

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MARLETTE

## STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

November 1, 2014

What is the state of our church? According to Staff Parish Relations Committee we are like family; we are loving; we are caring and serving. According to our finance team we are healthy, financially stable and sound. According to trustees our church is well maintained, deep cleaned and we continue to make significant improvements to all our buildings and property

According to the pastor our worship is vibrant, energetic, prayerful and faithful in the proclamation of God's Word. According to the Bible—Matthew 25:31-46—we respond to the needs of our neighbors providing food and clothing. We give assistance to those who need shelter. To those who struggle through transitions in life we offer counsel, comfort, hope and prayer.

In light of the *Great Commission* (Matthew 20:16-20) we express a strong commitment to missionary support. We are growing in our connection to global missions.

According to our children we are having a blast on Wednesday nights. We have a roster of 40 children and 16 adults who enjoy meal time, songs, lessons and recreation. On Sunday mornings we average 14 children for the *Blessing of Our Children*. It is a very lively and enjoyable part of our worship.

A roster of twenty five youth and young adults are responding to Sunday school, weekly Monday night Bible study, a *Pancake Breakfast* and the *Newsboys* concert in Birch Run on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

More than one hundred of our men and women respond regularly to opportunities for fellowship, study and serving. Most of all we are a church expressing greater hunger for God. We desire to know Christ better, to know and do his will. “Lord, teach us how to pray!”

For the purpose of our **CHURCH CONFERENCE--Saturday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 3 P.M.**— the State of the Church report is to tell the story of the church's past year, our present status and our plans for the future. This is seen in the various reports with stats and stories.

We must mention the miracles and testimonies about transformed lives, healings and “Hallelujahs.” This is seen in youth who have accepted Jesus Christ, cancer patients who survived against great odds, addicts who have found victory in Jesus. We have experienced grace upon grace, miracle upon miracle.

We can measure numbers in attendance and dollars in the plate. It is not so easy to measure spiritual stuff. But, we know a miracle when we see and experience one. There are plenty. Miraculous healings. Born again souls. Stunning answers to prayer. Peace. Fulfillment.

To sum up, 1<sup>st</sup> UMC of Marlette is in a state of *faith*, a dynamic faith that is growing. We are in a state of *hope*. We honor our treasured past and traditions that inform our present and our future. They kindle great hope! We are in a state of *love* because God is love. We exist to be in Christ, to glorify God in and through Him, in faith, in hope and in love. And, the greatest of these is love.

Faithfully submitted in Christ's love, Pastor David Mulder