the HOYLETONIAN

Spring 2013
A publication of Hoyleton Ministries

A mission partner of the United Church of Christ Illinois South Conference
and Indiana-Kentucky Conference

Pastor Wil Ver Duin
and Darrell Stein at
Awards Banquet

A CELEBRATION
30 Years In The Making

A recap of the
30th Anniversary
Awards Banquet
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A WORD from CHRIS

Thirty years. What can happen in thirty years? At first blush, for a ministry with a 118 year history such as ours thirty years might seem like a drop in the bucket; but 30 years is just about one quarter of the life of this marvelous institution. In a day and age when we hear so much about what society 'needs'; the latest technologies; and what seems sometimes to be so very much about 'me'—I am pleased to offer this issue of the Hoyletonian as a word of hope.

There are two truths that are at the core of our being at Hoyleton—it is in our DNA. First we are called by God to this work and ministry. Second we do not do this work alone; we are part of the church and the church is part of us. For 118 years men and women; youth groups and Women's Fellowships; congregations and businesses and individuals have given of their time, energy and gifts to Hoyleton's ministry. Early on farmers brought canned goods from their crops; and Sunday schools collected Lenten offerings. Thirty years ago we began a tradition to highlight, recognize and simply celebrate together the important work of the hundreds of volunteers that make a difference. In this issue you can glimpse those who were specifically recognized this past year. They join the line of witnesses who have boldly told the story of Hoyleton's love and shared their life changing experiences with others. Volunteers today are more creative than ever and giving time, sharing smiles, laughter and themselves and seeing God in those children we serve.

At a celebration in February in our Bethel Chapel on Hoyleton's campus we worshiped with St. Paul UCC, Freeburg and heard testimony after testimony to the power of relationship. If you have ever asked yourself—"Can I really make a difference?" You'll not want to miss reading about the celebration and the impact relationships have on staff, the youth we serve and those who volunteer.

Finally, I never tire of sharing the good news of new programs—new opportunities to reach children and families who hurt. I am pleased to share with you that Hoyleton Ministries is blessed again to share in ministry with one of our partners, St. John United Church of Christ in Wood River, IL; to offer life giving services to families closer to where they live and to do critical work for most vulnerable children.

This is Hoyleton Ministries. This is a word of hope.

With Thanksgiving,

Chris L. Cox, MSW, LCSW
President and CEO
Hoyleton Ministries

OUR MISSION

Hoyleton Ministries seeks to enable all people, young & old alike, to realize the wholeness of life that God intends. This will be accomplished with the compassion of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit reaching out to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and social needs of those with whom we journey.

Articles may be copied and distributed along with the notation they came from The Hoyletonian and the Hoyleton Ministries.

Hoyleton Ministries

Chris L. Cox *President & CEO*
Jill Lombardo, *Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer*

Miriam Evans, *Puentes Program Supervisor*
Tammy Sweet, *Residential Programs Director*
Sharon McDevitt, *Community Programs Director*
Laura Huge, *Director of Administrative Services*

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MARINE UCC USES A DECADE OF TRIVIA TO SUPPORT HOYLETON

This year marks the 10th year of trivia nights Marine United Church of Christ in Marine, IL has hosted for Hoyleton Ministries.

Trivia night actually started a couple of years prior in 2002, according to Rev. Phil Kirshner, pastor at Marine, when the proceeds went toward some playground equipment. He said the thought then became, "let's branch out and do this for a cause outside our immediate community," and Hoyleton was picked. "At least one member of our congregation had a sibling who was raised at Hoyleton. This church has always had a special relationship with Hoyleton," he added. Pastor Phil takes on the responsibility of coming up with the annual trivia questions. "It takes about 20 to 30 hours each year, but it's not really a burden," he said. This year's trivia night was held April 27, after this issue of the Hoyletonian went to press. Over the prior nine years the congregation has donated an average of $1000 a year, and this year was expected to be in line with previous ones. That's more than $10,000 in support of Hoyleton Ministries, and we sure appreciate it.

Phil says attendance has been steady over the years, with a consistent 80 to 90 people who attend. He would love to get folks from other churches in the Illinois South Conference involved in supporting this common mission outreach to Hoyleton.

The congregation connects in ways beyond trivia, too. Each year, youth from the church come to Hoyleton in February, usually around Valentine's Day so they can share Valentine gifts with our kids. This year they brought presents for the birthday closet. When a child on the Hoyleton campus has a birthday, they can go to the birthday closet and pick out a present. Marine's Senior Youth Group brought board games, music CD's and movie DVD's to keep the birthday closet well-stocked with choices our kids will enjoy for months to come.

Diane Peterson, therapist at Hoyleton Ministries office in Wood River, IL.

New Wood River Office Provides Needed Counseling

With the help of St. John United Church of Christ in Wood River, IL, we recently opened a new office to care for and counsel victims of sexual abuse. By extension, the location has also become a site for foster care counseling, too.

We work as a licensed service provider with the Child Advocacy Center in Madison County to help abuse victims deal with the difficult and damaging trials they have experienced. Our office is staffed by therapist Diane Peterson, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). She has specialized training to treat sexual abuse survivors and their families.

Diane describes her work with sexual abuse victims as working with people with post-traumatic stress disorder. Her care recipients may relive abuse and trauma through flashbacks, or feel exceptionally jumpy or nervous. They may also have intrusive thoughts triggered by an everyday occurrence in the present that connects to a traumatic memory from the past.

She often uses a treatment modality called trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. This type of therapy is designed to give individuals tools to deal with the traumatic event as it comes up. Diane says, "the care recipient is able to examine the event in a way that helps them become less traumatized. It helps them when they talk about the event, and then to have tools to bring themselves back to the present moment. It gives them the space to grieve what has happened, but then to remember it's not in the present." The goal is to lessen symptoms to a manageable level so they are not domineering in an individual's life, and they can reclaim the present.

Diane sees clients age 10 and up at the Wood River office. She says she's at capacity on the number of people she can take on, so other referrals will be assigned to the next Hoyleton therapist. Diane said current statistics are one in three girls and one in seven boys will be victims of sexual abuse.

One of the special skills she brings to the job is fluency in Spanish. Diane took an interest in being bilingual from the age of 11, and actively studied the language through college. In a prior career, she lived in Latin America for an extended period of time before deciding she wanted to move into a career helping people. After earning a Master's degree in social work, she started at Hoyleton Ministries working with Puentes de Esperanza, our Hispanic outreach program in the metro-east area. She eventually transitioned to working as a full-time therapist for us.

Her life experiences have helped her be sensitive to cultural differences with her clients, too. "Cultural fluency is a piece that's so important in therapy. There are ways that people born and raised in this country think that are not the same as non-natives . My job is not to change cultural norms or rewrite a culture, but to help care recipients navigate therapy within a culture that is meaningful to them."

Having the office in a church has been a blessing to our clients in a very special way. Sharon McDevitt, Director of Community Programs, commented on the early success of the program, saying, "Our clients that are struggling with difficult issues have noted that they feel safe coming to the church for counseling, and they also don't feel "labeled". "I couldn't ask for a better place to work," Diane said of St. John's. "They are so hospitable and easy to work with. There's a lot of mutual respect between Hoyleton and the church." Rev. Mike Southcombe, pastor of St. John, says it was an easy decision. "It didn't take much thought." It was more like, "if you need it, and you're doing God's work, here's the key." He said the congregation has supported

Hoyleton in the past, when a therapist used the church for counseling many years ago. Diane uses rooms that are not being used during the day, and Mike believes it's a wonderful use of space for healing to take place. "It's not specifically a community outreach, because Hoyleton's clients are referred to them. But, it's an extension of our ministry to support Hoyleton in this work. It is an opportunity to practice some of that extravagant welcome we talk about in the UCC."

Sharon added the office location has helped facilitate counseling for some of our other programs, too. "We realized we had both a number of foster parents, and a number of biological parents of foster children in the area. The location in Wood River means they now don't need to drive as far for counseling." In fact, Diane says her work is about evenly split between sexual abuse victims and families in the foster care program. She often works with biological parents who are trying to change attitudes and home life so they can be reunited with their children.

It's a very tough situation when children are removed from a home, and there's a lot of stigma about the biological parents, which Diane is quick to correct. "The parents I work with know they made mistakes. They want to learn from them, and they want to move on. They're doing the best they can with what they know in the circumstances they find themselves. Sometimes it takes an outside source to say, 'we need to change this'."

The stark realities of poverty contribute greatly to family situations. People under constant stress can make poor decisions out of desperation. Something as simple as a blown radiator can mean loss of transportation, loss of job, loss of income, and a downward spiral to a place that's very, very difficult to get out of. A simple car expense can move family from subsistence to financial ruin. Diane describes a need "to remember the humanity of the people we work with, and the areas in which we work. People are people."

"The parents, in my experience, are glad to have different ways to handle the stressors in their lives, and ways to manage family life," Diane said. One tool she consistently uses is a theoretical tenant of structural therapy, that poverty erodes the boundaries around one's family and what they can control in their life. "The buffer between one's family and private space erodes, because public entities come into your space out of a need for survival." The role of the therapist in these situations is to provide both practical help and spiritual encouragement. "There has to be realistic, concrete, 'how do I get through the day?' stuff. And, I also need to help them have a vision and to encourage them to have a future. They have to have a vision for their own lives."

Part of the work she asks of biological parents as they get to the point of extended visits with their children or having their kids return home is for them to write a family mission statement. "This gives them a vision to guide their family, guide their discipline, and guide their household. It's a touchstone of their own creation they can refer to. Not once has a family said they want neglect, violence, and mistreatment as part of their family mission."

"I'm amazed and humbled at how much biological parents want to work with me. They want to heal their family and bring them back together. Even when they're challenged by what we're talking about, they stay and they work through it. These are people who have made poor choices because they have been taught that's how to rear children, or because their stress is so high that they do things they wish they hadn't."

The foster care experience interrupts the sense of shared family history for kids and their parents, too. Diane strives to knit this time together for families, so each understands the other's experiences during the time apart, so when they reunite, it is merely a part of their whole history, and not a stumbling block. The goal is for a child to be in foster care a year or less, but in practice it is often a year and a half to two years, which can be a significant amount of time away in a child's life.

"I've been a foster and adoptive parent myself, so in my role as therapist I can help families try to overcome some of the obstacles in the foster care system. I try to help them see foster care as a positive thing in their lives. It's a chance to hit the reset button and do things differently. It's a blessing they have a chance to get the help they need, and biological parents often have a greater appreciation of the responsibility of raising children. They see that kids are not possessions, they are people."

Diane talks about therapy being a sacred space. It is a place where demons are faced and the worst of worst is dealt with. She talks about how care recipients often reach a point, due to the intensive nature of therapy, where they say it's too painful to continue. "When they're saying 'I feel hurt,' and they are relating a new hurt to a bad event that happened to them in the past, then that's our chance to walk through a new door, for them to talk about what really hurt them. Talking about the abuser and the profound

impact abuse had on their life, holding someone accountable for that, helps them to heal from that experience in the best way they can."

When asked why she does what must be difficult work, wading into the deep end of people's pain, Diane answered without hesitation, "I think God really has designed me to provide this type of service to people. Everybody has their own gifts and graces, and I am a person who has tremendous regard and compassion for people, but I also have a sense of right and good. Healing is about bringing those things together." She noted, "I really can't take credit for the work that I do with people. Healing is God's job. He's the one that placed a calling on my heart. I'm in the place that God wants me, doing what I'm supposed to be doing."

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED

Our publishing schedule for the Hoyletonian never really lets us highlight the many wonderful volunteers who bring Christmas to our kids. Though daffodils have sprung and azalea buds are popping, we feel there's always time to lift up some of the dedicated folks who worked so hard to make Christmas special around here.

One such couple is David and Dolores Matzenbacher, who have worked the past two years picking up presents from area churches. This is no small feat, as there are literally hundreds of presents that need to move several times before they reach children's hands. David and Dolores covered quite a few miles taking fully packed vehicles to both our Hoyleton campus and our East St. Louis office.

They are members at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Okawville, IL. It was a church connection that got them involved with Hoyleton. "Rev. Jeff Schwab asked us to participate one year. Last year he asked if we'd do it again," said David. "We're both retired, and it gives us something to do, and we enjoy it. It's really for the kids." David was confirmed at St. Peter's many years ago. He and Dolores moved to Belleville for a number of years before moving back to Okawville 13 years ago.

The Matzenbacher's sometimes work in tandem with Tyron and Deloris Heberer, who are also from St. Peter's in Okawville. The Heberer's have been helping move Christmas presents for several years, and they always look forward to seeing what's been donated. It's become enough of their Christmas tradition that they actually get a little anxious if they haven't heard from us by November as to how they can participate. Playing a part in our Christmas gift project leaves a lasting impression.

Lastly, there's Melissa Bednarz, who encouraged her current employer to sponsor the gift lists of some children last year. At her previous position, which happens to be at Hoyleton Ministires, she was known as Melissa Walter and she organized the Christmas gift project. Marriage caused a change in employment for Melissa, but not a change in her heart for our kids. She said she and her husband knew that,

"sponsoring a child was something we wanted to do. I was very emotionally connected to the children at Hoyleton from working there. We decided that we'd sponsor a child's gift list until we had children of our own." A baby girl came into their lives 8 months ago, but that didn't change things at all. "Now we have a child, but we're still connected to Hoyleton, and we still plan on sponsoring a child at Christmas."

Melissa works at Dr. Energy Saver, a business owned by Woods Basement Systems in Collinsville, IL. "In my first year, I didn't know anyone very well here. But by my second year, I knew the people here were very giving Christians. I knew they would want to know about Hoyleton, so I told them how my husband and I sponsor a child. I wanted them to see the joy that the Christmas project brings to kids. I told them about the early life stories of some of the kids, and they wanted to help."

The first year, the employees of the business sponsored all the boys in the Skyview cottage, buying presents for each and every one of them. Last year, in their second year, they adopted the equivalent of two full cottages - all of Skyview, and a mixture of girls between TLC and Elm Street Cottages - a total of 14 children. Melissa took her daughter along, even though she was very young. "I hope to take her every year. I want her to know that not everyone has a loving momma and daddy, and not everyone lives like her."

"I'm so happy they learned about Hoyleton, and that we doubled the number of lists we could handle," Melissa said about her employer. She has hopes that they will continue to do bigger and better things each year, whether it's doing something at Christmas, or doing other things to literally support our ministry, like helping with foundation work, which her company specializes in. "I want to do something to keep building the relationship with Hoyleton."

We thank all our many volunteers who make Christmas a time of family, sharing, and pleasant memories for our kids. We couldn't do it without your help.

Melissa Bednarz with her family, watching as the gifts she and Woods Basement employees brought get quickly unwrapped

A CELEBRATION
30 YEARS IN THE MAKING
"From the Heart"

Chris Cox overlooking the banquet crowd

In February, we crossed a significant milestone at Hoyleton when we celebrated our 30th Annual Awards Banquet. It's the time in the year when we are purposeful about saying thank you to our friends and family for the blessings of their time, talents and resources.

A slideshow of past banquets set the tone for guests walking into the Falls in Columbia IL this year. Everyone received a token of appreciation, a clay heart, made by Hoyleton kids's during art therapy. Anyone who financially supported Hoyleton during 2012 also received another gift based on giving level, ranging from decorated coffee mugs to a 16x20 framed tree print sprinkled with fingerprints representing leaves.

Pastor Wil Ver Duin from Evangelical UCC in Highland, IL was the master of ceremonies for the evening, and he did a fantastic job. If you've ever seen Pastor Wil in front of a crowd, you know he was telling jokes and singing songs right from the start. One memorable moment was when Wayne Barber, Board Chair and Tim Boyce, Vice Chair, were on stage to present the board recognition awards, and Wil asked them to… recognize some actual boards. Literally, he had photos of cedar, oak and walnut, which Wayne surprisingly got all correct- after he peeked at the answers.

The evening's laughter grew louder when Wil asked for a volunteer to greet the Volunteer of the Year Award presenters and Darrell Stein from St. John UCC, Mascoutah was up for the task. Instead of giving a nice handshake, Darrell offered a big hug to JoAnn Hollenkamp and Rev. Carol Shanks; had Wil known what Darrell was going to do, he probably would have changed his script a bit, because with the next group of presenters Wil asked Darrell to give that very same greeting throughout the next presentation of awards. So Wil and Darrell hugged for nearly 10 minutes while Kevin Kriesel, Grants Coordinator presented the Sustaining Partner Award.

With all fun aside the 30th Annual Awards Banquets will go down in the history books, not just for the laughter, but for the honorees. The following award recipients demonstrate grace to our Hoyleton family, contribute to our cause, preach our message, but most of all, they do it with compassion "From the Heart," an apt reflection of our theme for the night.

Here's a recap of this year's awards:

MISSION PARTNER - St. Paul's

United Church of Christ in Freeburg, IL, recognized as a congregational partner, after adopting us as a mission commitment two years ago. To read more about our relationship with this congregation, see page 9.

YOUTH IN ACTION – This award recognizes caring, generous and passionate young people. The youth at St. Clare Hands for Hoyleton Catholic Youth Group, O'Fallon, IL earned it this year.

SPIRIT AWARD - Kids for Christ Bible Study and they've got plenty of spirit to share. Kids for Christ brings a form of vacation Bible school to the Hoyleton campus and 25 other schools throughout the year

MOST IMPROVED RESIDENT Donna Drummond was the unanimous choice for this year's Most Improved Resident. Donna has been a resident at the Hoyleton campus for two years. During that time she has shown tremendous growth through her therapy and developed internal strength.

BRIGHT FUTURE – This award recognizes the young adults who have aged out of the foster care program, and who have worked particularly hard to achieve goals toward their Bright Future. Jessica Roberts is this year's recipient. Jessica is 20 years old, she entered the Hoyleton Independent Living Program in January, 2012.

Pastor Wil Ver Duin entertaining guests at the 30th Annual Awards Banquet

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR - Dora Winters was recognized for her tireless work in our Main Street cottage. With no assistance, she turned an under-utilized space in the cottage into a learning and activity room for the young men who live there. She also added books, computers and anything else she thought would improve their reading skills and expand their horizons.

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR Jeff Schwab, past Chairperson of the Hoyleton Board of Directors, earned the award for his yeoman's work of leading us for 25 months at a critical time in our history. Under his leadership from August 2010 through September 2012, he guided the organization through a governance restructure which better aligned the organization to its core values, shared decision making among our three boards, and increased board member's roles within the organization.

DIEDRE BUCHANAN SPIRIT OF LOVE - Every year we like to honor a foster parent or family that goes above the "call to care for those in need." The receipt of this year's award is Amy Alexander. Amy has been a foster parent through Hoyleton Ministries for 10 years. She has cared for a wide spectrum of children, from infants to young adults. She's graciously opened her heart and home for children, regardless of their age or behaviors.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD - This year we recognized the employees of Unity Hospice in Collinsville, IL. A few years ago, they started the Christmas Project, which was intended to make Christmas more meaningful to the employees. A social worker who once worked at Hoyleton Youth and Family Services told them about Hoyleton and our kids, and they began adopting us. Christine Villalobo volunteered to chair this project. Now eight years later, close to 250 gifts with an estimated value over $10,000 have been donated to our children.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR –we recognized two volunteers, though both

From Your Gift To Ours...

As a thank you to all of our generous donors, every year the Fund Development office sends out what we call "Giving Level Gifts." With this year being no different we got to thinking... how can we make this year really special? The group came to a unanimous decision to let the young people of Hoyleton get creative and make some one of a kind gifts! The kids decorated coffee mugs, painted tiles for a coaster set, decorated candles and finger printed a 16x20 framed tree (see photo). So how do you get your hands on these unique gifts?

Here's a break down of our Giving Levels:

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S COUNCIL:
$5,000 to $9,999
the gift:
a framed 16x20 finger printed tree from a Hoyleton Cottage.

THE FOUNDER'S CIRCLE:
$1,000 to $4,999
the gift:
same as the Superintendent's

THE 1895 SOCIETY:
$500 to $999
the gift:
a photo wrapped glass candle holder with candle.

Next Century Club:
$250 to $499
the gift:
a set of 4 hand painted tile coasters.

Century Club:
$100 to $249
the gift:
custom decorated coffee mug

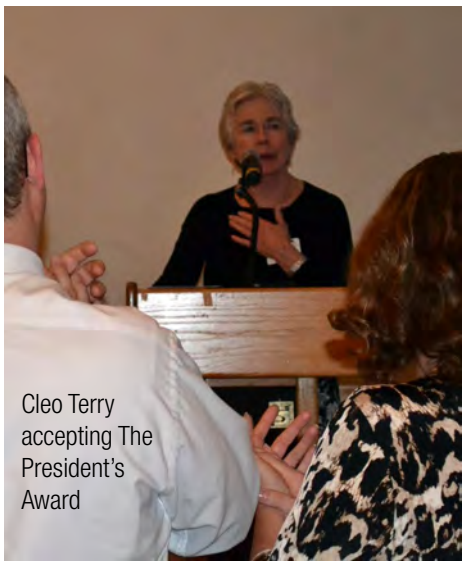
* Gifts change every year

Resident of the year, Donna with Channell Stokes, (right) Chris Cox and Cathy Deneef (left)

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD - given on selected occasions to celebrate the lifetime achievements of an individual whose efforts reflect the highest of Hoyleton values. Ms. Cleo M. Terry has spent over 30 years committed to serving and protecting the most vulnerable children and families in Illinois. Cleo has extensive experience in both private and public social services in management, program development and implementation, and quality improvement initiatives. Throughout her career, Cleo, has reinforced the importance of doing the right thing no matter how difficult or hard it may be, and we are thankful for her contributions to Hoyleton Ministries.

Rev. Jeff Schwab receives Director of the year award from Rev. Michael Southcombe

Cristine Villalobos with Unity Hospice receives Community Service Award Presented by Miriam Evans



Cleo Terry accepting The President's Award

had something to do with renovating worship spaces named "Bethel." Judy Hager, mother of Joann Hollenkamp, Hoyleton's Purchasing Coordinator, was called to use her fabric skills when her daughter asked her to help with "a little sewing project." This past year, the Bethel UCC Chapel in Cahokia, IL needed a face-lift. Walls were painted and new chairs were purchased and assembled, but the curtains were still in need of being replaced. Joann called her mother, and Judy answered

Michelle Etling was named our second volunteer of the year, for her work organizing a painting crew to completely transform the inside of the Bethel Chapel on the Hoyleton campus. Read more about her story and the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, see page 9.

SUSTAINING PARTNER AWARD

Presented to an organization that makes a significant investment in what we do over an extended period of time. The FDC Foundation, which to date has made a total investment of $60,000 in our Residential Treatment Program on the Hoyleton Campus has become a three-year relationship. The result of that investment is that each of our 5 cottages is now safer, more attractive, more functional, more durable, and more like home, in some way, shape or form.

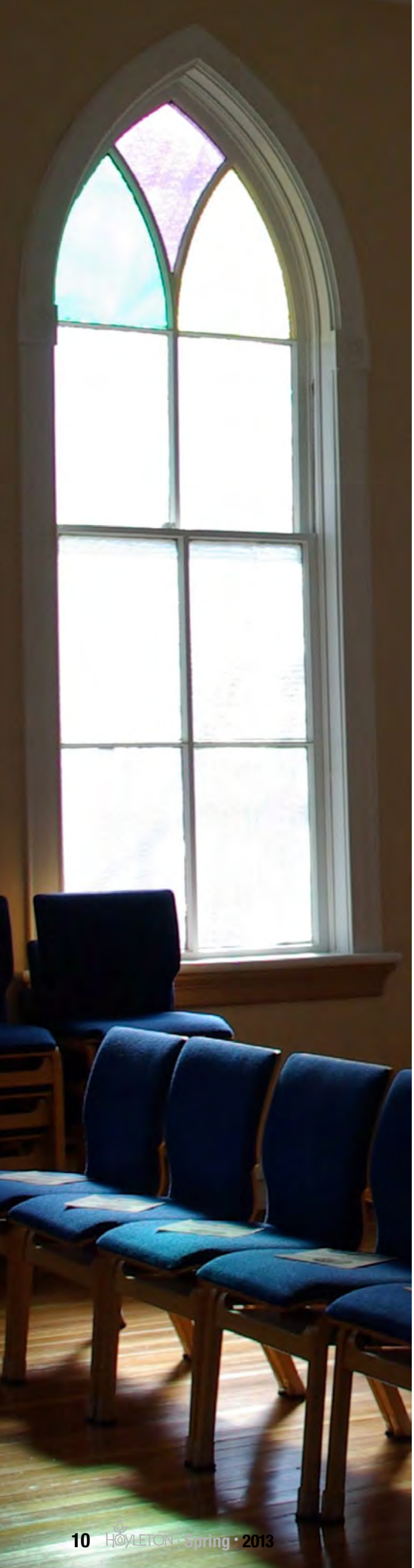
Kids for Christ Bible Study receives Spirit Award

Transfiguration of Chapel and Soul

The transfiguration scripture comes up every February in the Christian year, just before Lent begins. Perhaps you know those familiar passages in the Synoptic Gospels that talk about Jesus going up a mountain to speak to God, where we are told his face shone like the sun and his clothing became dazzling white.

We had a bit of our own transfiguration this past February, just a couple of weeks after Transfiguration Sunday, when a group of people gathered at the Bethel chapel to recognize and bless what might be called an extreme makeover of our worship space. Nearly every seat was filled at the gathering, which marked a special moment in our relationship with St. Paul's UCC in Freeburg, IL, one of our mission partners. St. Paul's just completed a two-year commitment with Hoyleton Ministries, during which the members of the congregation participated in a myriad of events with Hoyleton residents and staff, from work and cleaning projects, prom and bowling nights to church picnics and penpal relationships. They even had us join them in Freeburg to go Christmas caroling, a first for many of our kids.

Pastor Earl Crecelius says he got the idea for a two-year commitment from another pastor, and it's worked well for his church. "Over two years, there were lots of different creative opportunities for people to participate," he said. "We don't think of Hoyleton as an agency now, but as people." This was the second time St. Paul's made the two-year commitment to Hoyleton. "We want to make it relational, and not just about money," he added. Pastor Earl says this model for mission would work for any church, regardless of size. "You can do something twice a year, or you can do it once a month. It's very flexible. You can make it as big or as small as you want." He continued, "you get to hear the stories more than once and you get to know the people."



Our relationship with St. Paul has certainly been a two-way street, with them coming to campus on many occasions, and our kids going to their church for picnics and other events. Dedra Peters, a program manager of our TLC cottage, said, "St. Paul's has been an inspiration to our clients and our staff. The kids are asking "can I go?' before I can even say the name. They've been entertained, taught and fed by St. Paul's." When our girls get older and move out of the TLC Cottage to permanent living communities, members of the congregation, particularly Michelle Etling and Elaine Parrish, have thrown going away parties to mark the event. Many times the girls received food, blankets, pots and pans, radios, dvd players, and even gift cards to help them get started in their new place. As Dedra said, "Thank you St. Paul's, because you've made a difference."

Alexis, a recent St. Paul's confirmand, spoke at the service about wrapping Christmas presents and playing dodge ball with our kids, and how such simple things were actually life-changing for her. She learned, "how someone lives or how they seem is not who they are. It makes me feel good on the inside to have come here." She has a Hoyleton penpal now, too. Alexis concluded her reflections saying of her time at Hoyleton, "I can grow as a person and as a Christian in my relationships, and I think that's what anyone would want." She says she's looking forward to the next time her congregation partners with Hoyleton.

We know from history that experiencing Hoyleton as a confirmand is a lifelong memory. Michelle Etling spoke of her experience as a confirmand under the tutilege of Rev. Paul Schafle and student Pastor Elmer Bowman when they were serving St. Paul's in her youth. "Hoyleton has been the love of my life since confirmation, when I got to see how the kids here lived. After that," Michelle said," my life turned to kids." Michelle worked as a school secretary and playground supervisor for most of her life, before making a major career change, which is what eventually lead to the chapel space on this particular Sunday.

Michelle's husband Dave was a former teacher who became a painter in retirement. Painting was a skill he learned from his father. For many years, he asked Michelle to quit her job and come paint with him. One day, she did. Now, many couples find marital bliss challenging when they work together during the day and go home together at night, but not Michelle and Dave. Michelle says, "we rarely argued. We had a great time together." Michelle

Michelle Etling and her good friend Elaine

also shared her love of Hoyleton with Dave. They attended a Thanksgiving dinner at Hoyleton together, where all the residents say what they're thankful for. One said, "I am thankful for my big family. Now I have Hoyleton and I have God." After that, Dave said he understood what Michelle found at Hoyleton.

Sadly, Dave died suddenly of a heart attack, leaving Michelle adrift in grief. She struggled to accept the loss and find meaning in life again. On a visit to the Hoyleton campus, Michelle toured our Bethel chapel, with its stark white walls and well-worn blue carpet. It turns out she had always wanted to paint a church. It was on her bucket list. She said of that visit, " I felt like it was dead in here, just like a part of me, and I wanted to bring it back to life."

And boy did she. She organized a crew that started on a Monday morning, and by Saturday noon of that same week, she was ringing the church bell signifying the painting was done. About 20 people participated in the painting, about four or five a day, to get the interior painted in beautiful shades of tan and brown, trimmed in white. From high ladder work to painting fine details with tiny brushes, everything got a fresh new look in a remarkably short amount of time.

Volunteer work crews from the Steeleville and Coulterville High School Construction Technology classes regularly provide their construction skills. They stripped out the carpet in the chapel, and brought the original wood floors back to a shine. They also tiled the front entrance and adjacent bathroom. The changes made the whole building like a totally different place- except for the doors.

There were some weathered wood doors on the front of the chapel that had served beyond their life expectancy. The state of the doors was discussed during the painting session, and the next day a donation arrived to solve the problem. There are now two new doors with glass panes letting the light of God into Bethel Chapel in a whole new way.

Chris Cox, President and CEO of Hoyleton Ministries said of the transformation, "This space now allows us to view more in the world." It did come back to life in a new way, and it will serve Hoyleton for many years to come. We are a faith-based organization, and we are grateful for the gift of a bright and welcoming worship space. We recognized Michelle's special gifts by naming her one of our 2012 Volunteers of the Year, and there's an accompanying story on the all award recipients on page 8.

Michelle and her good friend Elaine make a quite a team, and they are committed to Hoyleton. They came together the first time Michelle came to campus after Dave's death. They come now and send the TLC girls off with honor and celebration. They also identified something special for them that came out of St. Paul's two-year mission commitment. They both agreed, "It's the fellowship. We had so much more time for fellowship and bonding with other church members that we wouldn't have had otherwise." Michelle said, "I would definitely recommend volunteering at Hoyleton to anyone. It's a two-way street here. I think I got more joy out of it than they did." When asked what would be next, Michelle responded, "you're not going to get rid of me!" As if we would even try.

It felt a lot like transfiguration was upon us in the brilliant beams of sunlight pouring in through the stained glass windows. The carefully prepared slide show depicting two years worth of love and caring was a little hard to see with all that sun, but we couldn't really complain at having such a gorgeous day in February. The whole service was a brief moment of basking in the dazzling, healing light of God.

Michelle says, "God has touched me in so many ways through this." If you visit the chapel, you'll see that God has touched us through Michelle. If you talk to our kids and staff, you'll see that St. Paul's has left a lasting mark, too.

HONOR AND MEMORIALS

From October 1st through March 31st

Tributes to Gifts from

"To err is human, to forgive divine."
~Shakespeare~

Please call us with any corrections or changes.

In Memory of...

Eileen Achenbach
Mr. Ronald Achenbach

Ellen Ahlmeyer
Mr. Roland Ahlmeyer

All Children
Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Veile

LaVern Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barber, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Brent Bergheger
Ms. Jane G. Bonaldi
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Boyce
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Brockmeier
Ms. Deborah Cataldo
Ms. Nancy K. Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dauber
Ms. Marie Dawson
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Freels
Ms. Janet Heil
Mr. and Mrs. John Hinkle
Mr. and Mrs. Udell Kimmle, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Kronemeyer
Mr. and Mrs. John Mayes
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morio
Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Nicely
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schifferdeck
Ms. Bettie Schmidt
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Schroeder

Warren Arras
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin D. Vogt

Delphine Baldridge
Ms. Elaine Chapman
Mr. Dennis Backstrom

Harry Best
Mr. David and Rev. Carol Shanks

Mathilda Betz
Ms. Judy Betz
Mr. David and Rev. Carol Shanks

Lester Bode
Mrs. Gladys Bode

Austin Bohnenstiehl
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Nagel

Earl G. Bohnenstiehl
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Steiner

Rita Boller
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Connolly

Donald L. Brauer
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Brauer

Dorothy E. Conrad
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Steiner
Mr. and Mrs. David Steiner

Nellie Dauderman
Ms. June Bronnert

Jeff Deutsch
Ms. Sharon Deutsch

Shanon Dietz
Mr. Robert L. Dietz

Edwin Donnelly
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin E. Volkers

Elizabeth M. Donnelly
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin E. Volkers

Irene R. Ebert
Miss Irene M. Ebert

Justin Ebert
Miss Irene M. Ebert

Justin Erickson
Mr. and Mrs. Leif R. Erickson

David Etling
Mr. Brian Hinkle

Clyde Eversmeyer
Mrs. Phyllis Cassady

Fred Eversmeyer
Mrs. Phyllis Cassady

Jeffery B. Gilbert
Mr. and Mrs. William Gilbert

Helen Glaenzer
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan M. Breiner

Elmer Glaenzer
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan M. Breiner

Grandchildren
Mr. and Mrs. James Herren

Roy Griebel
Mrs. Frances Griebel

Maxine Gruner
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Steiner

Norma Habbe
Mr. Ralph Habbe

Arnold Habermehl
Mr. David Habermehl

Benjamin Hamm
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald May

Leroy Hamm
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald May

Vernon Hamm
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald May

Laura Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Stephens

Harry Henslee
Mrs. Carmelita L. Sensel

Adam Herbert
Miss Wanda Jones

Harold Hill
Mr. Carl Hill

James Hoffman
Mrs. Bonnie Hoffman
Mrs. Mildred Hoffman

Wallace Horst
Mr. Virgil Wehking

LeRoy Hosto
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Merkle

Luella Hosto
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Merkle

Frieda C. Hotz
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hotz

Maya Jain
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Niemann

Nancy Jakel
Mrs. Edith E. Kaufman

Warren Juenger
Mrs. Ruth Juenger

Romelle Kaeser
Mrs. Jeanne Lokerse

Melvin Keilbach
Mrs. Evelyn Lashley

Harold H. Keller
Mrs. Betty Ann Keller-Timmer

Royal Kendall
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Habermehl

Arlene Kirsch
Mrs. Shirley Anderson

Jack R. Klaus
Mrs. Gloria Klaus

Shane Knobloch
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Knobloch

Ida Koelling
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Cunningham
Dr. and Mrs. Paul H. DeBruine

Kevin Kohl
Mr. Randall Miller

John H. Korte
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Reinacher

Nancy J. Krauss
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Krauss

Arnold L. Kuergeleis
Mrs. Ellen Kuergeleis

Owen Lehde
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Phillips

Darvin Lochmann
Mr. Roger Lochmann

Loved-ones
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Hencke

Calvin C. McDaniel
Mrs. Alberta McDaniel

Tributes

Honor and Memorial tribute gifts allow supporters of Hoyleton Ministries to pay a lasting tribute to friends and loved ones. Hoyleton is grateful for these gifts in recognition of others.

When you recognize someone or mark a special occasion through the Hoyletonian, we will notify the honoree or honoree's family with a letter describing the memorial or honor gift.

For additional information about making an Honor or Memorial gift, please contact us at 618-493-7575

In Memory of Cont...

Eugene Meffert
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Steiner

Kenneth H. Mesle
Ms. Joann Buchanan
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Thiems

Olga Meyer
Mr. Elmer Kavanaugh

Laura J. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Miller

Opal Miller
Mr. Randall Miller

Walter Morio
Mrs. Kathleen Morio

Florence Mueller
Mr. and Mrs. John Garleb
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Steiner

Milton Mueller
Mr. and Mrs. John Garleb

Elmer Nagel
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Nagel

Fred Nowack
Mrs. Norma L. Mills

Betty Olive
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kluthe

Gary Olive
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kluthe

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Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Armour

Marjorie A. Parker
Mr. George D. Parker

Bruce Parrish
Mrs. Leona Parrish

Elmer Perschbacher
Mr. and Mrs. Elgee Phillips

Frederick Pfeiffer
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pfeiffer, Jr.

Marie Pauline Pfeiffer
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pfeiffer, Jr.

Paul Pfeiffer
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pfeiffer, Jr.

Helen M. Pflasterer
Mrs. Dorothy C. Brandt
Mrs. Ellen Kuergeleis

Alice Plocher
Joseph and Jean Jacober

Elmer Plocher
Joseph and Jean Jacober

Joan Powers
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Martin

Virginia Rice
Mr. and Mrs. David Steiner

Archie Riggs
Mrs. Leila Riggs

Dean Rippelmeyer
Mrs. Ruth Goldschmidt

Valerie R. Roach
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Highfill

Harold Runge
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Happel

Harold R. Rutz
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Steiner
Mr. and Mrs. David Steiner
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Steiner

Sandy Hook Victims
MAR Graphics

Thelma Schallenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Abbott
Mr. and Mrs. Rallie Alhmeyer
Mr. and Mrs. John Barberis
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Basler
Mr. Carl Conrad
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Daiber
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Dauderman
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Grotefendt
Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Knobloch
Mr. and Mrs. George Kuch
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Prange
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Schallenberg

Ardell Schewe
Mrs. Marilyn Ahrens

Earl Schewe
Mrs. Marilyn Ahrens

Fred Schoen
Mrs. Emalee Knop

Irene Schroedel
Mrs. Maxine Hood

Martin P. Schroedel
Mrs. Maxine Hood

Wilbert Sensel
Mrs. Carmelita L. Sensel

Charlie Shanks
Mr. David and Rev. Carol Shanks

Joann Skaer
Mr. Herbert Skaer
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wild

Joan Spengel
Mrs. Shirley Anderson

Pearl Stechmesser
Mrs. Ruth Goldschmidt

Milton Steiner
Mrs. Dorothy Steiner

Marvin Stille
Mr. and Mrs. David Steiner

David Stumpf
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kakac

Donald Surber
Mrs. Louise Surber

Perley Toedte
Mrs. Dorothy Toedte

Virgil Voges
Mrs. Shirleen Voges

Melvin E. Volkers
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin E. Volkers

Fred Vosholler
Ms. Jean Vosholler

Edwin Wacker
Mr. and Mrs. George F. Wacker

Leona Wacker
Mr. and Mrs. George F. Wacker

Eileen Warning
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Steiner

Robert Willeford
Mrs. Lucille Willeford

L. John Wise
Mrs. Shirley Wise

Max Wisniewski
Miss Karen Liszewski

Stella Wisniewski
Miss Karen Liszewski

Louise K. Wolters
Ms. Lisa A. Stewart

Leroy Zobrist
Mr. and Mrs. David Steiner

Chad Zurliene
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Zurliene

In Honor of...

Chris Cox
Mr. Steinhoff and Ms. Pearson

Mrs. Carol Dressel's birthday
Mrs. Mildred Kimmle

Granddaughter
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Wolfmeier

Zachary Greene
Mr. and Mrs. Rex Greene

Gladys I. Grotefendt's 80th birthday
Mrs. Shirley Anderson

Pat Groth's Retirement
Mrs. Ethel Skaer

Mildred Hoffman
Ms. Carolyn J. Valentine

Mindy Hopper
Dr. and Mrs. W. Freeman Hopper

Jeanette Kampen
Anonymous

Kenneth D. Kramer
Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Kramer, Jr.

Patricia Mueller
Mrs. Shirley Anderson

Maynard Niggli's 85th birthday
Mr. and Mrs. David Steiner

Jane Peters's Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Barth

Christy Pursell
The Winney Foundation

LaVerne Schutt
Ms. Carolyn Shields

Alvin Steiner's 80th Birthday
Miss Theresa Steiner

Marguerite Sterrett's Birthday
Mrs. Barbara Sterrett

Correction:
Wayne Boller was mistakenly left out of the Annual Report; he is a member in the Century Club

Ministries
HOYLETON
P.O. Box 218
Hoyleton, Illinois 62803-0218

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