



The Signpost

Harlem Road Church

Summer 2018

Volume 13, Number 5

Paving Our Way into the Future

By Pastor Bud Leskovac

On May 16, the Harlem Road Church family gathered at an advertised special Church Conference to consider a joint recommendation made by our Trustee and Finance teams. For many months, these two teams have been working together to develop a comprehensive plan to resolve the problems of our seriously degraded parking lot, and to upgrade our 21-year-old lighted sign in the front yard. After a complete presentation of the project, and some clarifications, the recommendation was approved unanimously.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of the church family for the faithful and thorough work of our Trustees and Finance team to get all the information together in order for all of us to make our best choice.

The parking lot, as most of you know, is in serious need of being replaced and drained properly. It not only poses aesthetic issues, but serious safety issues now as well, especially during rainy seasons. This is a significant project that will require extensive grading and drainage. The entire 70,000 square foot area, providing approximately 150 parking spaces, will be blacktopped. To be clear, the entire surface that is currently comprised of both blacktop and gravel is to be resurfaced with new base coat and top coat blacktop, excluding the small roadway that extends to the wooded area out back. The current fenced dumpster area will be relocated to keep the heavy trucks off the main parking lot. The north and south entries will be rebuilt using 6" thick concrete for greater durability. When completed, the fresh blacktop will be relined and striped properly, and will serve our growing church family for many years to come.

The lighted sign in our front yard was installed in June of 1998 and is also in need of upgrading, as some needed parts are no longer available. The existing structure and framework will be reused, saving much money, but will be upgraded with LED lighting that is controlled and changed from a computer within the office using wireless transmitters and receivers. This will enable us to change our sign regularly to promote ministries and events in a timely way. The hope is to add stone piers to each side of the sign that will enhance and modernize its appearance as well. All work is scheduled to begin by the second week of August.

This project will require that once again we all pull together (like many times in the past) to make this vision and upgrade become a reality. We must continue to support our operational and mortgage funds, but take this project on as a short-term financial commitment. When God is blessing and leading, there isn't anything we can't accomplish when we all pull together.

Another article in this newsletter describes ways all of us can support this significant effort immediately (before Mid-July), as well as ways we can spread our support out over the next three years. Please be sure to look for that article, and for the letter that will soon be sent to everyone in the church family asking for your financial support to accomplish this major project together. I know that living and giving by faith, with God's blessings and leading, we can tackle this much needed improvement together.

God's Richest & Continued Abundant Blessings,
Pastor Bud

Children's Ministry News

By Pam Leskovac

Summer Nights Live! for Kids Age 4 through 5th Grade



“SHIPWRECKED: Rescued by Jesus!” Calling all children age 4 through finishing 5th grade. Come join us for our Summer Nights Live (VBS) program. We'll have Bible stories, skits, music, games and crafts. Light snack – no dinner.

Learn all about the love of Jesus!

Pick up a registration form on the Lobby table today! Contact Kate Steele for more information: 614-312-7691.

Summer events for kids

SUMMER EVENTS for kids at HRC are in the works. Watch for your postcard in the mail...and watch the bulletin for details.

FNL Returns this Fall

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE! - Connecting kids to Christ, will return on Friday, September 21. Watch for more details in August!

This is a free monthly event (September through November and February through April) for kids age 4 through 5th grade.

We reach out into our community to bring kids into the church once a month. We have dinner together and then break up into age groups and go to 3 stations: craft, game, story. In the story station we offer the kids an opportunity to pray to receive Christ as Savior.

We need many volunteers to make this program work! So if you'd like to serve, we need folks in the following areas:

- Kitchen Crew
- Craft Crew
- Registration Crew
- Game Crew
- Story Crew
- Tear Down Crew

If you'd like to volunteer for this great outreach program to children in our church and community – please contact Pam Leskovac for more information. You can call the church office 740-965-4543 or email: pam@harlemroadchurch.org or pick up and fill out a volunteer sign-up sheet on the main table in the Lobby.

Volunteers needed for 2018-19 Program Year

If you'd like to be a volunteer with children's ministry, grab a volunteer form on the main table in the lobby and sign up! Forms will also be in the bulletin for the month of May & June. We need help with the Nursery and Sunday school at 8:30 am, 9:45 am and 11 am every Sunday of the year. We need volunteers to work in Friday Night Live once a month – preparing dinner, organizing and presenting crafts, running with kids from station to station, teaching the story, and leading the games. We will also need volunteers to work with the children's Christmas Musical that begins in September. If you have a heart for kids – please consider volunteering! Volunteers are required to fill out a volunteer form with references and submit to a background check to comply with our "Safe Sanctuary Policy."

Health and Wellness News

By Sue Wilcox

In summer, the song sings itself - William Carlos Williams

Second Annual Minute to Win It

Thanks to Lisa Branzel for her creative planning for this fun-filled evening with lots of "belly laughing." Thank you all for attending. Plan now for next year's even bigger and better event.



National Cancer Survivors Day

The National Cancer Survivors Day Foundation describes this special day as a *celebration* for those who have survived, an *inspiration* for those recently diagnosed, a gathering of *support* for families and an *outreach* to the community. This day provides an opportunity for all people living with a history of cancer - including America's 15.5 million cancer survivors – an opportunity to connect with each other, celebrate milestones, and recognize those who have supported them along the way.

Within our own congregation, join us in walking and celebrating with our survivors. On Sunday, June 3, remember to wear your walking shoes and walk on a ¼ mile track. For each ¼ mile that you walk, toss a quarter in a jar. Those proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday morning, July 29, is our next scheduled blood drive. Save that date so you will be able to donate.

Fireworks Safety

A common theme for the summer is safety. July's safety tips revolve around fireworks safety:

- For those who decide to light their own fireworks, it's important to follow safety measures so that a fun celebration doesn't turn into a medical emergency.
- Even the most benign fireworks can potentially cause severe burns. Seek emergency care right away for any large blisters that form and for blistering burns to the face, hands, feet, genital area or on top of joints.
- Obey all laws. Never use illegal fireworks.
- Use fireworks outdoors only.

Paving Our Way into the Future – Part 2

As you read in Bud’s message, the church conference approved paving and sign projects. The approval of these projects allows the Trustee and Finance teams to move forward in our mission of bringing people to Christ. We accomplish this by being good stewards of God’s property. A well-maintained property - mowed lawn, clean building, good signage and a well-cared-for parking lot - speaks volumes to a visitor. It’s a person’s first impression of our church. It shows that we care and want you to be a part of God’s family.

We will be borrowing \$228,000 to upgrade the parking lot, creating 150 parking spaces, updating our church sign and leveling/paving the parsonage driveway, roughly at a cost of \$1500 per parking space. The anticipated project completion timeline is mid-August.



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Soon, you will have the opportunity to complete a “Paving Our Way into the Future” card. It will give you three ways you can assist financially in this project. While we are not conducting a formal capital campaign, we do need this information as soon as possible, but no later than June 30, to help the Finance team determine the best loan and payment schedule. Janene Brown, our Financial Secretary, will be the only one to see these cards. She will summarize them and pass this info on to the Finance team.

The goal is to pay off this loan in three years, even though we may have a five or ten year loan. Together, we can make this happen! Remember, this is “over and above” giving and cannot be at the expense of your normal operational fund and mortgage fund giving. These two funds are the mainstays that support the works, ministries and programs of our church on a daily basis.

God is growing our church as we bring people to Christ, and the work is becoming too much for one minister to oversee. The Finance team prays to be able to pay this loan off within the three years, to free up funds for hiring an associate pastor to assist in growing God’s ministries in bringing people to Christ.

The Trustee and Finance teams thank you for your faith and commitment to Christ and his church.

Ben Wolfe, Finance team leader

Rob Turner, Trustee Team leader

Missions News

By Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka

Harlem Road UMC focuses its mission outreach efforts in two key areas: our local Big Walnut community, with an emphasis on Westerville Estates, and our global Haitian community in the Imagine Missions orphanage.

Local Outreach – Summer Events

Our local outreach is done in partnership with other churches and organizations: Galena UMC, Church of the Saviour UMC, New Albany UMC, New Albany Church of the Resurrection Catholic, Chapel North, and Harlem Township Helping Hands. We call our combined group “SidebySide.”

Please watch email and our Sunday Celebration Folders for further details about these:

School Supplies Giveaway: Friday July 27, from 2:30 - 6:30 pm and Saturday July 28, 10 - noon is SidebySide's annual School Supplies give-away for needy kids in our neighborhood. We will need volunteers to help! Not only will be giving away school supplies (many supplied by United Way), but we will be working with Harlem Township Helping Hands to provide new shoes and undergarments for kids. Please let Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka know if you're available to help some or part of the time. She can be reached at judysharpekos@insight.rr.com or cell: 614-565-3395.

Pie Booth: Saturday and Sunday, August 18 & 19 will be the annual Harlem Township Heritage Days. Again this year we will have a Pie Booth to raise funds for Missions. We'll need PIES and VOLUNTEERS. Our Pie Booth has always been a much sought-after taste sensation....c'mon and be a part of it!

Christmas Store: Yes, you read that correctly. We're getting into Garage Sale season, which is the perfect place to pick up inexpensive items that can be used for our Christmas "Store" for the kids at Westerville Estates Mobile Home Park. Each year we invite the kids to pick out items for each member of their family. The kids love it and they learn about giving to others. While you're at garage sales or stores, please look for new or very gently-used items you'd be willing to donate. Just to make things fun, you'll want to remember your own childhood and find things that you would have seen as a "treasure" for your family member. Here are some ideas:

- For men and older boys: small tools, fishing items and items sports related - maybe OSU stuff and trinkets or new baseball cap
- For older girls and moms: Glitzy, girly stuff like fancy nail polish or lipstick. Jewelry, jewelry boxes, perfume/body spray, Hair "ornaments" (scrunchies, barrettes, etc)
- For kids: Kids' board games, fun stuff to play with, dolls, toy cars/trucks, balls, sports items, anything superhero, princess stuff
- For all: Family-Friendly DVDs.

Free Produce Giveaway

We hold our monthly produce giveaway each THIRD SATURDAY, March through December. The next date will be Saturday, June 15. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Mishelle Soule at bristol2425@yahoo.com. Volunteers are needed from 10 am – 1 pm to sort and hand out the food.

Global Outreach – Our Orphans in Haiti

Child Sponsors - if you'd like to provide monthly nutrition or education for a child in Haiti, please visit the www.imaginemissions.org website. Go to the Sponsor/Contribute page and see the kids who need sponsors.

You can stay current on happenings in Haiti by visiting the Imagine Missions page on Facebook where Melissa posts updates almost daily. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ImagineMissions/>

Do You Shop at Amazon?

If so, please consider using [SMILE.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) instead. It's the exact same Amazon except that you can select a non-profit to receive a donation from Amazon equal to a percentage of your purchase. Chose a charity of your choice! Perhaps Imagine Missions could be your designee.

Ongoing Missions at HRUMC

Kroger Community Rewards: Here's another great way to help your church! We have 12 households who are shopping at Kroger and using their Community Rewards card to bless Harlem Road UMC. YOU CAN ALSO HELP

IN THIS WAY! Please go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the instructions to create an account – and thank you!!

Crochet Necklaces: Each month, necklaces made by an HRUMC-trained Westerville Estates woman are taken to the Ohio Art Market for sale. Please patronize the Ohio Art Market, located in Uptown Westerville on the corner of Main and State streets.

Aluminum Pop Tabs: Please bring in the tabs off your aluminum cans and we will take them to the Columbus Ronald McDonald House which recycles them to raise funds to purchase wheelchairs. Receptacles are on the table at the back of the main hallway.

BoxTops for Education: Please bring in the BoxTops for Education labels from your food packages and we will take them to Souders Elementary School. Receptacles are on the table at the back of the main hallway.

Community Connection Groups



Thinking about joining a small group, but not sure which one might be right for you? Contact the leaders to find out more about the people in the group and what they do!

IRONWORKS MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST GROUP: All men are invited to come on Saturday, May 5 at 8:30 am to enjoy a continental breakfast along with fellowship with other men.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Meeting Time/Place: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm in the pastor's office. All men are welcome!

Leader: Jim Bernhardt (bernharj@gmail.com or 614-895-1807)

WOMEN'S TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY Meeting Time/Place: Our next study topic is not yet determined. We meet at 7 pm every Tuesday at the home of Ellen Jacobs, 148 Nicole Drive, Westerville. Phone (614) 523-2713.

Leader: Ellen Jacobs (jacobsellen53@gmail.com or 614-406-4337)

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP Meeting Time/Place: This summer, we will meet once a month for dinner at 6 pm: June 27 (place TBD), July 11 (Koble in uptown), and August 8 (place TBD). We also might have a retreat near Cuyahoga NP in August.

Leader: Diana Robertson (office@harlemroadchurch.org or 614-882-9487)

WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCH Meeting Time/Place: We will meet June 7 at noon at the Red Robin on Gemini Parkway, Polaris. In July, we will gather on the 2nd Thursday, July 12, because the 1st Thursday is the day after the 4th of July. We will also meet on August 2. Places for July and August TBD.

Leader: Bobbi Pollock (bobbi10820@gmail.com or 614-496-7405)

SATURDAY COUPLES GROUP Meeting Time/Place: The Couples Group will meet at the Dannes' house on Saturday, June 16, at 6 pm for food and fellowship and to plan our summer activities and meeting dates. Please contact Ron and Lisa if you want more information.

Leaders: Ron and Lisa Danne (lisad@columbus.rr.com or 740-244-7223)

THE AYERS GROUP Meeting Time/Place: We are taking the summer off but will meet once a month starting in September at Frank Bright's house.

Leader: Changes with each meeting. For now, contact Jenny Hecker (heckerjen@gmail.com).

PRAYER AND PRAISE: We gather on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7 pm for prayer and praise.

Leader: Iva O'Ryan

THRIVE: Wellness Meal Planning & Cooking. Contact Mary Beth for details.

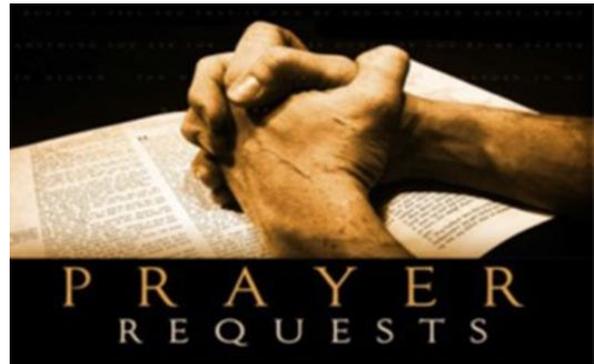
Leader: Mary Beth Cowans (740-965-3948 or cowansfamily@yahoo.com).

CRAFTING & LAUGHING: We meet at HRC, Room 105 on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Beginners or experts welcome. If quilting isn't your thing, bring your craft and enjoy the fellowship! (We really are quite fun!) Leader: Norma Jean Hill (740-965-1634 or njshill3733@aol.com).

Prayer Requests

Expectant Moms: Heidi Ratliff, Lindsey Wolfe, Angel Cooley, Jessica Reed

Requests: Phil Soule, Doug Gulley, Brody Cutherial, Luke Miller, Angela Salvador, Grayson Grove, Serena Potts, Jeanette Moreland, Helen Cocchi, Ray Baumburger, Nicholas Laye, Sylvia Clark, Ezekial Ayala, Dick McCoy, Mary Reed, Dave Straiko, Emily Jacobs, Mary Rogers, Joel Hecker, Herb & Bonnie Wilson, Kelly Hanlin, Yvonne Lake, Arthur Saunders, Sara Roberts, Sophia Hill, George Pollock, Joel Wilcox, Clyde Fravel, Linda Emerson, Suellen Peterson



Cancer Treatment: Dawn Furniss, Paul Ramey, Betty Goldman, Janey Baker, Laurie Frank, Judy Goslin, Tony Hamilton, Gary Stimer, Karen Fitzpatrick, Eric Cox, David Braskett, Joyce Bruns, Bill Fling, Jeff Wilson, Ralph List, Alma McCoy, Hank Pollner, Rusty Hill, Laura Frank, Eddie Orendorff, Elisa Rountree, Robin Cumberledge, Ray White, Don Basile, Kathy Rank, Denise Sproul, Shari King, Mike Stati, Zoey Harper, Allen Dyer, Shawn Correll, Chuck Netting, Howie Goodman, Sidney Hatfield, Debbie Dorsch, Rosemary Finn, Bunny Pearson, Craig Valentine, Leah Dean, Mike Doel, Jessie Wampler, Robin Smith

Military Service & First Responders: Logan Booty, Jakeb Cokeril, Michael Albaugh, Joe Pasqua, Jeremy Ragan, Christina Hahn, Chad Cunningham, Scott Crowell, Sean Hatch, John Smock, Stuart David, Nathan Brumbaugh, James Martin, Michael David-Gish, Nathan Bertram, Tyler Albaugh, Chaplain David Hogg, Alex Hussey, Kevin Miller, Spencer Morris, Mike Neely, Kevin Peterson, Matt Robertson, Rob Sagle, Dave Wheeler, Brian Williams, Lucas and Conner.