

FALL FOOD DRIVE

Our Fall Food drive, coinciding with the Thanksgiving Holiday, raised \$6,208.00 from our congregation. This money was used to purchase food items, personal care products and gift cards for WalMart, Speedway and Giant Eagle that we delivered to the Community Resource Center (CRS), Avon Lake; Resource Mothers of Mercy Hospital, Lorain; Haven Center 24/7 family shelter, Lorain; and St, Paul's UCC in Ohio City our sister church. The Food Drives are a 25-year-old tradition of our church administered by the Mission Team who also provides this service at Easter.



HABITAT HOUSE

Forty-three ALUCC members helped build and landscape 2 Habitat for Humanity houses in 2016. Over \$10,000 was donated from ALUCC towards these builds. In December, Kelly Brill dedicated the first house.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Mary-Martha Circle held their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 13. The event was a huge success, as enough funds were raised to send to Washington UCC (our mission church in Cincinnati) for the purchase of much needed griddles to cook in bulk for the homeless in their area. Leftover money was given to the ALUCC Kitchen Fund for future needs. Many thanks to all who participated!

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

Thirty-five members and friends attended the Service of Remembrance on December 4. Thirty-two angels were added to our beautiful tree. Twenty-five of those ornaments were designed and hand made by Ruth Williams. She worked many hours to make the beautiful angels and was assisted by Mary Lou Kirk and Molly Dunford.



This year's Christmas Pageant was wonderful with 101 children participating! Kim Banks, our Interim Director of Christian Education, worked closely with Donna Case who put this year's Christmas play together in coordination with her flute accompaniment and the musical mastery of Jim Kitora and Ruth Williams. Together, they helped our children create Christmas magic in their re-telling of the Christmas Story. Children ages 3 through 7th grade sang songs amid the narration of the story by eight teens and several young actors who enjoyed dressing up as angels, shepherds and our littlest ones enjoyed participating in their PJs! Additionally, Becky Spielmaker and Tim Schulz created audio and visual components from artwork by the children, which added to the experience.



Thanks to our generous congregation, Christmas was brighter for many local families. Approximately 400 gifts including 77 pairs of boots were delivered to Haven Center, St. Paul's, Mercy's Resource Mothers and ALUCC families. Many thanks to our Mission Board for all of their hard work!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve was extremely busy at the ALUCC. Approximately 1,100 people attended our Christmas Eve Worship services this year! Our 4 services provided something for everyone. Our Family Service was bustling with young families and lots of children. Thank you to Carol Sue Beck, Ruth Williams, Anchored in Faith Worship Band, Choir, Anne DeChant & Pete Cavano and all who worked to make our Christmas Eve Services special.

On January 10, a blood drive was held in honor of five-year-old Piper Samuels who was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma. The blood drive was very successful. We had 48 slots for sign up and all were filled; our goal was 35 Whole Blood Products and we had 37! Thank you to Cheryl Updegraff for organizing the event and to all who took time to donate.

Forty-four members and friends attended our annual Women's Retreat January 27-28 at the Jesuit Retreat House. Kim Langley, a certified spiritual director, led the retreat and spoke about her spiritual mentor, Hildegard of Bingen. All who attended enjoyed time away, a dynamic speaker, meeting new friends and fellowship.



Rachel Gates is the first person from ALUCC to participate in Bike and Build. She will ride the central route this summer, from Virginia Beach, VA to Canon Beach, for a total of 4,000 miles - and she has to raise \$5000 just for the privilege of going, raising awareness for affordable housing, and doing some home-building along the way. If you would like to help support Rachel's trip, you may donate to Avon Lake UCC (clearly mark "Rachel Gates" on the memo line), or go to her page: classic.bikeandbuild.org/rider/9208

ANNUAL MEETING / CHILI COOK-OFF

The Annual Meeting/Chili Cook-off took place January 29 after the 11 AM service. Members enjoyed sampling the 17 chili entries and side dishes. Congratulations to the winners of the coveted "Golden Ladle":

- Best Spicy: Matt Hallagan & Isaac Rice
- Best Vegetarian: Catie Perez-Strohmeyer
- Best Wild Game: Nate Taylor
- Best Name: CJ Jasany with "Landscaper's Lumpy, Leaf, Lizard & Lily Chili"
- Best Overall: Kathy Purks

At the Meeting, we approved updates and changes to the Church Constitution, heard reports from the individual boards and reviewed and approved the 2017 Church budget.

The following Church Officers were nominated and will be serving through 2017:

- Moderator Robert Miller
- Church Clerk Maureen Johnson
- Treasurer Roger Welling
- Financial Secretary David Dibbell

BIRTHS

10/19: Ava Elise Guilianelli – parents Dave & Melissa
11/18: Charles Joseph Cammock – parents Tom & Sarah

BAPTISMS

11/6: Quinn Harper Porterfield
11/27: Julia Jean McKenzie
11/27: Jane Marie McKenzie
12/4: Luke Robert Trimble
1/22: Brenden Robert Moore

DEATHS

10/18: George Locher (Peg Pearson's brother)
10/23: Tom McDonald (Pat's son)
10/24: Erlamay Shutic
11/24: Larry Kendera (Betty Frankiewicz's brother)
12/2: Dick Kendera (Betty Frankiewicz's brother)
12/4: Margaret Wineland (Nate Taylor's grandmother)
12/14: Lena Belle Cozad (Pam Harrell's mother)
12/16: Rev. Ernest Stone
1/5: Debra Lynn Eger (Dorothy Henderson's sister)
1/13: William Carson (Barb Wherley's father)
1/13: Marion Fredriksen (Dennis' mother)
1/26: John Parsons

Please let us know if we missed an event in your family and we will add it to the next newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE:	March 1:	Ash Wednesday Service
	March 11:	Dinner & A Movie
	March 18:	Cornhole Tournament
	April 23-29:	IHN Week
	April 28-30:	Confirmation Class Retreat
	June 11:	Apollo's Fire Concert
	June 11-17:	Sr. High Mission Trip
	June 19-23:	Vacation Bible School
	June 23:	Anne E. DeChant Concert