



The Signpost

Harlem Road Church

January/February 2018

Volume 14, Number 1

Bud's Message

By Pastor Bud Leskovac

Dear Friend,

Tell me your God-given dreams, visions and passions, and I will tell you your future. There's nothing like a God-given dream or vision to give you a roadmap to follow. Likewise, without one, you can wander aimlessly. I've heard it said, "headed for nowhere, you will surely land there." Remember how the Apostle Paul had a vision in Acts 16:9 of a man who was begging, "Come to Macedonia and help us!" That dream gave Paul his roadmap. He knew exactly what he was to do. And when he did it, God blessed the effort as only God can.

As a pastor, if I had to choose one gift for myself, or for church members and leaders to receive, it would be the ability to see God's specific dream, vision, and passion for their lives and for our church in 2019. Nothing "God sized" will happen in your life until you open yourself up to receive God's vision or dream for you. I'm telling you, the excitement will keep you up at night. The potential rolls around in your head twenty-four hours per day. It stretches you beyond where you are, and draws your faith to new lengths. When we become possessed by a "God" vision for our corporate life, all of us will rally to it. We will believe God for great things we can't do by ourselves - God sized things. God purposed things.

In Hebrews 11 there's a recap of the stories of men and women who believed God for the impossible.

They saw something before it ever existed. They allowed God to work through their lives. They led others to cooperate with God to bring into existence that which was not yet there. Hebrews 11:1 captures the best picture we have of what a God-given vision is: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."

How far do you see beyond your daily grind? What can you see beyond where you are today? What God-given visions do you see unfolding in 2019 and beyond? Specifically, what "God sized" vision do you have for yourself and your family in 2019? Vision is foresight with insight. Vision transforms and transcends the current reality. Vision sees where God sees—where God wants to take you. The Holy Spirit is the communicator bringing God's vision and dream to God's people. If you truly seek it, the Spirit will show you. Acting on God's vision is critical to your future. God doesn't bless what He hasn't ordained and I believe He will guide you when you are fully seeking His will for you through the Spirit.



As you begin a new year, the best year ever in your journey in faith, God's vision for all of us spiritually is that first, we will be "healthy, growing, spiritually vital, risk-taking Christian disciples, who make and equip God's people in partnership with the Holy Spirit to transform the world in Christ Jesus." And working toward this vision is a vital part of God's vision for all of us called Harlem Road UMC.

Come, engage, discover your God-given life purpose, and match those skills and abilities, talents and resources to the vision God has planted in your heart! You will never feel so blessed as when you're working to build the Kingdom of God. May 2019 be an abundantly blessed year for you and yours, and may God abundantly bless the HRC Family in this New Year.

Happy New Year! Much Love and Many Blessings!

Pastor Bud

Easter Cantata

Each year we prepare an Easter Cantata for Easter Sunday morning, inviting all singers to join in the worship and fun. Harlem Road UMC doesn't have a traditional choir – so this is your chance to sing with a large group of folks, and worship our risen Savior! We invite adults, youth and children 3rd grade and up to attend rehearsals that will be held right after the 11 am worship service (from 12:15 pm – 1 pm) in the Chapel.



The cantata is being chosen and rehearsals will begin in late February. We give each person singing a choral book and rehearsal CD with your part (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) highlighted, so you can learn your part even if you must miss some rehearsals. This is a great time of fun and fellowship as we soak in the Easter music for 8 weeks. Please plan to join us. Let the office know or mark the pew pad with "cantata" in the notes line!

Easter is April 21. We will present the cantata at the 10 am service.

Women's Conference

Each spring we hold a women's conference for the ladies of our church and any friends you'd like to invite to come with you. Typically the conference is held on a Saturday, with lunch provided, and we finish in the early afternoon. Plans are underway! As soon as we have the date and topic chosen, we will get that news out to you. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Summer Nights Live - Save the Date!

On June 10, 11 & 12 we will present "Summer Nights Live!" Watch the bulletin and newsletters for more information as we get all the details lined up!

Health and Wellness News

By Sue Wilcox

May we live in a world at peace and with the awareness of God's love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every lover's kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our hearts. Happy New Year 2019!

Take five for your health in 2019

Being healthy and safe takes commitment, but it doesn't have to be time-consuming. Most things are so simple and take so little time that you'll wonder why you've been avoiding them. Taking just a few of the 1440 minutes in a day is worth having a safer and healthier life for you and your family. Below are some steps you can take to help protect your health and safety in five minutes or less.

One Minute or Less for Health:

- Take folic acid
- Wash hands
- Check cruise ship inspection scores
- Know local travel laws
- Prevent poisonings
- Protect your skin
- Buckle up
- Protect your teen driver
- Gear up
- Fight the urge to smoke or use tobacco
- Protect your hearing
- Wear a life jacket
- Read food labels
- Place infants back-to-sleep
- Send a health-e-card
- Test smoke alarms

Blood Drive

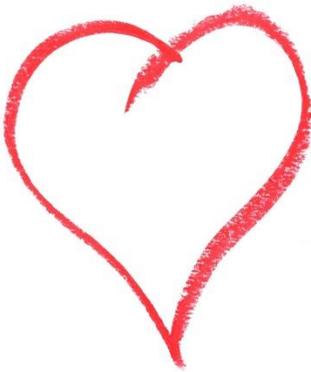
On Sunday, February 17, we will host a blood drive from 8 am – 1 pm. Mark your calendars now so that you can donate. Giant Eagle will again provide the canteen snacks.

There is over a 90% chance in your lifetime, someone dear to you will need blood at some point. So please consider "paying it forward" for those you love.



February is American Heart Month

Plan to wear red on Sunday, February 3, as we recognize heart disease. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. Take steps today to lower your risk of heart disease.



To help prevent heart disease, you can:

- Eat healthy.
- Get active.
- Stay at a healthy weight.
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.
- Drink alcohol only in moderation.
- Manage stress.

More information will be available February 3.

Children's Ministry News

By Pam Leskovac

Thank You!

For all of you who helped with our children's Christmas musical, "Wrapping All The Way," we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You helped our children soak in the Christmas story – and learn that God is with us even when everything goes wrong. They got the message: Jesus came as a light to a dark world – so no matter how dark things get, Jesus is right here with us. God bless you for giving our children this platform for ministry to our church, families, and community! DVDs are available on the table in the lobby.

Youth Fellowship Needs Your Help

Our Youth Group meets on Sunday afternoons (noon-2 pm) and we need volunteers who would be willing to make a light lunch for them. The menus are simple: lunchmeat sandwich, PBJ, hot dogs, pizza, sloppy joes, mac & cheese, or chicken nuggets. You can volunteer once – or as often as you'd like! YF will run from January through the end of the school year (end of May). If you're willing to help with this, let Pam Leskovac know and we will get you on the schedule. (There are anywhere from 12-16 youth each week.)

Email: pam@harlemroadchurch.org



Friday Night Live – Connecting Kids to Christ

FNL is Harlem Road Church's kids outreach program for all children age 4 through 5th grade in our surrounding communities. The program runs from 6:30-8:30 pm – dinner is provided – on the 3rd Friday of the month. We have games, stories, crafts, music and lots of fun! And we share the Gospel message with every child that comes through our doors. **We still need some folks to run with the children throughout the evening from station to station** – so if you'd like to volunteer to help with this program, please contact pam@harlemroadchurch.org

We will not meet in January – so please plan to join us in February for our next FNL event! Remaining FNL Dates for this programming year:

- February 15 – “Don’t Worry!”
- March 15 – “What’s Faith?”
- April 19 – “Peace!” “Joy!” – This event is scheduled for Good Friday evening – and we will do our Easter Egg Hunt during this event.

Children’s Sunday School

From February through May we will work through the Beatitudes with our PreK/K through 5th grade children.

8:30 am KIDS: Children begin with parents in the 8:30 service and then go to Sunday school in room #105.

9:45 am KIDS: During the adult Sunday school timeframe, we gather in room #102 for games, puzzles, crafts and fun together while our parents attend Sunday school class. **We still need some volunteers to work during this timeframe.** Please let Pam Leskovac know if you can help with this! pam@harlemroadchurch.org

11:00 am KIDS: Children begin with parents in the 11 am service for worship and then go to the Chapel for our opening. Then we break into age groups and attend our Sunday school class. Toddlers (ages 2&3) are in room #101. PreK/K kids (ages 4 through K) are in room #102. Grades 1-2 are in room #105. Grades 3-5 are in room #104. **We are still in need of a 2nd Sunday Toddler teacher.** Please let Pam Leskovac know if you can help with this! pam@harlemroadchurch.org

NURSERY: Still needs a volunteer on the 1st Sunday of each month at the 11 am service and a 5th Sunday volunteer (4x a year) at the 8:30 service. Email pam@harlemroadchurch.org if you’d be willing to help us!

- 8:30 am – the Nursery is available for children ages 3 and under.
- 9:45 am – the Nursery is available for children ages 3 and under.
- 11:00 am – the Nursery is available for children ages 2 and under. (We have a Toddler class for children ages 2 & 3 years old.)

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

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 and Harlem Township Helping Hands. We call our combined group “SidebySide.”

THANK YOU TO ALL who provided food or gifts for our Christmas families!

Homework Help: We hold afternoon sessions with elementary school kids at Westerville Estates. THIS YEAR HOMEWORK HELP WILL BE ON TUESDAY AFTERNOONS (in previous years it was on Wednesdays). The Souders principal let us know that our efforts with these kids has improved their reading skills. Besides the academic

focus, this ministry gives kids a chance to relate to adults who are focused on them and who offer constant encouragement. Kids who have "aged out" of our program still come around to help because they just love to be with us. We strive to have a one-on-one arrangement between adult and child for each afternoon session. Sessions last from 3:30 – 5 pm, one day/week. **If you have books suitable for 3rd and 4th graders, Homework Help would like them for our students.** Please bring them in and place them under the "Missions Table" in the back of the main hallway. Thank you!! If you are interested in giving 90 minutes to a child, please let Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka know! (614-565-3395, judysharpekos@insight.rr.com)

Bountiful Backpacks: Our church has been given the opportunity to be the hands and feet of God to some of our Big Walnut neighbors. For several years, many churches in Big Walnut and Sunbury have been providing "Bountiful Backpacks" to needy students: bags of food filled by the churches and given to kids on the free/reduced school lunch programs so the family has food over the weekend. Families are identified by school personnel and asked if they would like to participate. All the Big Walnut elementary schools have been covered and now, with HRUMC's involvement, needy families at Big Walnut Middle School will also be provided Bountiful Backpacks. Sally and Bud Morris are heading up this ministry, which began in October. They have a small team of volunteers who will ensure that enough food is donated or purchased, that the bags are packed, and then delivered to the middle school by Thursday each week. This is a ministry that will continue weekly during the school year. **YOU CAN HELP** by donating some of the following food items as often as possible. We have a pre-determined menu for each week (needed to keep things fair between schools) so these items are the exact, specific things we need. Please bring your donated items into the church and place them under the Missions Table at the end of the main hallway. Needed items are: peanut butter, grape jelly, boxed macaroni & cheese, Ramen noodles, Pringles, oatmeal (single serving sizes in packages of 6), spaghetti sauce, canned soup, fruit snacks, granola bars, Pop Tarts, rice side dishes, flour tortillas (non-refrigerated), pepperoni, microwave popcorn, pudding, pancake mix, syrup, canned pasta (spaghettios, ravioli etc.), single service jello, sandwich crackers, canned chicken (12.5 oz. size). If you have an interest in being part of this ministry, please contact Sally and Bud Morris (740-936-5551, budemorris@yahoo.com).



Global Outreach – Our Orphans in Haiti

Jenny Hecker, Anna Klingensmith and Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka will be heading down to Imagine Missions in Haiti on Jan 9-15. As in past years, this team will be helping the kids write thank-you letters to their sponsors. If you are a sponsor of a child, you can send a hand-written note down to your child by giving it to Jenny, Anna or Judy.

Do You Shop at Amazon? If so, please consider using 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 several 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.kroger.com and follow the instructions for Community/Community Rewards – and thank you!! If you've enrolled in the past, your enrollment expires each 12 months so please re-enroll.

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.

Legacy Fund Reminder

By Dave Patterson

Did you know that Harlem Road United Methodist Church has a Legacy Fund? Completely separate from traditional giving, the Legacy Fund provides a means of supporting important functions into perpetuity. The Legacy Fund is made up of different endowments. We currently have endowments established for Capital Improvements, Children/Youth Ministry, Missions, General Fund Support, and The Spiritual Care for and Well Being for Ill Persons and Families Fund (established in honor and memory of Linda Bright). Or you may choose to establish your own endowment for a cause that is near and dear to your heart.

There are many ways that people may choose to donate to the Legacy Fund. Remembering the Church in your will is just one of them. For more information, please pick up a brochure at church or ask to speak to one of our Legacy Team members. All conversations will be handled privately, discreetly, and confidentially. Thank you for your consideration.

Reynoldsburg Emmaus Walks

By Judi Ayers

Here are dates for the remaining 2018 Emmaus Walks and Gatherings.

Upcoming Walks:

- Men's Walk #87 – March 14-17, 2019
- Women's Walk #110 – May 2-5, 2019
- Women's Walk #111 – July 25-28, 2019
- Men's Walk #88 – October 10-13, 2019
- Women's Walk #112 – November 7-10, 2019

Upcoming Gatherings: Mark your calendar and join us for a wonderful time of fellowship, praise and worship, and communion on January 8, 2019 at 7:15 pm. And remember, guests are always welcome at the Gatherings!

The Walk to Emmaus is a wonderful retreat for growing your faith and personal relationship with Jesus Christ through inspiring witness, sharing and through the love of other Christians. The retreat is at Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon.

If you would like more information about Emmaus, contact Judi Ayers at jayers@ocsea.org. Please make sure in the subject line you add "Emmaus."



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!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Meeting Time/Place: Tuesdays 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: We will be studying Zechariah (one of the minor prophets) beginning January 8. Any woman seeking to go deeper in her relationship with Jesus is welcome to join us. We meet every Tuesday at 7 pm, at the home of Ellen Jacobs, 148 Nicole Dr., Westerville
Leader: Ellen Jacobs (jacobsellen53@gmail.com or 614-406-4337)

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP Meeting Time/Place: We just started the book *Unshakeable Hope*, by Max Lucado. We will meet at 6:30 pm on January 9 at Diana Robertson's house on Mary Ave in Westerville, and on January 23 at Jean Christian's house in Sunbury.
Leader: Diana Robertson (office@harlemroadchurch.org or 614-882-9487)

WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCH Meeting Time/Place: Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, January 10, and February 7.
Leader: Bobbi Pollock (bobbi10820@gmail.com or 614 496 7405)

SATURDAY COUPLES GROUP Meeting Time/Place: Please contact Lisa Danne for the latest information.
Leaders: Ron and Lisa Danne (lisad@columbus.rr.com or 740-244-7223)

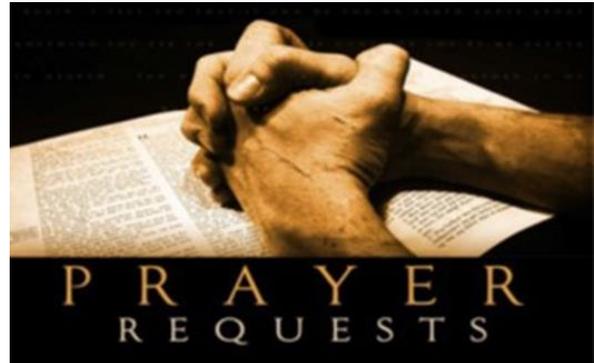
THE AYERS GROUP Meeting Time/Place: Our next meeting is at the church, at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 22.
Theme of the evening TBD by Yvonne.
Leader: Karen Benton 614-579-5135, kabee115@aol.com.

CRAFTING & LAUGHING: We will meet again at HRC, date and time TBD. We are starting a group project of quilting squares and combining them to make a lap quilt. The plan is to auction it off with proceeds going to our missions. Bring your scraps! Beginners or experts welcome. Or if quilting isn't your thing, bring your craft and enjoy the fellowship! (We really are quite fun!)
Leaders: Karen Benton and Mary Alice Evans.

Prayer Requests

Expectant Moms: Katie Becker, Leah Wagner, Kristyn Brady, Julia Hatch

Requests: Jeanie Hatfield, Donna Evans, Dolores Wandtke, Joseph Abraham, Steve Robertson, Lorraine Karns, Ben Walls, Jason Falk, Carter Becker, Sawyer and Mason Danne, Janeene Brown, Phil Soule, Brody Cutherial, Luke Miller, Angela Salvador, 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 Favel, Linda Emerson, Suellen Peterson



Cancer Treatment: Charlene Miller, Robert Rogers, Troy Beasy, Iris Centofanti, Linda Houk, Allie Anderson, Nate Roston, Marilyn Akers, Doug Miller, William Hill, Jeff Gyurko, Crystal Rustine, Jack Conley, Michelle Danne, Doug Gulley, Dawn Furniss, Paul Ramey, Betty Goldman, Tony Hamilton, Karen Fitzpatrick, Eric Cox, Ralph List, Alma McCoy, Hank Pollner, Rusty Hill, 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: Kyle Disbennett, Jacob Hutchinson, Logan Booty, Ethan Mosely, 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, Ryan Pasqua, Kevin Peterson, Justin Pickworth, Josh Ripley, Matt Robertson, Rob Sagle, Dave Wheeler, Brian Williams, Lucas and Conner.