

Highwater Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*“Highwater Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will be an active family of faith in North Central Licking County, dedicated to building awareness of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through meaningful worship, diverse service, and genuine fellowship.” -
Mission Statement*

2016 Annual Report

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2016 Leadership

Minister: Pastor Scott Schieber

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Zach Cornelius

Church Administrator: Debbie Smetts

Church Custodian: Peggy Green

Moderator: Mark McKimmins

Care Ministry: Mary Jo Layman

Christian Education Ministry: Debbie Smetts

Fellowship Ministry: Beth Schieber & Jackie Parrill

Hog Roast: Scott Schieber

Membership & Outreach Ministry: Kathy Preston

Missions Ministry: Allen & Joy smith

Music and Worship Ministry: Cathy Bero & Debbie Smetts

Stewardship and Finance Ministry: Jennifer Piper

Treasurer: Jack Schmidt

Trustees: Peggy Green, Cindy Campbell, Tom Siegel, Bob Tucker, Jeff Preston

W.I.S.H.: Becky Campbell

Letter from Pastor Scott Schieber

Romans 12:9-13, *The Message*

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

Throughout 2016, I found myself continually drawn to Romans 12, particularly as translated by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*. I preached on the text three times at the end of the year. I even had a hard time picking out a single part to begin the reflection on the ministries of Highwater Church in 2016. The text speaks to me because I believe it describes how we ought to treat one another and how we ought to interface with our community and the world around us.

2016 will be long remembered, I think, as a year of change and wild swings of emotion. Our country was dramatically affected by November's Presidential election. Even more affecting was the dialogue of the election season which began in January. Never before have we seen candidates who had such little regard for one another and for the American electorate. The cruelty with which the candidates treated each other, sadly, became the norm for our society.

Through it all, Highwater struggled to maintain itself as a clarion for God in the world. Our struggle was to maintain the church as a place of intentional moderation between the political poles. Our struggle was to maintain the church as a beacon of stability in a world changing too rapidly for most. Our struggle, in the end, was to remind each other of God's call to treat each other with kindness and respect, and to reach out into the world with compassion, forgetting about self-interest. More than I have in the past, I began to see the need to not succumb to the ways of the world.

In 2016, I found myself involved in the 'battle for Jesus' that often plays itself out in our culture. Typically, the battle is fought over trivial things like the design of Starbuck's Christmas mugs or whether we say "Happy Holidays" or "Merry Christmas," but this year, I felt the battle was over whether we would be motivated by the personal morality Christ taught in the Sermon on the Mount, like Paul taught in growing the fruit of the Spirits within, or if we would be motivated to act like the egomaniacs we saw on television. I can only pray that you saw me trying my best to replicate Jesus, rather than acting like the figures we saw regularly on the evening news. I pray that you found persistent reminders here, from the pulpit, to carry yourselves as Jesus did, too.

In 2016, we saw God motivating us to try out some new things as a congregation. I am grateful that we sought to enhance our worship and our outreach. You can read more about these gains in the Worship and Music and Missions reports, but our efforts to grow our musical worship is essential. Our big mission effort of the year, the trip that several of us took to Biloxi, Mississippi, to work at Back Bay Mission will dominate my memories of the year. Surely God called us to go to that place and engage in the work. I know we learned a lot in our initial venture there, and I look forward to returning in the future.

Heading into 2017, we face some challenges. We have a hole in our staff that must be filled before, to paraphrase from Romans above, souls whom we rely heavily upon become burned out.

2017 is a year of celebration for the church. I write this days before we formally recognize the establishment of this place as a home of God in North Central Licking County some 175 years ago. Through the year, we will look back at the people and events that have shaped our history. I will eagerly remind you that, while remembering the past is important, we must remain vigilant about what God is calling us to do now and to continue building for the future. We must remain as vigilant as we have been about caring for the people in the community around us.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who makes this church work. Nearly all of our efforts rely on efforts and creativity of our volunteers. It seems to me that the days of our lives are busier than ever, and we have had to adjust to this reality. Still, people pull together to make things happen. This only happens because you are faithful to God's pull on your life and willing to act upon your faith. Working with you, sharing with you, suffering setbacks with you, sticking with it with you, praising God with you, and responding to God with you continues to inspire me. We are well led by Mark McKimmins as our moderator and our church council and trustees are very diligent and faithful. We are blessed to be here in this place at this time!

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe." -Ephesians 1:16-19

Peace,

Pastor Scott

Letter from the Moderator

“Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.” - Psalm 143:8

As your Moderator let me say it is wonderful to be part of the Highwater Church Family.

From time to time I revisit our Mission Statement to keep my efforts on track and remind myself of whom we are, and I invite you to do the same:

“Highwater Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will be an active family of faith in North Central Licking County, dedicated to building awareness of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through meaningful worship, diverse service, and genuine fellowship”

Our church is in constant motion whether it is blood drives, Boy Scouts, youth activities, supporting charities, food packing, mission trips, retreats, hog roasts, or dinners.

We care about one another as well as those in need who we don't know. Food is delivered, cards are sent, visits and support are numerous.

Our staff, members, ministries and volunteers are second to none.

While big projects such as parking lots have been completed, many little projects have been addressed such as installing the basketball standard in the parking lot, replacing ceiling tiles, landscaping around the building, fixing the sump pump alarm, and spreading a dirt berm around the edge of the parking lot. While you may not have noticed there, is a new dumpster service out back which was a feat of no small effort. I know I am missing other efforts so let me thank you all for keeping our Church in working order.

Considering our church budget, it is my belief that our day to day cost of operations needs to be funded by our weekly giving and not fund raisers. Please continue to give, and if you miss a Sunday, please make it up. A couple of years ago Lisa and I set up automatic electronic giving through our bank which ensures our giving is constant whether we are traveling or are at home. I don't know about your home but getting the check written on Sunday morning as we rushed to get out of the house for 8:30 service was an item of stress that I don't miss.

If you have ideas, issues or concerns I am here to listen and address them with respect and confidentiality.

Thank you for being a part of the Highwater Story as we celebrate 175 years this coming year.

One final thought, reach out and invite a friend, neighbor or family member to experience Christ's energy at Highwater.

Mark McKimmins

Letter from the Treasurer

“Jesus said, “Take this and share it among yourselves.” Luke 22:17

After six years as your treasurer, we are 99% complete with reconfiguring our accounting methods. This year Stewardship’s Giving Records matched the Treasure’s Income Records due to better coding of your giving. On March 9th of 2016 an audit of the 2015 treasurer’s and stewardship records was done by Phyllis Buxton, Sue Steele, Mark McKimmins and Mike Laughlin. They “found all records in order and in fine standing”. Again in 2016 each month Highwater’s financial records (kept on my home computer using Quicken) were reconciled/matched (to the penny) with Park National Bank’s monthly statement of our checking account, this matching is my personal reassurance that all our financials are correct.

At year’s end your weekly contributions to the General Fund totaled \$145,738.00, which was slightly below the requested amount of \$150,300. Overall spending (\$143,123) was \$7,200 below budget, due mostly to lower energy bills (weather and lower propane costs).

The request for the General Fund giving in this coming year is \$2,900 per week or \$150,800 on an annual basis, which is just \$500 more than late year’s request

Since many banks now offer “online bill payment”, please consider using this handy service to support Highwater.

In summary: Our church is in good shape financially with an \$18,435 General Fund surplus and just over \$166,780 in restricted funds. Restricted funds relate to giving to designated projects such as: The Building Fund, The Memorial Endowment Fund and others. We can all take great pride in Highwater’s very solid fiscal standing. Thanks again for your generosity. **QUESTIONS?**

Respectfully,
Jack Schmidt

Kroger Rewards Program 2016

Your faithful support of the Kroger Community Rewards program for 2016 brought a total amount in rebates from Kroger of \$1,479.66 this amount was dispersed 10% to Missions Ministry, 10% to Memorial Endowment Fund, and 80% to Building Fund.

If you or another family member or friend are not already participating in this rebate program, you can register on line by going to the ***Community Rewards Registration Step-by-Step Guide***. ***All you need is an e-mail address and your Kroger Plus Card***



2016 Year End Financial Report as of 12-31-16
YEAR END FUND BALANCES

Acct #	Account Description	Year End 2014	Year End 2015	Year End 2016
101	General Fund-Giving less exp.	\$12,876	\$15,820	\$ 18,435
105	Building Fund, PNB Ck. Acct.	\$4,843	\$31,806	\$33,541
106	Building Fund CD @ PNB	\$6,925	0	0
107	Parking Lot Project	\$90,733	0	0
108	Building Fund, Basement Work	\$12,389	0	0
104	Total of Building Funds	\$114,890	\$ 31,806	\$33,541
115	Memorial Endow, Ck. Acct	\$7,813	\$18,507	\$883
116	MEF, VG Star Fund	\$32,414	\$31,367	\$48,620
117	MEF VG Total Stock Index	\$34,321	\$34,454	\$54,798
118	MEF PNB CD's	\$3,308	0	0
114	Total of Memorial Endow.	\$77,856	\$84,328	\$104,303
120	Legg Rental Income	0	0	0
125	Utica Food Pantry Support	\$50	\$448	\$225
130	Misc. Income	0	0	0
133	Misc. PNB Ck. Acct. Interest	0	0	0
141	Pastoral Discretionary	\$2,065	\$1,636	\$1,137
142	Council Discretionary	\$4,793	\$7,836	\$10,338
143	Missions Discretionary	\$944	\$1,256	\$2,224
144	Youth Discretionary	\$2,125	\$2,454	\$2,737
147	VG Value Seminary Discr.	\$4,667	\$4,638	\$4,714
150	UCC Mission Support Fund	\$888	\$1,009	\$185
160	Hog Roast	0	\$369	\$267
165	Kroger Rebates	0	0	0
170	Special Projects	\$2,528	\$1,728	0
180	Special Events	0	0	0
190	Family Memorials	\$1,030	\$3,340	\$7,111
		\$234,456	\$155,668	\$185,217

Year End Financial Report as of 12-31-16
DETAILS OF INCOME RECEIVED

Acct #	Account Description	Income
101	General Fund-Giving	\$145,738.00
105	Building Fund	\$2,875.00
110	Flower Fund	\$140.00
115	Memorial Endowment	\$6,091.00
120	Legg Rentals	\$2,620.00
125	Support for Utica Food Pantry	\$3,859.00
131	Income from WISH Dinners	\$1,095.00
131	Misc. Petty Cash	\$7.45
141	Pastoral Discretionary	\$350.00
142	Council Discretionary	\$240.81
144	Youth Discretionary	\$553.00
151	UCC One Great Hour of Sharing	\$90.00
152	UCC Strengthen the Church	\$82.00
153	UCC Neighbors In Need	\$149.00
154	UCC Christmas Fund	\$185.00
155	UCC Relief Efforts	\$20.00
160	Ck. Account Interest Earned	\$10.31
160	Hog Roast	\$15,452.50
165	Kroger Rebates	\$1,479.66
181	Finn Fest	\$2,565.00
182	Lifeline Food Pack	\$938.00
185	Biloxi Boil, Mission Trip	\$7,726.00
186	Men's Mystery Trip	\$1,315.00
187	Summer Grill	\$250.00
188	Hymnals & Music	\$1,000.00
190	Family Memorials	\$3,545.00
Total*	As shown on Treasurer's Books	\$198,376.73

This number is \$10.31 more than shown received by Stewardship Report dated 12-27-16: due to checking account interest earned. Actual income for 2016 as reported by Stewardship: **\$198,366.42**

2016 Budget Report and 2017 Budget

Acct. #	Description	2016 \$ Budget	2016 \$ Spent	2017 \$ Budget
1100	Pastor	\$60,500	\$63,694	\$63,500
1200	Administrative Assistant	\$12,500	\$13,153	\$13,125
1300	Custodian	\$10,750	\$11,094	\$11,300
1400	Dir. of Chr. Ed & Youth	\$12,200	\$11,240	\$12,200
1000	Total Staff Expenses: (+5% afterward)	\$95,950	\$99,181	\$100,125
2110	Insurance Property and liability	\$4,100	\$4,215	\$5,000
2120	Property Taxes	\$500	\$533	\$550
2130	Building Maintenance	\$5,000	\$6,398	\$5,000
2140	Grounds Maintenance	\$3,000	\$2,770	\$3,000
2150	Maintenance Supplies	\$550	\$605	\$550
2100	Total: Physical Plant Maintenance	\$13,150	\$14,521	\$14,100
2210	Electric Power	\$8,000	\$5,351	\$8,000
2220	Propane Gas	\$9,000	\$4,304	\$9,000
2230	Waste Hauling	\$1,000	\$1,594	\$1,000
2240	Telephone & High Speed Internet	\$1,200	\$1,138	\$1,200
2200	Total Utilities & Services:	\$19,200	\$12,387	\$19,200
2310	Office Supplies	\$1,700	\$1,365	\$1,700
2320	Copier Lease & Supplies	\$2,100	\$2,036	\$2,100
2340	Sr. Pastor Expenses	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400
2350	UCC Assoc. (COSEA)	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400
2300	Total Office & Admin Supplies	\$8,600	\$8,201	\$8,600
3100	Care Ministry	\$100	\$28	\$100
3210	Sunday School Curriculum	\$750	\$1,479	n/a
3220	Vacation Bible School	\$800	\$418	n/a
3225	Christian Ed Materials (#3210 & #3220)	n/a	n/a	\$2,500
3230	Summer Church Camp	\$250	\$250	\$250
3240	Youth Activities	\$500	\$562	\$500
3200	Total: Christian Education Ministry	\$ 2,300	\$2,709	\$3,250
3300	Fellowship Ministry:	\$400	\$514	\$400

2016 Budget Report and 2017 Budget

Acct. #	Description	2016 \$ Budget	2016 \$ Spent	2017 \$ Budget
3400	Membership & Outreach:	\$500	\$177	\$500
3510	Support for Collocation of Care	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
3520	Support for Others(Life Line Food Pack)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
3500	Total Mission Ministry:	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
3610	Choir Music	\$100	0	\$100
3620	Piano & Organ Maintenance	\$500	\$180	\$500
3630	Supply Pastors & Guest Musicians	\$600	\$600	\$600
3640	Misc. Music & Worship	\$600	\$1,125	\$600
3600	Total Music and Worship Ministry:	\$1,800	\$1,905	\$1,800
	Total Operating Expenses:	\$49,550	\$43,942	\$51,450
	Total Staff Expenses:	\$95,950	\$99,181	\$100,125
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$145,500	\$143,123	\$151,575
	Note: 2016 total budget does not include the 5% staff salary increase	<i>2016 Budget</i>	<i>2016 Actual</i>	<i>2017 Budget</i>

Past History: Budget. Actual Spending & Giving

Year	Budget	Actual Spending	Giving
2007	\$127,258	\$127,869	\$106,796
2008	\$129,491	\$125,287	\$121,627
2009	\$116,337	\$109,527	\$119,573
2010	\$117,340	\$115,715	\$123,890
2011	\$117,300	\$127,403	\$133,455
2012	\$141,400	\$127,331	\$138,370
2013	\$149,700	\$143,299	\$142,868
2014	\$155,500	\$148,860	\$139,383
2015	\$145,500	\$142,292	\$145,873
2016	\$150,300	\$143,123	\$145,738

Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund **Annual Report to the Congregation, 2016**

The mission of this Fund is to provide a vehicle for Highwater members and friends to donate monies or other assets to our church that will fund future capital improvements, major repairs to the church's physical plant or the establishment of a major new program. Neither the donated amount nor the earnings are intended for the on-going operating expenses of our church.

On September 25, 2001, Highwater Church Council approved the establishment of the Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund (HMEF). The Advisory Council was created to publicize the fund, oversee its investments and advise the Stewardship and Finance Ministry and Church Council on all matters relating to the HMEF.

As of 12-31-16 the fund has investments totaling **\$104,300.63** as detailed below:

Vanguard STAR Fund:	\$48,619.52
Vanguard Total Stock Mkt. Index Fund:	\$54,797.79
Park National HW Ck. Acct. @ 0.01%	\$883.32

A total of \$5,356 in new giving from individuals, \$1,370 from the Hog Roast net profit and \$150 from the Kroger Rebates was added to the Endowment in 2016

The HMEF Advisory Council is also charged with oversight of the Seminary Scholarship Fund that was established in 2008 with the remainder of the "Seekers Monies" to be invested and dispersed (at Church Council's direction) to aid seminary students from our congregation. These monies are invested in the Vanguard Value Index Fund and currently total \$4,713.88.

We hope you will prayerfully consider making the Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund part of your estate plans and support it as is appropriate for you and your family.

Hog Roast 2016

By: Debbie Smetts

"Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me." Psalm 54:4

The 2016 Annual Hog Roast was held April 25. The roast brought in \$13,529 after expenses. The auction generated \$11,368. The meal brought \$3513 and the infamous Basket Bonanza yielded \$471. The dollars that were raised help provide the means for renovations, improvements and future growth within the church. A special thank you to everyone who had any part in food preparation and helping in the kitchen and to those who organized and set up the auction proceedings. I would also like to acknowledge the many others who help set-up and tear down the Legg Center, man the sound equipment, put together and organize the Basket Bonanza and the Silent Auction and for those who care for and entertain our little ones so adults can concentrate on the auction. And to all those who contribute the items to be auctioned off and all who purchase the items, thank you for your continued support in this community outreach.

Care Ministry

By: Mary Jo Layman, Chairperson

"God is our protection and our strength. He always helps in time of trouble." Psalm 46:1

The Care Ministry provides support to church members in their time of need. It organizes volunteers on a monthly basis to be available to help. During 2016, our ministry delivered 36 meals and sent 82 cards. We are very blessed in always having our family of faith be willing to help others. If you know of a need in the congregation, please let Pastor Scott or Mary Jo Layman know.

Christian Education Ministry

By: Allyson Patton, Chairperson

"The Lord said, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart". -Jeremiah 29:13

Christian Education at Highwater UCC is ever changing. During the 2016 year we saw highlights and areas of growth, as well as areas of change. Change is often difficult to adapt to, but by placing our trust in God, we will grow and learn, and move in the right direction.

Monday Noon Bible Study is still going strong and all are welcome to join in at

any time. Pastor Scott continues to lead an adult Sunday School class on Sunday mornings in between services. The class is "The Wired Word" and the discussion is faith based on current events open forum style and different every week.

Sunday School classes continue to be offered during the 10:30 a.m. Worship service, and are now divided into three groups. Kathy Preston and Janine Shipley have generously offered their time every Sunday to our littlest children, serving in our pre-school through kindergarten group. They are utilizing the space in the kitchen in the Lower Level Learning Center (LLLC). Our 1st and 2nd graders (BUGS) have been led each Sunday by a group of faithful volunteers one of the classrooms in the LLLC. Finally, we have the TIGERS group, 3rd through 6th graders, who are also led by amazing volunteers each week in the LLLC. Each of these three groups use SparkHouse, Whirl Curriculum. Attendance varies week to week in each class, with the youngest and oldest classes having the highest attendance.

Post-confirmation, also known as "The Net," had Sunday School classes during the first half of 2016 and the fall of 2016. This class was led by Mr. Zach Cornelius/ Jon Dixon two Sundays per month during the 10:30 a.m. service. In addition, Confirmation Class concluded in Spring of 2016, led by Pastor Scott and Laura Tucker. This class also had a Sunday School class in the fall of 2016 led by Zach/John. Unfortunately, both of these classes ceased upon the resignation of Zach and Jon, effective at the end of November 2016.

Youth nights at Highwater continued in 2016 one Sunday evening per month, per group. Initially led by Zach and Jon, Youth Nights were taken over by Pastor Scott in December.

VBS was held July 18-21, 2016, serving children aged preschool through 4th grade. Each evening, from 5:30-8:00, children learned about "The Fruits of the Spirit," a program written and led by Pastor Scott. It was inspiring to witness the Light within each child as they participated in the activities. The Spirit was certainly alive!

Our children continue to be more involved in music and sharing their talents with congregation. "Joyful Noise" hand bell choir, led by Jennifer Piper, shared many songs throughout the year. The Sunday School children shared songs periodically throughout the school year, led by Deb Smetts and Janine Shipley. In addition, school-age children sang a special song with the Adult choir in December to complement their Christmas play.

Speaking of the Christmas play, we had two wonderful performances on Sunday, December 18th. The nursery, preschool, and kindergarten children, in addition to their families and many other participants from the congregation, performed a skit to reenact the first Christmas and the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This was followed by the play, "The Twelve Symbols of Christmas," performed by Sunday School children, middle

school and high school students, and Pastor Scott and Beth. What a nice reminder that how we celebrate the holidays, especially in our traditions, are meaningful and powerful in their connection to our relationship with Jesus. Thank you so much to all who shared their time and talents during the Advent season!

Also in December, we held our annual Youth "Lock-in" night, without an overnight. This event was well attended by children of all ages, 1st grade and up. A big thank you to Becky Campbell for her help and in leading the infamous White Elephant exchange. Thank you, also, to the other volunteers who participated and made the evening fun for all.

We look forward to 2017 and continued growth in education at Highwater UCC!



Thank you Mr. Zach and Jon

Fellowship Ministry

By Jacqueline Parrill and Beth Schieber, Co-Chairpeople

"We who had sweet fellowship together, Walked in the house of God in the throng." Psalm 55:14

The Fellowship Ministry brings together the community of believers to enjoy good food and company throughout the year. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." Highwater UCC provides many opportunities for us to do just that; offer words of encouragement and hope to fellow believers as we spend time in fellowship together.

In 2016, the Fellowship Ministry held several well-attended events over the course of the year. For the majority of those events, members of the congregation contributed delicious food to share with others. For everyone who donated a dessert or side dish or spent an hour or two after church in fellowship with others, we thank you for your time and generosity.

We started with the annual Chili cook-off to raise money for the Youth Fund. This year we had 11 chili entries and Congratulations to Rick Snyder, our 2016 Chili Cook-off winner! We worked with WISH to host Easter brunch. We held a cook-out event in conjunction with Rally Day in 2016. Thank you again to Bob Tucker for being our "Grill Master!" Finally, we held a Trunk or Treat potluck and hosted the lunch following the Christmas Pageant. Many thanks to all of the hands that went into the preparation, serving and clean-up for each function. A special thanks to Debbie Smetts for all of her assistance.



Membership and Outreach Ministry

By: Debbie Smetts

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest.” Galatians 6:9

The Membership and Outreach Ministry welcomed new members to the Highwater Family in May including the Confirmation Class. Several more of our active visitors are expected to join in 2017. Cards were sent to visitors and inactive members and a welcome basket is being distributed to our Visitors; it includes a Highwater Cookbook, Newsletter, letter from Pastor and information about the UCC and Highwater.

Missions Ministry

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

Our Missions ministry enjoyed many successful ventures on God’s behalf in 2016. Here are some of the highlights:

- We maintained our monthly support of the Utica Food Pantry by taking a monthly offering of money and non-perishable food items. In addition, our oldest group at Vacation Bible School delivered the items we collected that week, stocked the shelves, and heard a presentation about hunger in the Utica area.
- We continued to lead the summer lunch program in Utica through the Salvation Army in Newark. We worked with nine other churches or community service groups in Utica to train and staff the Miller Park lunch site. We staffed a week ourselves and filled in when other groups needed some help.
- We assisted the Salvation Army by preparing lunches which were sent out to various sites throughout Licking County. Our help was valuable because we had a group come consistently to help with the preparation of nearly 700 meals per day.
- Highwater, along with many other local churches joined together again in sponsoring a Global Food Packing Initiative partnered with Lifeline of Ohio based in Westerville. Because of our combined efforts Lifeline Christian Missions’ ABC, All Because of Christ, food program will send 14,256 meals to families and school children in Haiti.
- We provided Christmas gifts by adopting 30 Licking County children and fulfilling their Christmas wish list. We also assisted in distributing the gifts.

Our biggest missions venture for the year was the mission trip at the end of June to Biloxi, Mississippi, to spend the week at Back Bay Mission. Much work went into preparing for the trip, including planning and implementing a shrimp boil fundraiser in

February. Our congregation graciously backed the trip with monetary support, love and prayers. Your support of our trip, in all its forms, was appreciated and necessary!

While at Back Bay, we participated in several forms of ministry: we helped with constructing a home for a low-income family; we prepared meals at a soup kitchen, stocked shelves at a food pantry, and assisted clients at the Micah Day Center, a place where the homeless can and tend to their hygiene needs and use computers to assist with job searches. It was very hot and humid, we survived a monsoon, and enjoyed invaluable time of fellowship!

Feeding continues to be the focus of our Missions ministry at Highwater. The Gospel imperative to feed is clear and is central to the lives of so many of our church whose livelihood comes from agriculture. We will continue with most of the initiatives described above, and continue to listen for God directing us toward new projects.

Joy and Allen Smith faithfully served as the Missions ministry co-chairs through 2016 in spite of the challenges Joy faced with her cancer fight through most of the year. Highwater is most appreciative of their leadership and dedication to our missions work, both in 2016 and in years past.



**Back
Bay
Mission
Trip**



Music and Worship Ministry

By: Debbie Smetts, Co-Chair

“Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts.” - Psalm 105:2

Especially exciting for me are the births and baptisms we share during our worship time at Highwater and I look forward to witnessing many more to come in 2017.

We want to begin by thanking everyone for their participation and support during 2016. Numerous talented individuals shared their musical gifts with us including the Highwater Women’s Ensemble, the Children’s Choirs, the Men’s Ensemble and the Chimes Choir.

In addition to Pastor Scott, we had several guests share their message and faith throughout the year.

The Christmas Pageant was a resounding success and a highlight of the year, many thanks to Allyson Patton for all of her work getting them together.

Music and Worship took on an enormous challenge in providing a summer worship service in 2016. From June through mid-August a 9:30a and a 7:00p service was put into place. Ice Cream socials and picnics were nice additions to some and worship took place outside when weather and other elements invited this possibility. We are thankful for the warm and giving musicians and the many supportive members who participated in making this happen. A big Thank You to Mr Zach Cornelius and Jon Dixon for being there for the children and leading them as one class during the summer, sometimes in the morning and sometimes in the evening.

It takes a village to raise a child, and so it is here with our family at Highwater. Zach Cornelius and more recently Jon Dixon have been an important part of that family through the children’s message and as our Youth Leaders. Both young men have given of their time and gifts in many ways including being the music directors during our VBS weeks and directing our Lock-Ins. Mr Zach, as the children have come to call him, has delivered many children’s messages and shared his faith from the pulpit on numerous occasions while he was here. He built a warm and caring relationship with all of our youth here and will remain in all our hearts and hopefully in our pews going forward. Zach and Jon, with much regret made the tough decision to resign their positions in November, but will be active in the hearts of all who were touched by their Light.

A big Thank You to the active participants of our congregation and staff who enhance and support our worship at Highwater, the many volunteers who read and share prayer and scripture, the Acolytes who carry the Light and those who keep the basic functions of the service inviting and comfortable.

We want to especially thank all those people who helped us week in and week out. A very special thank you to our talented musicians – Cathy Bero, Judy Grace, Patsy

Farmer, Laura Laughlin, Sue Steele and Janine Shipley. A special thank you to Janine Shipley and Adrienne Anderson for the sound of trumpets just at the right times!



Confirmed In Christ 2016



Thank You Betty, for being a guiding Light

We love you!

Stewardship and Finance Ministry

By: Jennifer Piper

'On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once' - 1 Corinthians 16:2

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry at Highwater serves to encourage members to return a portion of their time, talents and treasure to the Lord.

Our budget called for the General Fund to raise \$145,500. The overall giving of time, treasure and talent in 2016 was \$145,738.00. We thank Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ for its generosity in your weekly contributions.

The Hog Roast continues to generate funds for the future work here at the church, with \$13,529 (gross) contributed from the Hog Roast in 2016. 10% of Hog Roasts continue to be put into the Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund, 10% into our Missions Fund, leaving 80% to be put into the Building Fund.

Trustees

By: Peggy Green

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." - Matthew 25:21

The Trustees really appreciated all of the help from the Highwater Family of Faith again this year. The following are the projects/tasks that were completed in 2016:

- Landscaping, old removed, new is in!
- Basket Ball Hoop put up outside.
- Outdoor sign painted and repaired.
- Furnace and AC repaired and updated where needed.
- Waste Management Gone! Shackelford Waste Removal in.
- Alarm hooked up for sewer system.
- Ceiling tiles changed out.
- Updated Insurance coverage.
- Lights in gym replaced with new LED bulbs guaranteed for 10 plus years.

Many of the above mentioned projects involved the skills, abilities, time and equipment generously given by the members of our church family. Thank you to all the parts that keep Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ a living body of Christ.

Be looking forward to many more renovations and improvements in 2017.

WISH

By: *Cindy Campbell, Secretary*

“She did what she could.” – Mark 14:8

W.I.S.H. stands for “Women in Service to Highwater.” We are an active group of women who enjoy fellowship together and serving our church, the local community and beyond. All women of Highwater are welcome to join us in our ministry. Meetings are held the second Monday of every other month beginning at 6:30 p.m.

W.I.S.H. had a number of projects, purchases and events in 2016:

- Sponsored Women’s Spring Retreat
- Sponsored Mystery Trip
- Sponsored bus trip to LaComedia Dinner Theater to see *Grease*
- Sponsored Swapper’s Day weekend yard sale
- Sponsored and awarded four (4) scholarships
- Sponsored basket bonanza at Hog Roast
- Co-hosted summer cookout luncheon
- Assisted monetarily with the meat purchase for summer cookout luncheons
- Assisted monetarily with the purchase of new hymnals
- Dinners served
 - Licking County Township Trustees
 - Licking County Farm Bureau
 - Licking County Lamb Banquet
 - Licking County Dairy Banquet
 - Licking County Homemakers
 - Licking County Agrarian Club
 - Homer Alumni Banquet
 - Park National Bank
- Provided meal for Bloodmobile workers at the Utica Church of Christ
- Provided cookies for Bloodmobile donors at the Utica Church of Christ
- Donated \$1.00 per plate from dinners served into the Church General Fund
- Donation to Utica Food Pantry
- Donation to The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Donation to Water’s Edge Ministry (Buckeye Lake)
- Donation to SASS (Cancer support)
- Donation to C.A.S.E.Y Cupboard (First United Methodist Church – Newark)

- Donation to Hartford Junior Fair – Farm Chore Olympics
- Donation to Team Finn and Friends (Down Syndrome Association)
- Served bereavement luncheons
- Purchased items for Angel Tree tags through the Salvation Army
- Purchased miscellaneous items for the Church kitchen

The W.I.S.H. officers for 2016 were: President - Becky Campbell; Vice President – Debbie Smetts; Secretary – Cindy Campbell; Treasurer – Marsha Barna.



2016 Landscaping !

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Called by Name to be a Child of God