony, Carol Collins, printed in the newsletter. A picture of the church was enlarged and made into a puzzle, which was left in fellowship hall for everyone to participate in its completion.

The office will follow up with letters to those who did not turn in a pledge card on Consecration Sunday to offer them the opportunity to support the activities and missions of the Jonesville United Methodist Church.

Technology Group

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the Technology Team focused on many projects to help JUMC reach its goals using technology where applicable. During this fiscal year we have:

- Replaced one computer in the office
- Made a recommendation for purchase of a notebook computer to be used to record worship services and as a “loaner” at church functions.
- Updated the design of the church website.
- Purchased software for the church office for updating the church website if necessary.
- Placed a grounding mat by the podium microphone in the sanctuary to reduce static noise when speakers approach it.
- Participated in the Stewardship fair
- Started to look at the sound system in the sanctuary to make sure it is functioning optimally.

Trustee Annual Report

Church Grounds

- The Church grounds were meticulously maintained by Nancy Alff with help from husband Bob
- Chris Benson was hired to mow the lawns
- Outside faucets were replaced on the North side of Church
- Hose and reel were purchased to aid the gardeners

Church

- Frank Overstrom repaired some of the broken pews in the Sanctuary
- Chairs in the Choir Loft, balcony and the Bob White Upper Room were tightened by Ed Bennett and the JOY Boys
- Siding was installed on the non historic portion of the church
- Major repairs on the outside of the office including new windows and a sliding door from the pastor's office
- Holes created by the probes to determine the structural integrity of the church were repaired
- Water damage in the Choir Room was repaired.
- Repainting of the Choir Room and closet
- The Kitchen and Fellowship Hall had insulation installed (No frozen pipes this year)
- The faucets in the Kitchen were replaced
- The Septic Tank was pumped out prior to the Turkey Super
- Gutters and down spouts were added to the North Wing to reduce water damage of the siding
- Water leaks in the restrooms were repaired several times (seems like an ongoing problem)
- A new vacuum cleaner was purchase (commercial grade) the older ones were donated and needed constant repairs with the heavy use
- A cup dispenser was installed in the upstairs restroom

Parsonage

- Repairs were made to the slate roof and basement walls to stop leaks
- The sink in the first floor bathroom was replaced
- The water softener was repaired
- Energy Audit was conducted
- Most incandescent lights were replaced with CFLs
- When the septic tank was pumped during routine maintenance it was discovered that the top was broken and the tank had to be replace (completed)

Major Parsonage repairs being undertaken prior to the new minister moving in (Using Capital Campaign funds)

1. Painting all rooms
2. New lights in kitchen and bath

3. Update wiring in whole house
4. Pull carpet on first floor and stairs
5. Refinish floors (first floor and stairs)
6. Paint existing cabinets in Kitchen
7. Paint the wall to wall bookcase in the front room
8. New sink and vanity for the upstairs bathroom
9. New countertop for the kitchen
10. New motion detector light on garage
11. Replace the garage door openers

Projects that have been contracted for:

1. Replace the fire door in the sanctuary and refurbishing the stain glass in the door
2. Refurbishing two of the stained glass vents
3. Replacing the floors in the main restrooms

Projects under consideration with Capital Campaign Funds

- Replacing front porch on the parsonage
- Stained glass work (total cost is greater than funds available at this time)
- Siding work on the main section of the church (plans are to keep siding comparable to the historic value of the church)

The Trustees have spent many hours reviewing projects in conjunction with the Capital Campaign. We have meet with several contractors getting bids and discuss options. The stained glass windows have been the biggest challenge as to cost and who to believe. Some outfits recommend a patch and polish approach and other a complete rebuild. The siding issue has been to reside with wood or some other no maintenance options. These are still on the table.

Trustees have tried to keep budget items in line but the costs associated with the church building and parsonage keep climbing. Bills paid from July 1 through May 14 excluding Capital Campaign funds were:

- Utilities – \$17,500
- Garbage Collection – \$1,600
- Insurance – \$5,200
- Snow Removal – \$5,800
- Maintenance – \$4,500
- Supplies - \$1,600
- Capital Improvements – \$3,000
- Total \$39,200

Trustees have tried the past two years for a reserve fund but these have remained unfunded for lack of money at year's end.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Our United Methodist Women's group at Jonesville has continued the organization's focus on women, children, and youth through our monthly programs and other events. Our local missions include Captain, Shenendehowa Helping Hands Food Pantry, Charlton School for Girls, Gateway-Longview, Regional Food Bank, AUMS, and Schenectady City Mission.

OUR PROGRAMS: Starting in September and in the next few months, we were *Tying Up Loose Ends*, and were able to complete the 24 quilts we had started in the spring, which were donated to the Family Life Center at Schenectady City Mission. Our opening program, *Native Americans – Giving Our Hearts Away* presented by Carole Collins, was focused on her studies at Regional School and **Summer Learning Fellowship**. She ended the program by reading a Native American version of the 23rd Psalm. In October, we busily prepared for our major mission fundraiser, the annual Turkey Supper. This community outreach, with the help from our congregation and MYF, served approximately 600 people, and we thank all who enabled this to happen. Our **UMW Reading Program** was highlighted at our October monthly meeting with book and magazine reports from Cynthia Stoll and Janet Harris. In November, we were encouraged and were to encourage other's to vote in the Presidential election (100% Vote) by the Women's Division. Our monthly meeting was a joint meeting with UMM and Youth Group advisors and youth. Walt Golden and Courtney Fedorchak gave spoken presentations and showed an interesting video on the Youth Group's *Work Trip to Binghamton* in July. **World Thank Offerings** were also collected. Our December **Christmas Tea** was hosted by Gia Ringler at her home, and all had a delightful time getting into the true spirit of the season. In January, we brought gifts, visited, and sang along with Schuyler Ridge N.H. residents. Carole Collins gave a presentation, *Pray for Peace, in every tongue, in the name of the Prince of Peace* from the World Methodist Council, later in the Upper Room. In February, we celebrated our Christian love for each other by participating in a community Love Feast entitled "**A Reinvigoration of the Love Feast**" from the UMW program book, **Who's at the Table?** Each participant was asked to think of one person that influenced her or him the most on their Christian journey and to invite them to *sit beside them* during the ceremony. In March, Carole Collins, also, gave a presentation from our UMW program book "**Who's at the Table**". We also participated in the **Church Stewardship Fair** with a flyer listing upcoming events,

A Cup of Blessing (Past, Present & Future) tri-fold display board, and a posting of all the local missions UMW supports. In May, we held our annual **Wesley Community/Embury Luncheon**. Thirty senior residents journeyed to Jonesville to enjoy a covered luncheon, and were entertained by the Shenendehowa Middle School **Ambassadors** choir. In June, we entertained the Mothers/Daughters with a "**Teddy Bear Picnic**". After the picnic, while holding their bears, listening, and participating in stories read by Cheryl Stees, the young ladies were wearing Teddy bear ears made by Carole Collins. Then, the young ladies marched around the room, with their Teddy's, to the tune of **Teddy Bear's Picnic** recorded by Rosemary Clooney.

SOMETHING NEW: We were invited by Tom and Judy Bonds to the AUMS **Albany United Methodist Society 50th Anniversary** dinner in Albany. Cheryl Stees came as UMW's guest.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR: **Maplewood Manor Sing**- that meets the first Monday of each month; 60 shoeboxes filled with toys etc. for **Operation Christmas Child**; Memorial receptions and **Gift to Missions** in memory of Grace Palm and Carter Eltzroth; **UMW Day**, Wednesday, June 10 at JUMC; Our UMW group has once again been awarded a certificate for **Mission Accomplished** Gold Honor Unit for *keeping to task* and following our **Purpose**;

Worship Committee Annual Report 2009

Just as I am without one plea
But a single service at 9:30
The summer services merged for Thee
O gracious God we came, we came.

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
We honored you, your memory impressed
With flowers adorned, and love in every breast
On All Saints Sunday, All Saints Sunday.

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free
Thanks to shelves placed in the windows, poinsettias, we now can see
Advent readings and the cantata, all the services help us believe
Hope, Peace, Love, Joy flow throughout the whole season
Builds to communion on Christmas Eve.

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame
On Ash Wednesday sinners gathered to repent in Jesus' name
Churches five participated in that service in this space
So began our Lenten journey, cross of ashes on each face.

When I survey the wondrous cross,
Hills and the valleys of Holy Week
Highs of Palm Sunday, Good Friday's loss,
Then Easter joy at its full peak.

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,
And ask that the budget be funded next year
From the congregation
Sunday consecration
The pledges, gifts to God, may His will be done here.

In the bulb, there is a flower, in the seeds are apple trees
In our hearts were buds of healing, nurtured there by both the Stees
In the parting there is sadness, as retirement comes his way
Well deserved but still we'll miss them,
God bless Cheryl and Pastor Ray.

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free
'Twas a pleasure serving with this family
The team all pitched in to make the work light
I wish you the best and a chair who is right

Youth Fellowship

We continue to be blessed with an active youth fellowship. It's been 3 years since I reported against each of the 19 Guiding Principles that we have developed over the years for the MYF program, so I thought it would be beneficial to provide an update in this format.

Christ Centered (Everything Else Is Secondary)

This continues to be what differentiates our group activities from others that compete for our youth's time. We always invited Christ's presence in our gatherings whether it was a retreat or a fun event such as bowling or laser tag. We strived to always remember that it was Christ that we were representing.

Adult Facilitated (Adults Lead As Role Models)

We were blessed with a strong Adult Advisor team that understood, as role models, our actions were more important than our words. I spent time with both the Middle School and Sr Hi groups. Many times we enjoyed joint activities together. Sr Hi Adult Advisors: Scott Strock, Holly Weatherill, Brian Benson. Middle School Advisors: MaryEllen Hendrickson, Paul Hendrickson, Kathy Fedorchak, Tom Fedorchak.

Youth Lead (Adults Challenge/Encourage Youth To Lead)

Courtney Fedorchak and Curtis Moran, as the most active upperclassmen, provided informal leadership during the year, although all of the active Sr Hi youth showed leadership in the planning of different events including our coffee house.

Relationally Based (Building Of Trusting Individual Relationships)

The Adult Advisor team showed genuine interest in our youth lives, balancing their own family commitments, understanding that there is no short cut to taking time with youth.

Glory Goes To God (For MYF Successes/Blessings)

Both the adults and youth continued to be reminded throughout the year to have grateful hearts and celebrate the gift of our MYF from God.

Safety First (Physical/Emotional/Spiritual)

This is clearly a focus each year. MYF represented an environment where youth could be free to be themselves and grow without being judged. We worked to hold each other accountable to this goal.

Worship Experience (In Whatsoever You May Do.....)

We continued to focus on the point that worship just doesn't occur inside a church building. Whether we were participating in meetings, service projects, retreats, or other activities, we were reminded that our actions, if pleasing to God, were an act of worship of God. The Middle School youth acted out this theme in February at their Skye Farm retreat.

Spiritual Disciplines Emphasis (Provides Opportunities To Practice)

This was a recurring theme as a way for each of us to stay connected to God and grow in our individual relationships with Him. During our gatherings we practiced praying, reflecting on scripture, and serving.

Inclusive Fellowship (Celebrate/Respect Value Of Differences)

Our congregation's youth demographics are down from other periods, but are heading for an upswing based on Sunday School enrollment. As much as ever this year we encouraged youth to invite friends to our events. I am very pleased that new participants were always welcomed and made to feel comfortable. During the year, 12 youth from outside of our church participated in one or more activities with us.

Conduct Standards (Behavior Expectations/Consequences)

We have high conduct expectations and they were met this year without incident.

Service/Mission Oriented (Be Doers, Not Just Hearers Of The Word)

We served in many ways: turkey supper, city mission, UNICEF, clothing collections, community luminaria, cleanups, food panty drive, plant sale, go green garden planting, workcamp mission trip.

Larger Youth Events Participation (Conference, Other)

It is very powerful for our youth to see other youth on the same spiritual journey. Middle School participated in BREAKOUT in March attended by 800 youth. Sr Hi participated in the Youth Autumn Conference in November attended by 200 youth, EXCEL in January attended by 1,800 youth, and 4Word in Syracuse in April attended by 700 youth.

Full Congregation Integration (Seek Multi-generational Opportunities)

Beyond the mentioned service activities that the youth participated in with adults, the youth again put on a coffee house that brought several generations of our church and community together in fellowship.

Fund-raising Tie To Fellowship (Full Congregation Fellowship)

Our three major fund-raisers, luminaria sales, coffee house, and plant sale all included much fellowship. We also continued to make a small profit by offering entertainment books in the fall.

Diversity Enlightenment (Different Cultural, Socio-economic Group Fellowship)

We again fell short here, as it takes time to build up trusting relationships with youth groups in other areas that do not live in an environment like Saratoga County. Our summer work camp mission trip to Binghamton last July helped enlighten the participants to diversity.

Parental Involvement (Valued/Encouraged)

Parents continued to be great supporters of MYF as they encouraged their children's participation, drove, prepared foods, helped fund activities, and served along side the youth.

Communication Is Important (Calendar, Successes, Parents, Congregation)

We could have done more to celebrate our successes through communication channels. We did not have youth step up to write articles for our monthly newsletter this year. We were only able to get our calendar published each month. Weekly calls were made to parents/youth. We hope to improve in the depth of our overall communication next year including the development of a youth page on our web site.

Christian Music (Important Element Of MYF)

Christian music was one of the major worship vehicles at our retreats, youth conferences, and meetings.

It's Fun

The group proved that Christ-centered fellowship is fun. Some of the fun focused events were alpine slide at Jiminy Peak, haunted hayride, laser tag, bowling, church sleepover, game nights, and a season ending picnic at the Hendrickson's. However most would agree that the best memories were the overnights at retreats and conferences and the awesome week some of us got to experience at workcamp. Along the way I believe we all grew closer to Christ. Praise God!